



**HAS August Meeting - Thursday, August 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

## **August Meeting Sees the Return of Dr. Heather Para!**



Greetings HAS members! Now that we have passed the high point of summer temps, there is hope on the horizon of (slightly) cooler weather. Here's to finally having a few days without an Excessive Heat Warning from the National Weather Service! Another cool item on the horizon is the return of Dr. Heather Para as our August HAS speaker! Our August meeting will be on THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m. with social hour. This meeting will be VIRTUAL ONLY due to Dr. Para's schedule and will be available via Zoom for members and invited guests. We will later post the lecture on our YouTube channel (for future reference and for the public).

For our August HAS meeting, Dr. Para returns to discuss the ongoing work at 41VT141, also known as McNeill Ranch. This site provides a rare opportunity to study Paleoindian occupation in a region wherein Paleoindian sites are not often well-preserved or are difficult to access. This site dates as early as 13,000 years ago, with seemingly uninterrupted continuity of use. 41VT141 was discovered in early 2003, with fieldwork beginning in August of that year and continuing through today. This lecture will discuss the discovery of the site, the work that has been done over the past twenty years, significant artifacts and features we have found, and what we think it all means.

Dr. Heather Para is Exhibits & Collections Manager for the Museum of Coastal Bend at Victoria College. Para holds a Ph.D. in Archaeology from the University of Wales Trinity St. David. Para taught at the post-secondary level for ten years and has worked in museums for ten years as well. Her archaeological work has been primarily in Britain and has also taken her to Greece and coastal Alaska. In her current role, Para oversees an ongoing excavation at 41VT141, the McNeill Ranch Site, and manages the museum's archaeology lab where materials for the site are processed.

Be sure to join us on Zoom for this excellent presentation!!

*Sarah Chesney, Ph.D., HAS Vice President*

## President's Message - Frank Kozar



As the dog days of summer proceed onward, the cooler days of fall beckon us with indoor (and some outdoor) activities in the month of October, which is Texas Archeology Month. The Houston Archaeological Society will be quite busy and in need of volunteers.

For the first time since 2019, HAS members will be manning tables at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on International Archeology Day, Saturday, October 21. The pandemic and construction projects limited access for HAS volunteers for a time, but we'll be out in full force with artifact displays, our public outreach show-and-tell displays, pinch pot and Texas Historical Commission poster giveaways, along with HAS membership application forms. In the past, we've had as many as a dozen members attending this event—so mark it on your calendar and consider attending, even if for only a few hours.

The Texas Archeological Society is holding its annual convention from October 6-8 in San Marcos at the Embassy Suites Hotel Conference Center. This is always a very popular event, with excellent presentations covering archeology in Texas, as well as areas beyond our borders. Registration is open on the TAS website with more information and a link to the hotel.

HAS members have also been asked to staff a Texas Archeology Month table at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site in LaPorte on Saturday, October 7. Unfortunately, that conflicts with the above-noted convention in San Marcos, which many of us will be attending. We will try to find some willing members who are not going to San Marcos to step up so we can support this event at a site where we have worked many times in the past.

In addition, HAS members will be manning tables at the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site in Washington, Texas, on an October date to be determined, for their Archeology Month activities. Last year over 150 visitors stopped by our displays, and several joined HAS.

These and other public outreach events at public and private schools, museums, universities, and arboretums keep HAS members busy and we are always looking for new faces to join us at these events. We need a lot of participation from everyone to make these community outreach events successful – please come join us!

Comings... We welcome Robin Helton as our new HAS Publications Editor! Robin moved to Houston last fall and reached out to HAS to ask how she could contribute to HAS. Robin holds an MA in Applied Anthropology and is interested in learning more about the archeological side. We have plans to publish a new HAS Report in the near future and a Journal next year. We will be requesting articles for the Journal from those interested in publishing.

Goings.... I will be stepping down as HAS President when my term ends in September, although I may be staying on as a board member. My family and I plan to take more time to travel together, so we are going to start doing that this fall. I have enjoyed my year as HAS president and I have appreciated everyone's support!

HAS Nominating Committee Members Sharon Menegaz, Beth Kennedy, and Geoff Mills will be talking with interested candidates for five board openings (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Director-at-Large) and will announce more information at the August HAS meeting. Voting results will be announced at the September meeting.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the HAS membership, and though I may miss a few events and digs I will still be an active HAS member in the foreseeable future! See you in the field!

*Frank Kozar, HAS President*

## Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Minutes - July 20, 2023

WELCOME to our HAS Monthly Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Frank Kozar, HAS President.

Treasurer's report - Bob Sewell - Funds remain healthy with no significant expenditures in the immediate future. If you would like further information, please contact Bob at [treasurer@txhas.org](mailto:treasurer@txhas.org).

Membership - Bob Sewell - Membership is up to 175 members. It is anticipated that we will pick up more members at the TAS annual convention and during International Archeology Month.

Web Site – Bob Sewell - The web site is running well with no reported problems.

Newsletter – Bob Sewell - A big thank you to Betsy Wittenmyer who continues to do a wonderful job. Please send articles for publication in the newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to submit photos of HAS activities, brief write-ups of archeological or historical topics, and news items. Members have been submitting interesting and varied articles, which result in a great newsletter. Please consider contributing – items are due the fifteenth of each month and are very appreciated!

Projects – Frank Kozar for Bob Sewell - We are taking a hiatus on all field work due to the high temperatures. An HAS member has approached the board asking if HAS would consider carrying out investigations on their property; discussions will begin shortly.

Frank introduced Robin Helton, a new member as of last fall, who has agreed to become our new Publications Editor. Robin is already working on collecting the munitions articles written by Tom Nuckols that were previously published in the HAS newsletters. This work started by the late Louis Aulbach. Although it has always been an option that topics covered in HAS publications could include sites beyond the Texas Gulf Coast, it is hoped that HAS can also attract some geographically diverse contributions from farther afield.

