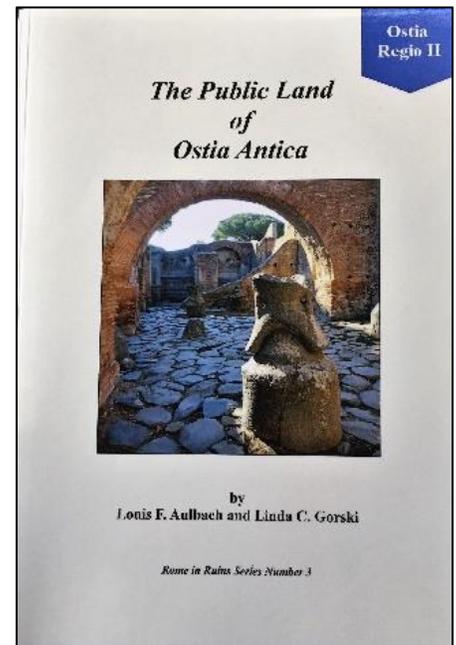




Thursday, August 16th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.
“Ostia Antica, the Port City of Ancient Rome”
With Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski

Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski, will present the program at the Houston Archeological Society’s monthly meeting on Thursday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the society’s new meeting location at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055. Their topic will be Ostia Antica, the Port City of Ancient Rome, based on their newest walking guide to archeological sites in Rome entitled The Public Land of Ostia Antica. The program is free of charge and open to the public.

You’ve heard of Pompeii, the ancient Roman city near Naples that was covered in ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and preserved as an archeological site. But have you heard of Ostia, the ancient Roman city near Rome that was covered with Tiber River mud and is also a huge well preserved archeological site? The ancient city of Ostia lies at the mouth of the Tiber River, about 15 miles southwest of the center of Rome. Founded as a military camp in the 4th century BC as a defense against invasion from the sea, Ostia grew into a large commercial center as Rome stabilized the Mediterranean area in the late 1st century BC. Ostia, as the port of Rome,



flourished during the imperial era, but as Rome declined, so did Ostia. The city was abandoned in the 6th century AD due to hostile attacks and malaria. Eventually, the city was covered with sand and silt from the flooding of the Tiber. Excavations, beginning in the 19th century and continuing today, have revealed an archeological site that has been remarkably well preserved since ancient times. Join us as we provide an overview of the significant features of Ostia Antica from our recent research trips to the site.



Linda Gorski and Louis Aulbach at Ostia

Parking at the Trini Mendenhall Center is free of charge. Overflow parking is in the grocery store parking lot across Wirt Road from the Community Center or along the residential street adjoining the Community Center. For more information about this program or about the HAS, please contact Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message – Linda Gorski

We had a great turnout at the July meeting of the Houston Archeological at our new location, the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, at 1414 Wirt Road in the Spring Branch area. Not only did we have over 70 attendees (probably a new record for a July meeting!) but Beth Kennedy led a team including Louis Aulbach, Frank Kozar, and Geoff Mills in presenting a terrific program on the annual Texas Archeological Field School that was held in June at Camp Wood and Mission San Lorenzo de la Santa Cruz. Thanks y'all for a terrific presentation!

In addition, we had two “show and tell” collections on display by HAS members Larry Golden and Jack Farrell. Larry brought his collection of English clay pipes plus a terrific handout he'd put together about clay pipes in general with lots of good reference material. As you know, we recover clay pipe bowls and stems at most of our historical archeological projects. Larry's collection and the handouts he provided will aid us immeasurably the next time we recover clay pipe sherds at our digs. (If you'd like a copy of his handout, let me know.)



HAS member Jack Farrell recently acquired a collection of pottery sherds that were recovered along the banks of the Colorado River near Columbus. These sherds posed a mystery as some of them appear to be Puebloan from New Mexico! I'm no expert, but I'm posting a photo here so perhaps pottery experts who receive this newsletter will give us some feedback.



These hands on displays were so popular at our July meeting that will continue with our show and tell collections at future meetings. If you have an interesting collection to share, please let me know – lindagorski@cs.com. See you on August 16th!

MINUTES
Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting
July 19, 2018

Welcome New Members and Guests to our new meeting location, the Trini Mendenhall Community Center! (Linda Gorski, President)

Treasurer's Report (Linda Gorski reporting for Bob Sewell): Linda reported amounts in the HAS checking and savings accounts. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob.

Membership (Linda Gorski reporting for Bob Sewell): As of tonight, our membership totals 209 for the year 2018.

New Business:

Nominating Committee (Linda Gorski): Sharon Menegaz, Geoff Mills and Frank Kozar have been appointed to the nominating committee for 2018.

Publications (Louis Aulbach): Louis will distribute recent Journals and Reports to those who did not receive them at our last meeting.

