Thursday, July 20th, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.
“2017 TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD SCHOOL AT CAMP WOOD”

A group of Houston Archeological Society members led by Sharon Menegaz will present the monthly program for the Houston Archeological Society on Thursday, July 20 at 7:00 p.m. at MD Anderson Hall, University of St. Thomas. The program will highlight archeological excavations undertaken during the 2017 TAS Field School held June 10 – 17 at Camp Wood near Uvalde. This year’s field school was held at Mission San Lorenzo de la Santa Cruz, a Mission established for the Lipan Apache. Mission San Lorenzo was established in 1762 and abandoned by 1771. The purpose of the Field School, led by Principal Investigator Dr. Tamra Walter from Texas Tech, was to expand upon archaeological excavations on the mission done by Curtis Tunnell in the 1960s and to lay the ground work for the community of Camp Wood to reconstruct the mission as a future exhibit and museum in the town. Other activities at field school involved survey of private property near Camp Wood, a metal detecting workshop, and a lab to process collected artifacts. Ever popular afternoon events included archeo-olympics, the “Wally” party, and Spam-o-Rama. Evening speakers included Dr. Thomas Hester, Brad Jones and Casey Hanson of the Texas Historical Commission.

“Over 300 avocational and professional archeologists from across the State of Texas and beyond attended field school this year, including approximately 50 youth from ages 7-14 who worked with professional archeologist Doug Boyd in excavation of the West Wall of the Mission”, said Menegaz. “We were also pleased to have some local students excavate with us, and look forward to having more Camp Wood citizens work with us in the future.”

HAS members attending field school this year included Sharon Menegaz, Frank Kozar, Dr. Elizabeth Coon-Nguyen, Julian and Katherine Coon-Nguyen, Robert Killian, Rita and Ed Jackson, Sandy Rogers, Debbie Eller, Ron and Brenda Jackson, Nathan Palmer, Tom Williams and Don Keyes.

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 Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.
President’s Message

As many of you know, I have been out of town since mid-May dealing with an emergency family situation in upstate New York. I miss Texas. I miss HAS. I miss you. I do not, however, miss the heat and humidity that is Houston in summer. I wish I could send you some of this cool dry air we are experiencing here in Buffalo - it’s pretty sinfully beautiful!

While I’ve been gone, your HAS Board members have run the society like clockwork. I’d like to thank the whole HAS team but especially your VP Louis Aulbach, Treasurer Bob Sewell and Director Dub Crook for going above and beyond the call of duty! Bob has conducted the day to day affairs of the society like a champ, acting as treasurer, field director, equipment director, website guru, newsletter editor and general all around boss. Louis Aulbach and Dub Crook have forged ahead with our publications, and thanks to their amazing efforts (and all of you who wrote articles, including the wonderful Beth Aucoin), HAS members will be receiving three (yes THREE) new reports/journals by the end of the summer. You have an incredible team rowing this boat and I hope you’ll give them kudos the next time you see them.

We also had a big group of HAS members attending the TAS Field School at Camp Wood in West Texas in mid-June. According to reports, it was a terrific field school!!! Please join us at our next meeting on July 20 for a presentation highlighting their experiences. Thanks in advance to Sharon Menegaz and her team who will do the presentation.

Now on to the future….

Bob and Louis attended a meeting at Kleb Woods Nature Center up in Tomball a couple of weeks ago where we will be conducting full scale archeological excavations starting later this summer. See an article about this project later in this newsletter. This promises to be one of the best public archeology programs we’ve ever conducted and we hope you will join us.

We will also be joining Doug Boyd, Dr. Jason Barrett and the rest of the professional crew at Frost Town in downtown Houston when the project kicks off again later this summer. There have been several delays in bringing down the Elysian Viaduct which needs to happen before we can get back on the site, but hopefully by the time you read this we will have some dates for future work there.