Proposal of a change regarding Constitution Article VI, Section 4 (c) - Emma Baldwin (Secretary) - Emma drew attention to the email sent on June 11, 2023, requesting that the Constitution Committee consider and endorse a proposal that was put forward by the President and Treasurer. Please note that this earlier email incorrectly stated that this proposal relates to Article IV, instead of correctly stating that it relates to Article VI. The Secretary apologizes for the above mistake. The amendment will propose that the HAS constitution be changed to increase the expenditure authorization amount for members of the HAS Board from \$500 to \$800. The Constitution Committee will present their recommendation of the above request to the membership at the August HAS meeting, and voting will take place in the weeks thereafter. Emma requested that members be looking for a future email that will invite members to vote by return email in order for the expected proposal to be passed. Voting results will be due by the end of August.

Election of Officers for 2023/2024 Board – Frank Kozar - The following members have been appointed to the HAS Nominating Committee: Sharon Menegaz, Geoffrey Mills, and Beth Kennedy. Elections will take place for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Director-at-Large. The nominations will be announced at the August HAS meeting by the Nominating Committee. Election will then be held via email voting prior to the September HAS Annual Meeting, with results announced at said meeting. Please note that nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the meeting, and therefore must be made to the Nominating Committee prior to the August HAS meeting. Frank announced he will be stepping down as president to spend more time with his family and enjoy some travel. He will continue to be a member of HAS and can be available for another role if needed.

Outreach and Education – Frank Kozar, Sharon Menegaz - Please consider volunteering for one of the following fun outreach opportunities. For further information please contact: [HASMenegaz@gmail.com](mailto:HASMenegaz@gmail.com). International and Texas Archeology Month is October, 2023. Remember that our community outreach introduces the public to archeology and is a major part of what HAS does. Please consider helping at one of the following events, no experience necessary.

Museum of Natural Sciences – Saturday, October 21 – HAS has multiple tables, artifacts, and giveaway items to present to the public. We will probably need 6 - 10 volunteers.

San Jacinto Monument Museum – Saturday, October 7 – This is the same weekend as the TAS Annual Convention. It's an informal show-and-tell involving chatting with the public.

Washington on the Brazos - Date to be determined.

Kleb Woods –Saturday, November 4 - Details to be announced in the Newsletter.



The 94<sup>th</sup> Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting, Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Convention Center - October 6-8, 2023 - Nick Morgan, Travis County Archeological Society - Nick shared the following information. Those of you who have missed the old tradition of the sing-along at the Annual Meeting will be pleased to learn of its return this year! Get those singing voices tuned up! Meeting Accommodations - This year's meeting was scheduled earlier in October than is usual due to the many conflicting events in the area, such as the Grand Prix. To negotiate reasonable room rates, it was necessary to work around availability. Nick requested that attendees book their hotel room as soon as possible. TAS has a block allocation of rooms at a special rate of \$169/night, comparatively reasonable for the area and time of year. In the next week or so the number of actual reservations must meet the contracted minimum or TAS will be forced to reduce their discounted room allocation to reduce their liability. He emphasized that the hotel is a very pleasant facility that includes free parking and a good breakfast. To book, go to the TAS website and then to the "Activities" area. There you will find all the information and the correct link. You may also call the hotel directly at (512) 392-6450 and use group code TAA (and yes, it is TAA). The cutoff date for the reduced TAS room rate is September 5, after which time the regular standard room appears to be over \$300. Details are also available on the TAS Facebook Page. Please DO NOT call the number in the TAS Newsletter – this takes you to a third-party booking service that will not take the group discount and you will not get the reduced rate. Betsy Wittenmyer requested information from Nick to include in the HAS Newsletter.

Next Monthly Meeting - August 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – Frank Kozar – Dr. Heather Para of the Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria, Texas, will be discussing the archeology of 41VT141 McNeill Ranch. The site has been worked for decades by COBALT, the local avocational archeology society. The McNeill family also have very generously allowed site access to TAS and local universities to conduct field schools, including the upcoming TAS 2024 Geology Academy to be announced in the fall.

Meeting drawn to a close at 6:55 p.m. by Frank Kozar.

Introduction of tonight's program - Frank Kozar - Frank reported on the activities of the 2023 Field School using photographs provided by the members who attended. He thanked all of those who had contributed. After Frank's presentation, he introduced Dr. Tom Middlebrook, who further provided a very interesting presentation with slides outlining the initial observations from the excavations.

*Emma Baldwin, Secretary*

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### **The 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society is Rapidly Approaching: Update and Advice from Nick Morgan, TASN and Travis County Archeological Society President**

We all know that TAS members have a reputation for waiting for the last minute when it comes to registering for Field School, the Annual Meeting, Academies, etc. Well, this year is different— at least when it comes to booking rooms at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos for this year's Annual Meeting. As of July 29, we've already booked around 50% of our room block. It looks very likely that the rooms are going to SELL OUT.

Doug Boyd and Dr. Ashely Lemke at the same conference? I'm in!!

(512) 392-6450

Group code TAA

**YOUR ASSIGNMENT:** make sure your TAS membership is up to date. Register for Annual Meeting. Make reservation at Embassy Suites Hotel, San Marcos.

**94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of TAS**

SO, there are two easy ways to book your room: (512) 392 6450 (group code TAA) for direct calls to the hotel itself, or go to the TAS website at: [TXARCH.org](http://TXARCH.org), select 'Activities,' scroll down, and find the link.

Both methods work extremely well.

## Time to Plan for Texas Archeology Month Outreach Activities!

As HAS members know, October is Archeology Month in Texas, and HAS will need help in spreading the word about archeology to hundreds of folks at many locations. We will publish an updated list of our commitments monthly. If you would like to see the Texas Historical Commission's master calendar for Archeology Month, here is the link: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/texas-archeology-month>.