Projects:

Frost Town (Linda Gorski): The final day of this project will be Saturday, July 21.

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project (Linda Gorski): Due to the heat, Kleb Woods has been postponed until further notice!

Heritage Society Exhibit (Linda Gorski): The exhibit opened May 16, and will feature artifacts from the Milam Street Dredge Project that HAS members processed, and Joshua Farrar, HAS member and A & M grad student, conserved for his doctoral thesis. Larry Golden has also donated artifacts, as has Doug Boyd and TxDOT from the Frost Town archeological site. Look for the article in our May, 2018, newsletter about this exciting exhibit.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site (Linda Gorski): The Grand Opening of the new museum was on April 27th! HAS has participated in many archeological excavations there and we are looking forward to some of the recovered artifacts being on display. Plan a visit soon!

August Program: Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski will present a program on Ostia Antica, their third walking guide to archeological sites in Rome

July Program: Tonight's program is a recap of the TAS Annual Field School at Camp Wood and Mission San Lorenzo de la Cruz by several of the HAS members who attended: Beth Kennedy, Elizabeth Coon-Nguyen, Louis Aulbach, Geoffrey Mills, and Frank Kozar.

Beth Kennedy, Secretary

Notes on Munitions
The Burnside Carbine and its Externally Primed .54 Caliber Cartridge
By Tom Nuckols

This is the 2nd in a series of articles about cartridges in my collection.

In 1853, Ambrose Everett Burnside (1824-1881) resigned his commission in the United States Army and organized the Bristol Rifle Works. Burnside devoted himself full time to the invention of a breech loading percussion carbine. By 1855, Burnside had perfected and patented what would be called the “Burnside Carbine.” The ammunition used in the carbine, also invented by Burnside, was an externally primed, cone shaped brass cartridge with a lead bullet.

The breech loading mechanism of the Burnside carbine was opened by lowering the operating lever that also served as the carbine’s trigger guard. The breech, once opened, tilted up and exposed a rectangular steel block that contained a cone shaped cavity, the same shape as the cartridge. Closing the lever caused the block to move forward placing the cartridge’s bullet into the chamber.

The carbine was equipped with an external nipple that used a standard musket size percussion cap. Pulling the carbine’s trigger dropped its external hammer that struck the cap, causing it to ignite. This ignition sent fire into a small hole in the back of the cartridge, exploding its internal black gunpowder charge. Unlike other breech loading guns of the time, the cone shaped cartridge sealed the joint between the barrel and the breech, eliminating the problem of leaking hot, exploding black gunpowder gasses when fired.

From the years 1857 to 1865, approximately 54,000 Burnside carbines were manufactured by the Bristol Rifle Works or its successor, the Burnside Rifle Company.

During the American Civil War, the U.S. government purchased and issued Burnside carbines to its troops. Captured Burnside carbines were popular with Confederate cavalry.

Near the end of the Civil War, the Burnside Rifle Company Works ceased production of the Burnside carbine after the company received a contract by the U.S. government to manufacture Spencer carbines. The Spencer carbine used a .56 caliber rimfire cartridge. Firearms that used externally primed cartridges were coming to an end¹.

The Burnside Carbine Cartridge:

TYPE: Externally primed. In an externally primed cartridge, only the black gunpowder and the bullet are contained within the cartridge case. The primer (what fires the cartridge) is a percussion cap on a nipple with the flame conducted to the base of the cartridge by internal channeling within the gun.

CALIBER: 0.54” (.54 caliber).

CASE MATERIAL: brass.

BLACK GUNPOWDER LOAD: 65 grains.

BULLET MATERIAL: Lead.

BULLET WEIGHT: Approximately 350 grains.

BULLET MUZZLE VELOCITY: 950 feet per second.

BULLET EFFECTIVE FIRING RANGE: 200 yards.



Burnside Carbine Cartridge, Author’s Collection

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Other Civil War era firearms that used externally primed metallic cartridge were the .50 caliber Gallager carbine and the .50 caliber Maynard carbine. There were other breech loading Civil War firearms. However, they used cartridges made of paper or rubber.

FROST TOWN SHARDS – LOVE FIELD POTTERY

Among the many thousands of pottery shards recovered during the Frost Town Project, are examples of those produced by the Love Field Potteries.

Love Field Pottery, established in 1923, operated from one the army barracks at Love Field. They produced a line of utilitarian stoneware such as jugs, crocks, churns, bowls, etc. as well as a lesser known line of art pottery. Love Field marked the majority of its utilitarian wares with an oval cobalt blue stamp which read “LOVE FIELD POTTERIES, DALLAS, TEXAS” “surrounding a biplane on early pieces and later changing to the monoplane. The household wares were molded and Bristol glazed, with the exception of the shoulder style jugs which used an Albany slip on the upper portion and Bristol on the lower portion. There are a few known hand thrown jugs, these are extremely rare and are completely Bristol glazed. The pottery closed in the 1960’s.