Finally, I hope you are having a great summer! Thanks to all of you for making the Houston Archeological Society the premier avocational society in the State. I can’t wait to get home and dig up Texas history with you – one trowel full at a time!

PLEASE NOTE: The August HAS meeting has been moved from August 17 to Thursday, August 10 due to a conflict with freshman orientation on August 17 at the University of St. Thomas. Please mark August 10 on your calendar for a terrific presentation by HAS member Dub Crook on the Megalithic Archeology of Malta!

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
May 18th, 2017

Welcome New Members and Guests: Louis Aulbach, Vice-President (Linda Gorski, President is out of state).

Treasurer’s Report: Bob reported on Society Funds. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob Sewell, Treasurer.

Membership: Bob Sewell reported that so far in 2017 we have 192 members. Membership forms are at back. All new members get a bumper sticker and a copy of the newest HAS Report and Journal. Membership is required in order to participate in many HAS fieldwork activities and receive complimentary copies of the journals and reports. Memberships are good for this year for those members who joined after 9/1/16!

New Business:
Lab report: We plan to return to the workshop format for labs, which were very popular. No lab is currently scheduled for May due to Rice University student conflicts. The first summer lab will not meet until July.

High Viz vests: $5.00 while supplies last – have large and XL. See Bob if you are interested.

Publications: Dub Crook reports there are no new publications as of tonight. However, by the end of summer, we will have two new ones: Journal #137 on general Texas archeology, and the Kellum-Noble House publication (Special Report #28), which will be massive. Beth Aucoin has been working hard on it. Special Report #29, a summary of far South East Texas archeology (i.e., the Andy Kyle collection), will be available in the fall. Also, a Roman and Etruscan archeology publication is in the works. Paid up members get copies of all publications.

Dub also has a personal collection of rocks (agates, jade, black jade, etc.) that is free to anyone who is interested. See Dub for more information.

Projects:
Frost Town: Dr. Jason Barrett reports that it will be two months (probably July) before we can get back to work there due to demolition taking longer than expected. Additional emergency work took place on 5/13/17, with another session on 5/20 (this coming Saturday). Let Bob Sewell know if you want to participate. Work will start at 7:30am and extend until around noon.

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project: Ashley Jones reports that we have a permit working its way through the system. The project will probably kick off with a remote sensing day in July. From there, we will roll out archeology methodology. Contact Ashley for more information. This project is all public archeology and is located near Tomball (Rose Hill), TX.

TAS FIELD SCHOOL: The TAS website is now up and running and has all information available on the 2017 TAS Field School which will be held at Camp Wood near Uvalde in West Texas. You can now sign up online!

Program for May 18, 2017 meeting: Kimberly L. Faulk, Marine Archaeology Project Manager for Geoscience Earth and Marine Services (GEMS), a Forum Energy Technologies Company, presented the monthly program, Underwater Archeology on the Gulf Coast, for the Houston Archeological Society. Faulk’s program highlighted recent underwater archeological discoveries in the Gulf of Mexico.

No meeting for June due to TAS Field School.

- Beth Kennedy, Secretary

Houston Archeological Society member Janet Ann DeVault, 68, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2017 in Houston, Texas, after a protracted battle with cancer. Jan was an enthusiastic supporter of Texas archeology and history, and was instrumental in HAS involvement in surveys and excavations at the San Jacinto Battleground.

Born on April 21, 1949 in Lubbock, Texas to Ruth and Buddy Miller, her childhood featured frequent moves to cities as varied as Jackson, Mississippi, Roswell, New Mexico, Caracas, Venezuela, and finally Midland, Texas, where she graduated from Midland Lee High School in 1967, and was the editor of the school’s newspaper.

After receiving a degree in History from the University of Texas at Arlington, she joined her family in the oil business in West Texas, where she jointly managed Miller family companies with her father and her younger brother A. Lee Miller. She continued her career in the oil industry as the Chief Financial Officer of Vecta Oil and Gas, a small independent oil and gas company, from 2013 until her death.