We are all wishing for cooler weather, and Texas Archeology Month activities are great weekends to go and participate at museums and historic sites in our area. Many of our outreach activities require ten or more volunteers to give our attendees the best experience possible, whether they can actually dig in the dirt, view our show and tell displays, or experience other teaching activities such as sorting and classifying artifacts, reassembling ceramics, making their own personal painted pebble, or obtaining our clay pinch pot kits. We also need people to man our giveaway tables of posters, coloring books, and other Archeology information. We can train new members easily, and we welcome all the help we can get!



Pinch pots. Source: Texas Archeology Month | THC.Texas.gov - Texas Historical Commission.

Also, spread the word about our outreach activities to family and friends. Teachers find our information very helpful, and we can tell them about our TAS summer field school, classroom presentations, and other opportunities for teachers.

There will be an online order form for pinch pots for requests of ten or more kits (i.e. for schools, scout troops, homeschool programs, etc.). If you only need a few, then you will be directed to your nearest distribution center (most likely one of our THC historic sites). That information will be included on the Texas Archeology Month webpage. Continue to check this site for updated information: [Texas Archeology Month | THC.Texas.gov](https://www.thc.texas.gov) - Texas Historical Commission.

*Hope to see you in October! Sharon Menegaz*

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### Kleb Woods Nature Center Presentation

On June 8, HAS member and TPWD archeologist Eleanor Stoddart presented a program to the Kleb Woods Nature Center History Discussion Group. Each month, speakers are brought in to lead discussions about a different book, article, or historic topic. Her presentation included information about the history and archeology of nearby State Parks, as well as ongoing celebrations commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas State Parks. The audience was very engaged and talkative, and the two-hour session passed quickly. Read more about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas State Parks at [History - 100 Years - Texas State Parks - TPWD](#).



# Brazosport Museum of Natural Science Exhibit Velasco And Quintana: A Glimpse into Nineteenth Century Texas

Sharon Menegaz



Source: [https://thefacts.com/living/glimpsing-texas-past-museum-to-exhibit-artifacts-from-1800s-velasco-quintana/article\\_ef376c18-5f95-5c4b-8e27-d450d0e6f101.html](https://thefacts.com/living/glimpsing-texas-past-museum-to-exhibit-artifacts-from-1800s-velasco-quintana/article_ef376c18-5f95-5c4b-8e27-d450d0e6f101.html).

The opening for the new museum exhibit “Velasco and Quintana: A Glimpse into Nineteenth Century Texas” took place on June 25 at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science in Clute. This new exhibit has been added to the Hall of Archeology and features artifacts from the original 1800s townsites.

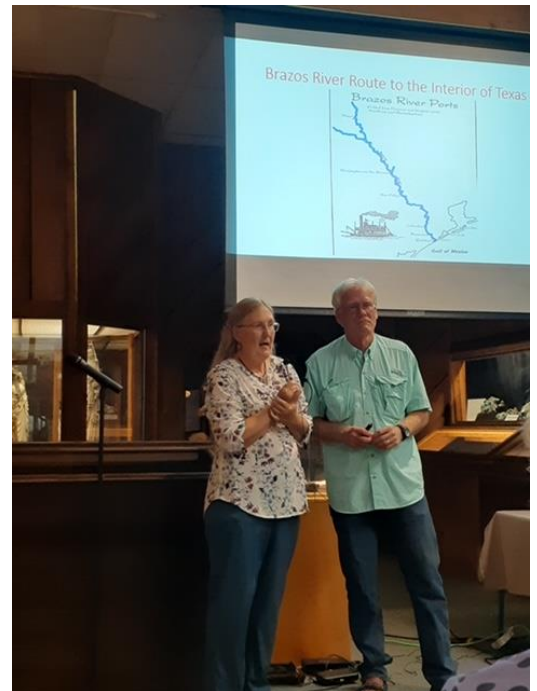
Our own HAS member, Sue Gross, serves as museum curator and was instrumental in the work on these artifacts, and in seeing the exhibit come to fruition. The archeological work on display was part of a recovery project in the late 1980s and 1990s by the Brazosport Archaeological Society, salvage archeology prior to the dredging of the jetty opening into Freeport Harbor. The ceramics and bottles found are related to the early townsites of Velasco, founded in the 1820s on the east side of the Brazos River, and Quintana, founded in the 1830s on the west side of the Brazos. Since these towns were early Texas ports of entry, ceramics from England and

glass from New York and Philadelphia are among the artifacts identified. The collection has long been known and utilized by archeologists looking to identify these types of artifacts in other early Texas settlements.

Attendees at the opening of the exhibit included HAS members Sandra Pollan, Sandy Rogers, Tom and Anne Nuckols, Sharon and Steve Menegaz, Molly Morgan, Eleanor Stoddart, Ed and Rita Tait Jackson, and Clint Lacy.

If you have never been to this lovely and free museum, please take the opportunity to visit. In addition to the Archeology Hall, the museum contains a large gem and mineral exhibit, dinosaur fossils, and the largest seashell collection in the region!

Museum Curator Sue Gross introduces James Smith.



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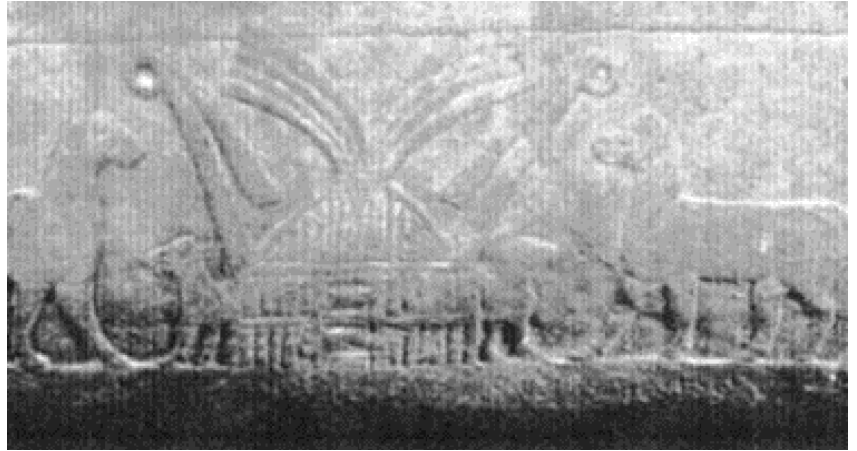


## A Mudhif in the Bayou City

Gail Larsen Peterkin

Onlookers may wonder what Houstonians and Gulf Coast residents have in common with the Sumerians and the Marsh Arabs, who have occupied the marshes of the Tigris-Euphrates delta for generations. One tangible link is the presence of *Phragmites* reed. The same species used as construction material in the salt marshes of Iraq currently grows along Galveston Bay.