A shard of Love Field Pottery recovered from Frost Town

Love Field jugs and churns are common and can found in most antique malls.



Close up of a complete Love Field maker's mark



Examples of Love Field Pottery Churn and Jug

Native Plants of Texas -Then and Now by Beth Kennedy

Beginning in August, a monthly article will appear in the HAS Newsletter that features a Texas native plant, a tree, shrub, grass, or forb, that at some time has been useful to Native Americans in our state. The article will offer a brief description of the plant and its habitat, growing conditions, usefulness to native wildlife, its value to earlier as well as more modern inhabitants of Texas, and how the plant is used today. **Important:** what appears in the articles is for information and education only! The author relies on a variety of sources, not personal knowledge, and makes no recommendation for the plants' edible or medicinal uses!

This month I am going to feature the American Beautyberry - *Callicarpa Americana*. It is also known by other common names such as Spanish Mulberry, French Mulberry and Beautybush.



Photo Courtesy of Eric Hunt

www.commons.wikimedia.org

American Beautyberry is an understory shrub usually growing from 3-5 feet tall in areas of partial sun, found in the Piney and Post Oak Woods as well as the Blackland and coastal woodlands of Texas. It is often associated with sweetgum, dogwood, hickory and oak trees, in moist clay or loamy soils, in climates whose winters are mild and summers are hot and humid. Obviously, this shrub will be commonly found in the Big Thicket and upper Gulf Coast areas of Texas! The distinguishing feature of Beautyberry is the brilliant, purple to magenta, heavy clusters of berries that appear crowded along the stems, often causing the stems to droop, in late fall and winter. The seeds and berries of Beautyberry serve as an important food source for many species of birds (in particular, the Northern Bobwhite and Northern Mockingbird), as well as small mammals such as raccoons and possums. White-tailed deer forage on the leaves!

The flavor of this shrub's fruit has been described as "medicinal" to "almost flavorless," and while a few berries can be eaten raw (or made into jelly), ingestion may be risky, as some people in contemporary times have reported stomach upset after consuming them. Native Americans made a tea from the foliage and roots to use in sweat baths for such conditions as rheumatism, fevers, and malaria; a root bark tea used as a diuretic; a root tea for dysentery; and a root and berry tea used for colic.

More recently, scientists have researched the insect-repelling qualities of American Beautyberry leaves, particularly for use against the bites of mosquitos and ticks! Beautyberry's use as a repellent that protects both people and farm animals from biting bugs, particularly mosquitos, has long been known. Taking this knowledge, scientists with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service conducted further studies that show two compounds found in Beautyberry leaves may also effectively repel ticks, particularly the "Blacklegged" tick that is the main carrier of Lyme disease. It was determined that although results were preliminary, the two studied compounds, callicarpinal and intermedeol, have the potential to be effective as a repellent in human use against certain species of both mosquitoes and ticks (Pons 2007). A web search for American Beautyberry as a folk remedy for biting insects will produce numerous "recipes" for combining the leaves of the plant with rubbing alcohol, neem oil, and beeswax!

Today, as people increasingly seek to conserve water and avoid harsh fertilizer and pesticide use in their yards and gardens, American Beautyberry has become more popular due to its natural beauty, its attraction and importance for native wildlife, and its ability to sustain itself with a relative lack of care and attention!

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Deane, Green. "Beautyberry: *callicarpa Americana*." Eat the Weeds, and other things, too. <http://www.eattheweeds.com/?s=callicarpa+americana> (Accessed July 4, 2018).

Foraging Texas. "American Beautyberry." Merriweather's Guide to Edible Plants of Texas and the Southwest. <http://www.foragingtexas.com/2008/09/beautyberry.html> (Accessed July 5, 2018.)

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Pons, Luis. "Old-Time Mosquito Remedy May Work Against Ticks, Too." United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. January 26, 2007. <https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2007/old-time-mosquito-remedy-may-work-against-ticks-too/>.

Frost Town Project Wraps Up – Linda Gorski

A small group of HAS members braved the 100 degree ++ heat on Saturday, July 21, to process one last pile of dirt at the Frost Town site in downtown Houston. As most of you know, the Houston Archeological Society has been working with Dr. Jason Barrett at TxDOT and archeologist Doug Boyd of Prewitt and Associates (both HAS members) at this important historical site, settled in the late 1830s mostly by German immigrants to Texas. Over time the area became ethnically diverse including African Americans and Hispanics. In the course of the project members of HAS have assisted the professional archeologists in recovering what Doug Boyd says might be close to 250,000 artifacts!!! The pile we processed on Saturday was no exception - it was chock full of artifacts including over 25 marbles, ceramics, glass, bottles, shoes, metal - you name it, we found it! Thanks y'all for a great project!