Jan was deeply fascinated by genealogy from an early age. She spent many hours at genealogical libraries learning about her family’s history and ancestors. These efforts were rewarded by her establishment of a family lineage back to the ninth-century Emperor Charlemagne. As a result, she was admitted to life membership in the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States of America, the Order of the Merovingian Dynasty, and the Baronial Order of Magna Charta. Her discovery of early Texas and Revolutionary War ancestors led to membership in both the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She devoted many years of service to the latter group, becoming President of the San Jacinto Chapter from 1997 to 1999. She also served on the DRT’s Board of Managers at the Alamo.

A fifth-generation Texan, Jan’s great passion was historic preservation and, born on San Jacinto Day, she seems to have fought for the San Jacinto Battleground all her life. She was appointed by then-governor George W. Bush to the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board in 1999, and she co-founded with Jeff Dunn the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, reclaiming, and restoring the San Jacinto Battleground and building greater public awareness and scholarship about the Battle of San Jacinto. She was instrumental in starting the annual San Jacinto Symposium seventeen years ago. Her long service in the cause of historic preservation included a long stint as President of the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy from 2003 until 2016 and she authored The Ladies and the Battlefield about early Battleground preservation efforts led by Texas women. A few days before she passed away, she participated in a meeting about acquiring the site for the Battleground where General Almonte and the Mexican Army surrendered. The many honors she received for her work at San Jacinto include the San Jacinto Award, the San Jacinto Descendants’ highest honor, as well as the Hero of San Jacinto prize from the San Jacinto Symposium.

A memorial service was held Thursday, May 18th at 11:00 am at Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer, in Houston, where she was a member of the congregation. Those wishing to commemorate Jan’s life are encouraged to donate to the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy, PO Box 940536, Houston TX 77094.
Notes on Munitions:
A .45-70 Caliber, Center-fire Cartridge from Frost Town
By
Tom Nuckols, Douglas K. Boyd, and Jason W. Barrett

An intensive archeological data recovery project is currently underway at the Frost Town site (41HR982), located in a prominent bend of Buffalo Bayou just north of downtown Houston. The work is a collaborative effort being undertaken by Texas Department of Transportation (Archeological Studies Program, Environmental Affairs Division) and Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (Austin, Texas) archeologists, with the assistance of volunteers from the Houston Archeological Society. On April 27, 2017, a large, oval-shaped, brick-lined cistern was discovered there during excavation monitoring of a deep trench for a new storm sewer line. Recorded as Feature 865 in what was once Block G of the 19th-century neighborhood, the oval shape of the cistern is so far unique among those discovered at the site. The cistern’s neck and upper shoulder were gone, having been bladed away and then buried by about 5 feet of artificial fill. Two ceramic pipe inflow lines were observed during excavation; one entered the cistern’s east wall and the other through the south wall. The cistern’s upper cavity was filled with mixed sediments that may represent fill introduced soon after the cistern was abandoned as well as fill introduced at the time the feature was truncated and buried. Due to the depth of the excavation, archeologists were not able to enter the trench and record precise measurements. However, based on observations made from the surface, the cistern is estimated to measure approximately 15 feet across its long axis (east-west), and 12 feet across its short axis (north-south).

Beneath the mottled fill, archeologists identified a thick layer of dark sediment accumulated at the base of the cistern. This zone represents a post-abandonment deposit that accumulated after the cistern ceased to function as a water storage container but before it was truncated and buried. Using the track hoe, a sample of the dark lower sediment was removed and set aside, and volunteers from the Houston Archeological Society assisted in investigating this lower fill.