The Marsh Arabs live adjacent to the marshes or on floating islands made of reeds, much like the Uros people on Lake Titicaca. Their houses and boats are constructed of reeds. The most important structure in a Marsh Arab village is the *mudhif*, a large reed building used as a community center and guest house. *Mudhifs* have a long history, dating back 5,000 years. Sadly, Saddam Hussein's government drained the marshes and displaced the Marsh Arabs in the final decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Now, NGOs such as Nature Iraq are striving to bring water back to the marshes, and people are returning to a more traditional way of life.



A Sumerian *mudhif* in a facade © The Trustees of the British Museum.

To bring local awareness to the rich culture history of the Marsh Arabs, Archaeology Now

(Archaeological Institute of America, Houston Society) and the Arab-American Educational Foundation, in collaboration with Rice University, decided to construct an authentic *mudhif* hosted on the Rice campus. A master builder, Meer Al Asadi, constructed the columns for the arches, walls, roof panels, reed bundles for struts and supports, and other components in Iraq, using only traditional materials and techniques. The pieces were loaded into a container and hoisted onto a ship for transport. The container then took the “scenic route” to Houston, involving several ships, the Suez Canal, an onboard fire, and stops in Spain and South America.



Unloading the container.

The container finally arrived in Houston and was released by customs on June 8. So, of course, construction commenced during the oppressive heat dome, under the supervision and guidance of

Dr. Azzam Alwash, a hydraulic engineer and the founder of Nature Iraq. Volunteers provided manual labor for the project, including members of the Houston Archeological Society, Texas Archeological Society, Friends of Archaeology, Houston Museum of Natural Science Volunteer Guild and museum staff, and Archaeology Now. The Iraqi-American community in Houston also came out in droves to assist with construction, lending a festive atmosphere to the late evening work shifts.

The structure is the first *mudhif* in Texas and only the second constructed in the United States; a smaller, less traditional *mudhif* was erected in Philadelphia in 2021. The collaborative project in Houston has so far been covered on the radio by *Houston Matters*, in articles by *Houston Landing* and *Texas Monthly*, and on Iraqi TV.

Archaeological programming in the *mudhif* will begin in September and continue through the fall. Please check the Archaeology Now website ([archaeologynow.org](http://archaeologynow.org)) for details and for an updated schedule. In the meantime, please come by the Rice campus and check out this unique structure. It is located at University Blvd. and Stockton Dr., Rice Entrance #8, directly across from Rice Police and next to the Moody Center.

A profound **THANK YOU** to the HAS members who came out to assist with construction, which continued through much of July. Many hands make light work!

The photo to the left shows a Saturday morning work crew, with volunteers from HAS, HMNS, and Archaeology Now. Construction photos courtesy of Archaeology Now, official photography by Heather McAdoo.

*Houston Landing* link: <https://houstonlanding.org/houston-project-transplant-reeds-iraqi-marsh-culture-rice-university/>



*Houston Matters* link:

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/shows/houston-matters/2023/06/30/455754/ancient-middle-eastern-history-comes-to-rice-university/>

*Texas Monthly* link:

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/style/mudhif-houston-rice-university-iraqi-marsh-arabs/>

Archaeology Now link:

[The Marsh Arabs Project — Archaeology Now](#)



Coordinator Dr. Azzam Alwash.







**Letters from Dr. Charles Tait of Columbus, Texas  
Summer at the Plantation**

**Sharon Menegaz**

The transcript of this letter is found in the Nesbitt Library in Columbus. You'll notice that all these family letters - back and forth from Columbus to Alabama - mention weather, crops, and the general wellness of their families. It's always interesting to see how long the mail takes to get to them and to read business details about the plantation, including a constant search for more land to purchase and how title to the land is often hard to get. You'll notice Tait's description of the July weather in Texas is not unlike our current temperatures. Some explanations are added in italics.



Charles William Tait and his daughter Caroline.  
Courtesy of Rita Tait Jackson.

A brief biography of Dr. Charles William Tait may be found at [Tait, Charles William \(tshaonline.org\)](http://tshaonline.org).

To: James Asbury Tait, Esq.  
Blacks Bluff (Alabama)  
From Columbus, Texas, July 20th, 1853

Dear Father,

Your letter of the 2nd was received by the last mail. The half of the 100 dollar bill was safely received. (*stay tuned to next newsletter for the explanation of this!*)

Louisa (*Mrs. Tait, from Winchester*) and myself have enjoyed good health thus far. Caroline (*daughter*) had a bad bowel complaint, but it is now better. As soon as Caroline is well enough we expect to leave home. The weather is very warm, the thermometer is at 97° Fahrenheit in the shade. My crop looks very promising, tho' the corn and potatoes would be benefitted by rain, as it is very dry now. No cotton is open yet on my place, and nobody is picking in the country, tho' it is usual to commence picking early cotton by the middle of July.

I saw Mr. R. M. Forbes of Port Lavaca, the owner of the land adjoining mine; he says he will take 6 dollars an acre for his land, in 3 payments, payable in New Orleans. The Lawsuit about the land will probably be decided next January, when he can give possession. He promised to give me the refusal & expects the first payment when he gives possession. I will make the necessary investigation in regard to the land on the Sandies (*more acreage to purchase*) this summer.

Let my brother James come out as soon as you think it is safe for him to do so.