Louis Aulbach

Team working in the dirt



Larry Golden and Liz Coon-Nguyen



I think the most numerous artifacts we've recovered at the site have been marbles!



Thanks to John Rich for his research on these two bottles. On the left, a Domino Cosmetics Bottle and on the right a Wildroot hair products bottle, both dating to the 1920s.

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Important Announcements

Dumped and Forgotten Below the Milam Street Bridge: Houston in the Civil War

Thursday, May 17–Saturday, August 4, 2018
The Heritage Society Museum Gallery
Tuesday–Saturday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm
Admission: \$5 for adults, \$2 children 5–18

Run don't walk to see this amazing collection of Civil War artifacts recovered in and around Houston! One of the highlights of the exhibit is an amazing, never-before exhibited Civil War era archeology collection that has received new life with modern conservation treatments and has been researched by experts in munitions from the Houston Archeological Society!!! HAS member Joshua Farrar conserved many of these artifacts at the Texas A & M Conservation lab after they were processed for several months by other members of HAS. Our member Larry Golden also loaned many Civil War artifacts from his own collection to this exhibit. For more information check out the Heritage Society website at <http://www.heritagesociety.org/current-exhibition>

Linda Gorski to speak at Fort Bend Archeological Society meeting, Tuesday, August 21

HAS president Linda Gorski will be the speaker at the August 21 meeting of the FBAS. Her topic will be **The Happy Hollow: An Emergency Salvage Archeology Project in Houston's Historic Red Light District.**

For three short days at the end of January 2016 Texas Historical Commission Archeological Stewards from Harris County and members of the Houston Archeological Society participated in an emergency salvage archeology shovel testing project at a unique site in downtown Houston, Texas. Owners of the historic Lancaster Hotel were forced to demolish two equally historic adjoining buildings to provide parking spaces for the hotel. The owners of the hotel including Miki Lusk Norton graciously allowed the Texas Historical Commission to examine the site before it was paved over.

These historic buildings in the 500 block of Louisiana Avenue were built in 1907 and replaced earlier structures on the lots that were originally “female boarding houses” - aka brothels. The shovel testing revealed early cisterns, brick and concrete piers that supported the pier and beam building, an historic gulley and a privy. Approximately 1100 artifacts were recovered including many complete bottles that originally contained female medications and tonics providing clues as to what was going on at the site in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and lending credence to the site’s original name - “Happy Hollow”! This presentation will present the history of an early red light district in Houston through artifacts recovered at the site. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy located at 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, Texas, next to the Fort Bend County Justice Center. Everyone is welcome - the program is free and open to the public.

Bulletin of Texas Archeology 1929 - 1984 now online!

Past volumes of the Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society are starting to become available online through The Portal to Texas History. As of the beginning of July, 2018, 48 volumes (1929-1984) were uploaded, and more are still in production (indexing, keywording, and generally being made database-ready). Portal Main Page, searchable by partner ("Texas Archeological Society") or collection ("Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society") <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>

New Exhibit at the Sam Houston Library and Research Center in Liberty

If you are looking for a short summer road trip with the kids before school starts, head up to Liberty to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center to see the excellent renovated museum, including a display of prehistoric artifacts collected from the Andy Kyle Collection. As many of you know, members of the Houston Archeological Society including Dub Crook, shown here with the Research Center Manager Alana Inman, spent several months sorting through the 120 file boxes of artifacts in the Kyle collection. Dub Crook then chose the most significant artifacts including points, stone tools, Native American pottery, and even a mammoth tooth to include



in the exhibit. The Center is located about 41 miles northeast of Houston, just outside the city of Liberty. Check out their website for museum opening hours, directions and other information at <https://tsl.texas.gov/shc/index.html>. Also, please mark your calendars for the HAS monthly meeting on September 20th, when Dub Crook will give an informative presentation on the Kyle Collection, the exhibit at the Research Center, and exciting new research that is being conducted in Liberty County.

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2018/2019
7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road

August 16, 2018 - Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski - “Archeological Sites in Ostia Antica”

September 20, 2018 - Wilson “Dub” Crook - “Update on the Andy Kyle Program” / HAS Annual Meeting

October 18, 2018 – Joshua Farrar – **Dumped and Forgotten below the Milam Street Bridge: Houston in the Civil War**

November 15, 2018 – Merle Hudgins – “Treasures Found and Unfound Along the Texas Gulf Coast” taken from text found in her latest book *War Between the States Changed Texas Forever / pre-Civil War, Civil War, post-Civil War*

December 13, 2018 – Linda Gorski Annual Wrap up of 2018 HAS Activities

January 17, 2019 -Dub Crook - **The Conquest of Canaan: Who Were Those Guys at Jericho?**

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. Please submit articles no later than August 25th for the September 2018 issue.

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

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