On Saturday, May 20, 2017, HAS members examining the dark cistern fill found a .45-70 caliber Benet-primed center-fire, copper-cased rifle cartridge containing a lead bullet. The cartridge was badly degraded and the headstamp on the bottom was illegible. After cleaning, three out of four headstamp characters were discernable - R F 5. For the following discussion on the headstamp arrangement, think of the bottom of the cartridge case as the face of a clock

The letter R is at the 12 o’clock position, which indicates that the cartridge was intended for use in a rifle. The letter F at the 6 o’clock position indicates that the cartridge was manufactured by Frankford Arsenal (1816-1977). The number 5 is at 9 o’clock position, stands for May, and it denotes the month the cartridge was manufactured. What cannot be seen is the two-digit number at the 3 o’clock position, which represents the two last digits of the year that the cartridge was manufactured (Nuckols 2016).
In March 1877, Frankford Arsenal began the use of dated headstamps. This was done so that cartridges could be identified by manufacturer and date of fabrication when removed from their original packing containers (Hackley, et al 1998: 197). In August, 1882, Frankford Arsenal abandoned the use of Benet-primed cartridges in favor of the reloadable Boxer-primed cartridge (Hackley, et. al. 1998:198; The Cartridge Collector’s Exchange 2004).

In conclusion, I think that it’s safe to say that this particular cartridge was manufactured sometime in the years 1877 to 1883. The dating of this cartridge is consistent with the period of manufacture for many other late 19th- and early 20th-century artifacts recovered from the lower fill of Feature 865. This cistern sits at the back of a lot marked as 102 Spruce Street on the 1907 Sanborn map. This cartridge could indicate that the owner of that lot once owned and used a rifle that fired a .45-70 caliber round.

REFERENCES
Hackley, F.W., W.H. Wooden, and E.L. Scranton

Nuckols, Tom

The Cartridge Collector’s Exchange

FBAS July Meeting

On July 18th, 2017 at 7pm FBAS will host a presentation by guest speaker Dr. Rex Koontz. Dr. Koontz will explore the three great pyramids at the center of one of the largest cities the New World produced: Teotihuacan. Recent excavations have shed light on the history of Teotihuacan giving us new clues as to how Mesoamericans, especially the Maya, thought about these great structures. Join us in the Assembly Hall of the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy in Richmond, TX. Everyone is welcome - the program is free and open to the public.
HEAT EXHAUSTION.....A QUICK REVIEW

With summer heat already upon us, now is a good time to have a quick review of heat exhaustion.

According to OSHA dozens of workers die and thousands more become ill due to working in the heat every year. Approximately one third of heat related worker deaths occur in the outdoors industry. During field work you may be working next to and around people you have never met, so it’s best to use the “Buddy System” and keep an eye on each other for the symptoms of heat exhaustion. Symptoms will include pale skin, profuse sweating, muscle cramps, headache, fatigue, dizziness and nausea. Advanced symptoms include elevated body temperature, seizures and loss of consciousness.

To avoid these symptoms it is best to dress in light colors, light weight clothing, drinking 5 – 7 ounces of fluids every 15 – 20 minutes and never try to play catch-up, if you feel thirsty you’re already dehydrated! Use electrolyte replacement drinks such as Powerade or Gatorade at the rate of 1 cup to every 3 cups of water. Excavation and/or work schedules should be adjusted to avoid heat indexes over 104°F.

If heat exhaustion does occur seek shade, fans or air conditioning, apply cool towels, drink additional fluids and remove unnecessary clothing. If this fails to provide relief within 15 minutes or symptoms elevate rapidly SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL HELP.

The nights before and during field work you should AVOID ALL ALCOHOL. If you do indulge or over indulge you will greatly increase your risk of heat related problems. In an attempt to rid itself of these foreign substances, your body will rapidly use up your energy supply which will increase sweating and nausea. VOMITTING will only accelerate the process of dehydration and you don’t want to be “That Guy or Girl”!!

HAVE FUN IN THE FIELD AND DON’T GET TOO HOT.