Louisa joins me in love to all.  
Your affectionate son, C Wm Tait



Historic American Buildings Survey, Harry L. Starnes, Photographer, August 31, 1936, rear elevation. Dr. Charles W. Tait Plantation House, Route 71 Vicinity, Columbus, Colorado County, Texas, Survey HABS TX-282. <https://bit.ly/3pHADco>.

## Here's The Scoop: Tales from the Field

Kaity Ulewicz, MSc, RPA

Gather around my fellow archaeologists and I will continue the tale of my adventures within my first field school.



The author is jealous of her friend finding yet ANOTHER artifact. Also, I was very wet.

Now as we left off last month, I had mentioned that I was working on a Mesolithic tomb on Achill Island, Ireland, in 2012. This dig was fun, but it did manage to be the rainiest summer in Ireland's history (who know I would be a part of that record), and I had yet to find ANYTHING I could brag about later in the warmth of the local pub. Now, this was not unexpected. I was after all still a new archaeologist and needed to pay my dues. It was a struggle, but one day I finally reached my goal. I had found some pottery in the mud! This was my new calling! I was determined to be an archaeologist for the rest of my life, all because I found a simple piece of pottery. Unfortunately, most of the photos of the artifacts I was able to uncover have been lost to time.



Are we working hard, or hardly working?



The author worked on her tan wearing her shorts and boots in the mud.



The author enjoying a rare moment of sunshine.

But we can be very proud of what we accomplished. Many of the artifacts we uncovered during the field school have been placed in museums, and several dissertations have been written on what we were able to uncover over that wet summer. Not bad for a baby archaeologist. Still waiting on my plaque in the museums though.

As a final thought, I did really enjoy my time in my field school, and although I learned that archaeology is absolutely nothing like the movies, at the same time, I learned to love everything about it—mud and all. So, this is my love letter to Ireland (except Mt. Slievemore, you know what you did). If you ever find yourself on Achill Island, please avenge me.

Learn more about the work on Achill at:  
<https://achill-fieldschool.com/>.

*Kaity Ulewicz, MSc, RPA*



## Notes on Munitions: A Rimfire Cartridge Case from Bandera, Texas Part 2, The Winchester Model 1866 Rifle and Carbine

Thomas L. Nuckols

### Recap

This article is about an unprovenanced copper .44 (caliber) Henry rimfire cartridge case that I analyzed for an individual in Bandera, Texas. Two firing pin imprints on the base of the case, 180° apart, indicate that the case, when it was part of a cartridge, was fired in either one of three firearms, a Henry Rifle, or a Winchester Model 1866 Rifle or Carbine.

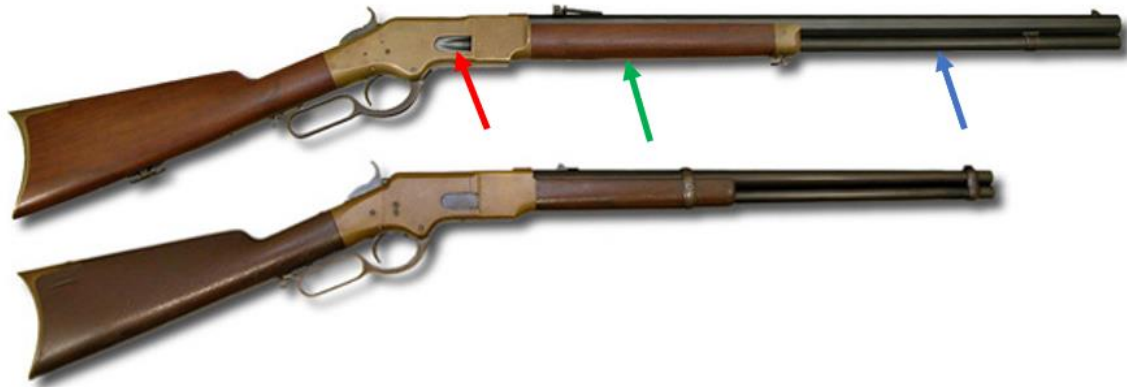


Figure 1. A Winchester Model 1866 rifle, top, and a Winchester Model 1866 carbine, bottom. The arrows point out three of King's patent improvements over the Henry rifle; red indicates the loading gate, green indicates the wooden fore stock and blue indicates the magazine. Source: The Winchester Arms Collectors Association, <https://winchestercollector.org/models/model-1866/>.

### The Winchester Model 1866 Rifle and Carbine

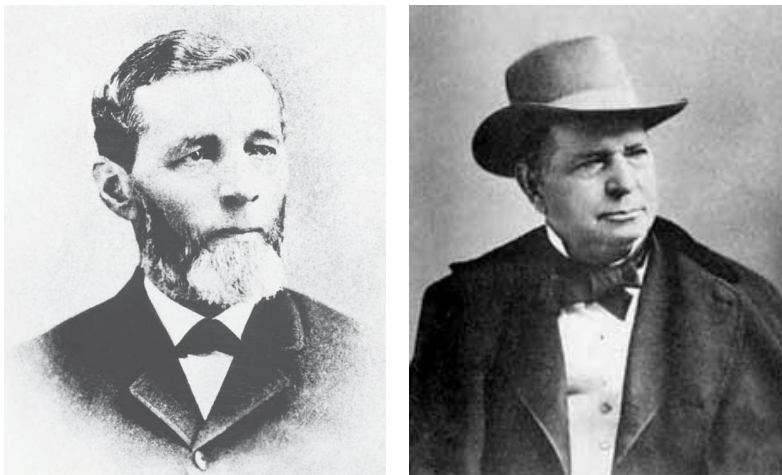


Figure 2. Benjamin Tyler Henry. Source: henryrifles.com, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=40759270>.

Figure 3. Oliver Winchester c. 1847. Source: Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1646931>.