- Larry Golden
Gault Site Clean Up Day

A small but intrepid crew made it out to the Gault site for their annual volunteer clean-up day on Saturday May 6th. Tom Nuckols, April Emmons, Marshall Emmons, Jon Lumb and I were privileged to walk those hallowed grounds and clear out a whole lot of brush, cedar and dead trees to get the site nice, neat and less fire prone. After several hours of hot sweaty labor and a very large bonfire, the crew was fed some BBQ overlooking the excavation areas on the creek bed which are now backfilled. No one was disappointed, however, as evidence of thousands of years of human use is literally under one’s feet. And celebrity sightings abounded, with both Dr. Mike Collins and Dr. Clark Wernecke in attendance, along with a large and enthusiastic Gault group. Thank you to our volunteers, and thank you to the Gault Site for allowing our participation! Let’s do it again next year!

Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen and Tom Nuckols in front of the big burn pile

John Lamb with some surface finds

New HAS member April Emmons(c) and her son Marshall Emmons(l), explore the creek bed with Tom Nuckols(r)

Dr. Mike Collins(left) with HAS Member Tom Nuckols

- Liz Coon-Nguyen
WHAT IS IT?? - By Larry Golden

This small milk glass footed artifact with a scalloped base resembles a child’s toy fruit bowl or possibly part of a dresser set to hold powder or face cream, both of which would be missing their lids. The object, measuring 3.5cm tall and 6cm in diameter, with base marks “PAT’D. NOV.23, 75, SEPT.12, 76, NOV.30, 80, JULY 20, 1886” was recovered from the town site of San Jacinto, TX.

However, this item was actually the latest craze during its time for the canning industry, commonly called a “pickle pusher”. Patented by Mason’s, this milk glass insert was officially listed as the “Porcelain Disk Immerser Cover” and was fitted into the zinc lid of fruit jars to keep the canned goods immersed in their juices.

Described in the book “TABLE TALK VOLUME III JANUARY-DECEMBER 1888 in the chapter “NEW THINGS FOR TABLE AND KITCHEN” by MRS. S.T. RORER

“The Porcelain Disk Immerser cover is a lid, fitting the ordinary Mason fruit jars, so arranged as to press the fruit below the surface of the syrup. Strawberries, for instance, as all housekeepers know, are lighter than the syrup, consequently float and crowd the upper part of the jar. The fruit near the cover is often exposed, becomes dry, and, if not carefully put up, molds. Our grandmothers thought this was a sign of preservation, but in these days we certainly prefer fruit without mold. This cover overcomes this difficulty by simply pressing the fruit down into the syrup. These covers can be purchased separately, and used with the Mason jars you have, and when attached to new jars cost but an additional 12 cents per dozen”.

Porcelain Disk Immerser Cover recovered from San Jacinto, TX

A typical Porcelain Disk Immerser Cover as fitted into a zinc lid
TAS Technology Academy

The last weekend in April, the city of Fredricksburg and the TAS Academy Committee hosted the final Academy weekend for 2017, entitled “Technology in Archeology.” This was a first time course and newly developed curriculum, which drew upon the expertise of multiple professional archeologists and TAS members. 3D laser scanning was explained, discussed and demonstrated with Dr. Zac Selden. Dr. Charles Koenig taught basic techniques in photogrammetry and participants were encouraged to try out the software for themselves with their own cameras.

Ground penetrating radar theory and use were discussed with Tiffany Osburn and then demonstrated at the historic Fort Martin Scott. As a finale, Arlo McKee demonstrated his drones and some mapping and surveying techniques were applied to the site. Many thanks to the TAS Academy Committee members and the course instructors who clearly put a lot of time and effort into creating a very informative, fascinating and useful weekend! As a bonus, Jimmy Barrera did let it leak that next year’s spring academies in the works should include archeobotany in Fort Davis, a Spanish mission weekend in San Antonio, and the ever popular “Archeology 101” which is likely to be in the Houston area! Dates and details should be forthcoming!

- Liz Coon-Nguyen
TAS Field School 2017 — By Liz Coon-Nguyen

In case you missed it, TAS Field School 2017 in beautiful Camp Wood, Texas, just wrapped up. HAS was well-represented with everyone braving the dry heat to assist in the excavations of the Mission San Lorenzo de la Cruz.