In the mid-1860s, Benjamin Tyler Henry, angered over what he believed was inadequate compensation for his invention of the Henry rifle, attempted to have the Connecticut legislature award ownership of New Haven Arms Company (manufacturer of the Henry rifle) to him. Oliver Winchester forestalled the move and reorganized New Haven Arms Company under his own name, as the Winchester Repeating Arms Company

(WRAC).<sup>1</sup> Winchester hired Nelson King to serve as the superintendent of WRAC's new factory in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and asked King to make improvements to the Henry rifle. On May 22, 1866, King was issued patent No. 55,012 from the United States patent office for "improvement in magazine fire-arms."<sup>2</sup> The assignor to King's patent was Oliver Winchester.

King's patent remedied flaws in the Henry rifle by incorporating a loading gate on the right side of the receiver and integrating a round, sealed magazine that was partially covered by a wooden forestock.<sup>3</sup> After making and testing several prototypes based on King's patent, WRAC announced the first Winchester rifle to the trade: the Model 1866, more commonly referred to as the Model 66 (Trevelyan 2016: 41, Williamson 1963: 49).<sup>4</sup>

Like the Henry rifle, the Model 1866 fired a .44 caliber rimfire cartridge, and was equipped with a double firing pin that struck the rim of a cartridge in two places to reduce the possibility of a misfire. The Model 66 went into production in August 1866 (Rose 2008: 179). The first two Model 66s sold by WRAC were carbines sent to U.S. Army Major H.G. Litchfield. Litchfield was an official in the Department of the Platte, the military administrative district which spanned Iowa to Idaho and ensured that settlers could move safely to Oregon (Trevelyan 2016: 42).<sup>5</sup> Major Litchfield was thrilled with the new carbines, writing Oliver Winchester to express his delight:

The new Winchesters were received yesterday, and upon inspection have proven to be the finest arms I have ever handled. For great strength and light weight they have no equal and upon taking the guns out to be tested, we found that for rapidity of fire and deadly accuracy they are nothing short of amazing. Believe me, this gun will make the land safe for the frontiersman and will have a great effect in settling the land (Trevelyan 2016: 42).

In the years 1866 thru 1898, WRAC manufactured thousands of Model 66s in three configurations (Wexler 2015: 155-156):

*Rifle:* Approximately 28,000 manufactured with a 24-inch round or octagonal barrel. Magazine capacity was 17.

*Carbine:* Approximately 127,000 manufactured with a 20-inch round barrel and a saddle ring on the left side of the frame. Magazine capacity was 13.

*Musket:* Approximately 14,000 manufactured with a 27-inch round barrel with a muzzle designed to hold a socket bayonet. Magazine capacity was 17.

Note: It is this author's understanding that the Winchester Model 1866 muskets were made specifically for foreign military and militia contracts, and never saw service in the United States (Figure 4).

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<sup>1</sup> WRAC went into receivership in 1931, and was bought by the Western Cartridge Company, a forerunner of the Olin Corporation.

<sup>2</sup> IFI CLAIMS Patent Services, <https://patents.google.com/patent/US55012A/en>.

<sup>3</sup> A magazine, is a firearms storage compartment for cartridges. A common type of magazine is the tubular form, that originated on American lever-action rifles. Tubular magazines are located underneath and parallel to the barrel which hold a number of cartridges, in line. The cartridges are forced rearward by a spring, for loading into a gun's chamber (Nonte 1973: 156, 157).

<sup>4</sup> The Model 1866 Winchester is often said to have been known on the western frontier as the "yellow-boy" (due to the color of its brass receiver) but in more than thirty-five years of research I have never found any use of this term in the hundreds of nineteenth-century accounts of western experiences which I've examined in the course of writing several other books (Worman 2007: 103).

<sup>5</sup> Department of the Platte. Wikipedia, [https://en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/6998575#Department\\_Commanders](https://en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/6998575#Department_Commanders).



Figure 4. A Winchester Model 1866 musket. Source: Pinterest, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/571112796477453994/>.

*Next month: Part 3, The First 44 caliber Henry Rimfire Cartridge.*

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Williamson, Harold F.

1963 *Winchester. The Gun That Won the West*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. A.S. Barnes and Company, New York, NY.

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2007 *Firearms in American History: A Guide for Writers, Curators, and General Readers*. Westholme Publishing, LLC, Yardley, PA.

#### Additional resources:

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Suggested video: Winchester 1866: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-L9-xBRksE>.



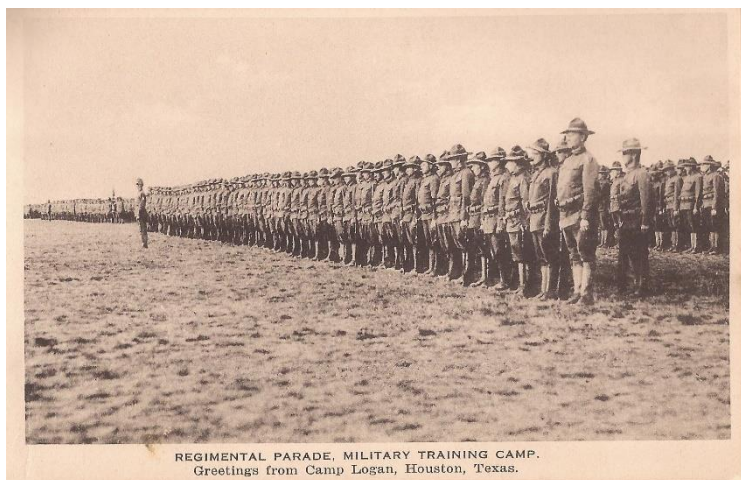
## Picturing Camp Logan: Basic Training

Robert Morin and Betsy Wittenmyer

On June 28, 1914, anarchist Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, in Sarajevo. As chain reactions from treaties, alliances, nationalism, and imperialism escalated into world-wide conflict, the United States remained politically neutral, although financially entangled through loans and trade. But in 1917, Germany reinstated unrestricted submarine warfare, and British intelligence intercepted the Zimmermann Telegram. These events changed American sentiments, and Congress declared war against Germany in April. Ill-prepared for warfare, the U.S. maintained only a small standing army. The turn of events required rapid escalation, and President Wilson selected General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing to assemble the American Expeditionary Forces by consolidating the Regular Army, the National Guard, conscripts, and recruits.

Plans developed for thirty-two army training camps modeled after the Plattsburg Movement voluntary summer training programs, as well as thirteen officer training camps and four naval training stations. Cities across the nation vied for the cantonments. Houston bid

successfully for two facilities: a National Guard training camp, Camp Logan, followed by an aviation base, Ellington Field. Before being admitted to the Army, all recruits underwent a series of medical and physical tests. As troops were mustered, they were dispersed throughout the country for Boot Camp, which consisted of three months of basic training followed by three months of supplementary training.



This marked the U.S. Army's first attempt at a systematic training program for the soldiers, addressing this preparation in four phases:

Phase 1: Garrison Orientation and initial training, 32% of the program

Phase 2: Individual Skills, Physical & Discipline Training, Specific Individual Training, 12%

Phase 3: Lethality Training, Advanced Offense/Defense Training, 19%

Phase 4: Collective Training, Advanced Training, 37%

A typical day for a soldier in the first three months followed a schedule such as this example:

5:40 a.m. First Call for Reveille

5:55 a.m. Reveille

6:00 a.m. Assembly

6:00-6:15 a.m. Calisthenics

6:15 a.m. Mess Call

6:45 a.m. Inspection of Quarters

6:55 a.m. First Call for Drill

7:00 a.m. Assembly

7:00-7:40 a.m. Drill



Buglers were an important part of the day, signaling Reveille, Assembly, Mess, and Taps. All images from the Robert Morin Collection.



7:50-8:30 a.m. Practical Instruction in Guard Duty  
 8:30-9:00 a.m. Physical Drill  
 9:10-11:30 a.m. Special Instruction  
 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dinner and Rest Period  
 1:30-2:00 p.m. Special Instruction in Hygiene and Sanitation  
 2:00-4:30 p.m. Military Instruction  
 4:30-5:00 p.m. Rest Period  
 5:00-6:00 p.m. Mess Call  
 9:45 p.m. Taps

During basic training, the men received instruction in physical fitness, discipline, hand-to-hand combat skills, boxing, bayonet training, rifle and pistol operation and marksmanship, grenade training, trench warfare, and toxic gas and gas mask safety. British and French personnel experienced in European frontline conditions came to the camps to assist with instruction. The soldiers enjoyed some much-deserved free time on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and all day Sunday.



Calisthenics during morning exercise.

In the second three months, depending on individual ability and interest, specialized skills training included field artillery, baker and cook school, communications and signal corps, horsemanship, medical training, map drawing, construction engineering, division band musician, and officer training. Camp Logan's Library included many volumes of technical books for the soldiers' reference. All this

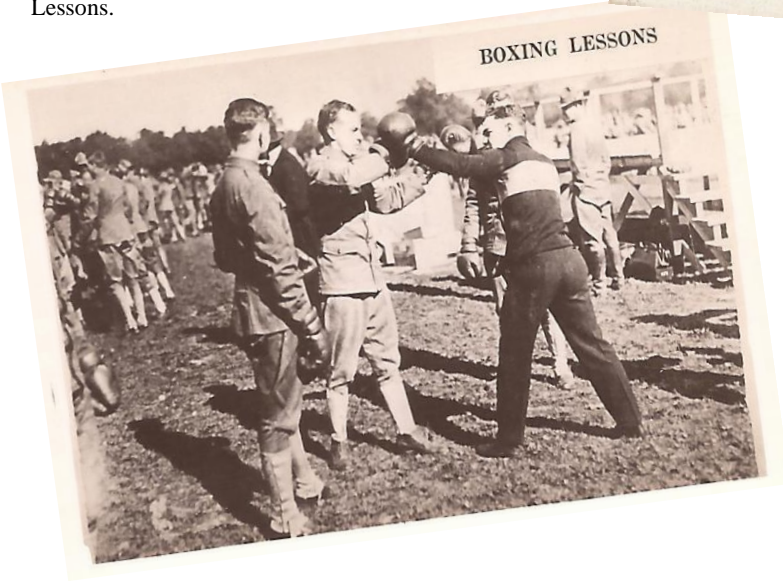


Left: Artillery training. Right: Field Bakery at Camp Logan where some soldiers learned to bake bread. Below: Boxing Lessons.



discipline, instruction, and physical exercise transformed farm boys into young men, preparing them mentally and physically for overseas combat. The strenuous training generally had a very positive effect on the young men, as many who made it through the war later married and perpetuated patriotic and moral values gained through their wartime experiences.

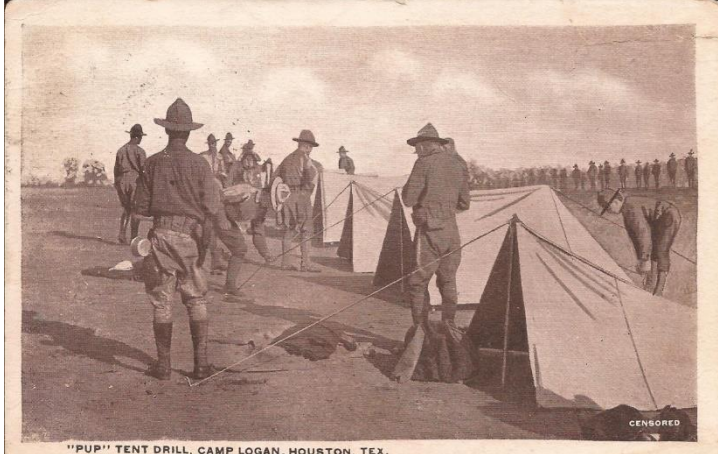
*The Camp Logan articles are written in memory of  
 Louis F. Aulbach ~  
 friend, local historian, and past member of HAS.*







2031 THE MAKING OF AN ARMY INSPECTION. CAMP LOGAN, TEXAS



"PUP" TENT DRILL, CAMP LOGAN, HOUSTON, TEX.

One of the many inspections. All images from the Robert Morin Collection.