The mission was founded in 1762 by Captain Felipe Rabago y Teran and semi-sanctioned by the Spanish for the purpose of converting Lipan Apache. TAS members were all working under the direction of Dr. Tamra Walter, Principal Investigator, and alongside her students from Texas Tech University’s Field School. Large areas of the site were opened up in an effort to expose and further define the architectural features of the mission complex and build upon the original excavations in the 1960’s by Curtis D. Tunnell of the Texas Memorial Museum. With the information gleaned from this year’s project, Dr. Walter’s report will help to shape the future of the site as an interpretive exhibit and tourist attraction for the surrounding areas. The site was roughly divided into 3 main areas, with the youth group working in the area thought to be Lipan Apache quarters, and the other 2 groups of adults spread out across the northern aspect of the site and the central plaza area.

Texas Tech students were also excavating outside the walls of the mission in areas likely to be middens. Walls and post holes were located and their construction techniques noted. Some units were able to find and preserve the adobe bricks that were used. Roof remnants were excavated and preserved in some areas. Many artifacts in context were located and mapped, including bits of cloth, metal remains, bone debris, ceramic shards, and chert. Debitage was quite prevalent and a handful of lucky souls located Guerrero points as well. Button covers, crosses, horse tinklers and migas were all recovered and some of these made for a very interesting display for the traditional Thursday night presentation to the community.

As fascinating as the archeology was, the other aspects of field school life also deserve mention. TAS Field School committee set up a fantastic camp right on the Nueces River! Every afternoon was floating on the river and every evening had fun and interesting activities planned. Wonderful lecturers, great camaraderie, the second annual Archeo-Olympics, Spam-a-rama, the Margarita Party, and a great field trip to Lost Maples State Park for the youth group rounded out a very full week! So many TAS members worked very hard to make this year’s Field School such a success, and we thank them! Mark your calendars now for Field School 2018 (which just very well could be back at Camp Wood).
Kleb Woods Update – By Bob Sewell

Louis Aulbach and Bob Sewell met recently with Fred Collins (Kleb Woods Nature Center Site Director) and Ashley Jones (Project Archeologist, Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc.) to further discuss the arrangements for a Public Archeology Project at Kleb Woods Nature Center, located near Tomball, Harris County, Texas. This project is designed to establish a public archaeology and outreach program with Kleb Woods Nature Center (Kleb Woods). The goals of this collaborative effort are to: educate the community on the history of Kleb Woods; foster community interest in archaeology, history and the sciences; and to provide archaeological data on the property to compliment archival and historical documentation. In order to meet these goals, HAS, RKEI, and Kleb Woods will work to create educational and community/public outreach programs designed for children and adults.

What does this mean for HAS? It means that all HAS members, young and not so young, will be able to participate in an ongoing program of archeological excavations at the Kleb Woods site. This will include initial surveying (GPR, walking surveys etc.), shovel testing, laying out units and excavating identified features, screening and on-site lab activities. Alongside these activities, at least once a month, we will be hosting hands-on activities for the general public, so that they can experience field archeology for themselves.

We came up with the following dates for your calendars.

- July 22, 2017 – HAS Members Only. Initial surveys/shovel testing
- August 19, 2017 – HAS Members Only. Continue with surveys/shovel testing, possibly open some units.
- October 21, 2017 - Public Archeology Day. Excavation activities with the general public.
- November 18, 2017 - Public Archeology Day. Excavation activities with the general public.
- December 16, 2017 - Public Archeology Day. Excavation activities with the general public.

We plan to also add additional dates as HAS Member Only days.

Watch your email for further information.
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


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

October 19 – Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski

November 16 – Dan Worrell “Pleasant Bend: Upper Buffalo Bayou and the San Felipe Trail in the Nineteenth Century”.

December - Date to be announced – Wrap up of HAS Activities in 2017

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/

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

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

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