Setting up pup tents from backpack.

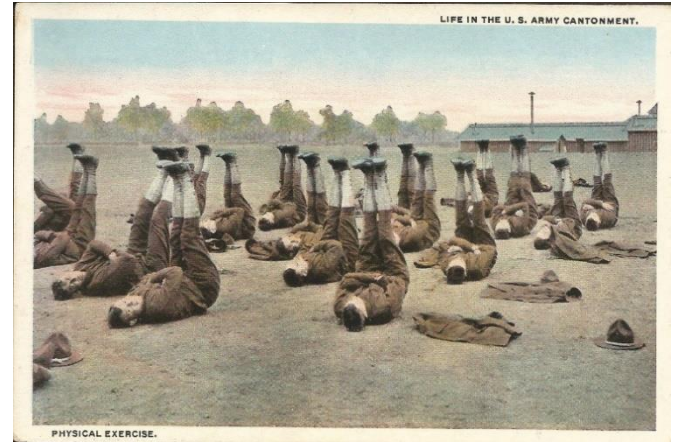
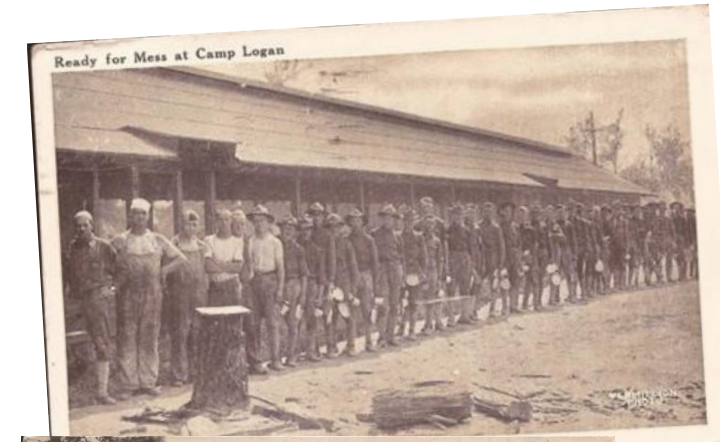


2040—HOSPITAL CORPS TAKING WOUNDED MAN OUT OF TRENCH. CAMP LOGAN, TEXAS



BAYONET DRILL, CAMP LOGAN, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Left: Training included digging trenches and learning to extract the injured. Right: Instruction included the use of bayonets and hand-to-hand combat.



PHYSICAL EXERCISE.



BACK TO CAMP, CAMP LOGAN, HOUSTON, TEXAS.



Sources:

Louis F. Aulbach, Linda C. Gorski, and Robbie Morin, *Camp Logan: Houston, Texas 1917-1919* (Houston: Louis F. Aulbach, 2014).

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## **TPWD CO-OP (Community Outdoor Outreach) Grants Available - Deadline: November 1**

**Eleanor Stoddart, Cultural Resources Coordinator, TPWD**

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant provides funding to tax-exempt organizations for programming that engages underserved populations in TPWD mission-oriented outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental education activities. Grant priorities include projects that provide hands-on environmental & Cultural resource education for Texas Natural resources & ecosystems.

Cultural resources have been identified as an underserved area within the grant program and they are very interested in seeing more applications in this category. Eligible entities include non-profits, camps, and youth groups, as well as projects in our own State Parks. Their next cycle will open August 1, 2023, for grants up to \$70,000.



Plans are underway to offer in-person grant writing workshops in Abilene, Austin, Del Rio, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and McAllen. For more information, please see <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>.

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## **Monument Hill Remembrance Day Saturday, September 16, 2023 - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Kreische Brewery & Monument Hill State Historic Sites, 414 State Loop 92  
La Grange, Texas 78945



Source: [maxresdefault.jpg \(1280x720\) \(yting.com\)](#)

Join descendants of the Dawson & Mier Expeditions, members of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Sons of the Republic of Texas, community members, sites staff, and volunteers as we honor the soldiers entombed on Monument Hill. The memorial ceremony will include guest speakers, wreath laying, and a gun salute. Seating may be limited. Personal lawn chairs are welcomed and encouraged. The ceremony will be streamed on Facebook for those unable to attend in person. After the ceremony, visitors will have the opportunity to explore the grounds of Kreische Brewery & Monument Hill State Historic Sites. Access to the grounds for the memorial is free. Descendants are invited to join for breakfast at 9 a.m. For more information, contact the visitors center at (979) 968-5658 or [kbmh@thc.texas.gov](mailto:kbmh@thc.texas.gov).

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## HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions about interesting archeology and history links!

Read up on our topic for the August meeting: the McNeill Ranch and the lower Guadalupe River area:

[Remnants of the Past | Features | victoriaadvocate.com](#)

[Guadalupe Terrace Sites \(texasbeyondhistory.net\)](#)

[The Prehistory of the Texas Coastal Zone: 10,000 Years of Changing Environment and Culture \(texasbeyondhistory.net\)](#)

[\(PDF\) Archaeology and Bioarchaeology of the Buckeye Knoll Site \(41VT98\), Victoria County, Texas | Robert J Hard - Academia.edu](#)

[\(PDF\) The Geoarcheology of the McNeill Ranch Site: Implications for Paleoindian Studies of the Gulf Coastal Plain of Texas | Michael Aiuvalasit - Academia.edu](#)

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## Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

**\*Please note that meetings will vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom).**

**Some presentations will be uploaded to our YouTube site where they will be archived and available for viewing.**

**\*The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.**

**August 17** – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Heather Para, Exhibits and Collections Manager at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, speaking on the archeology of the McNeill Ranch near Victoria, Texas. This meeting will be virtual only via Zoom. Watch your emails for more information.

**September 21** – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Jamie Ross, Archeological Collections Manager for the Texas Historical Commission.

**October 19** – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Mike Quennoz, Archaeologist at Gray & Pape, Inc.

**October 25** – HAS Quarterly Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**November 16** – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Mike McBride, Hill Country Archeology Association.

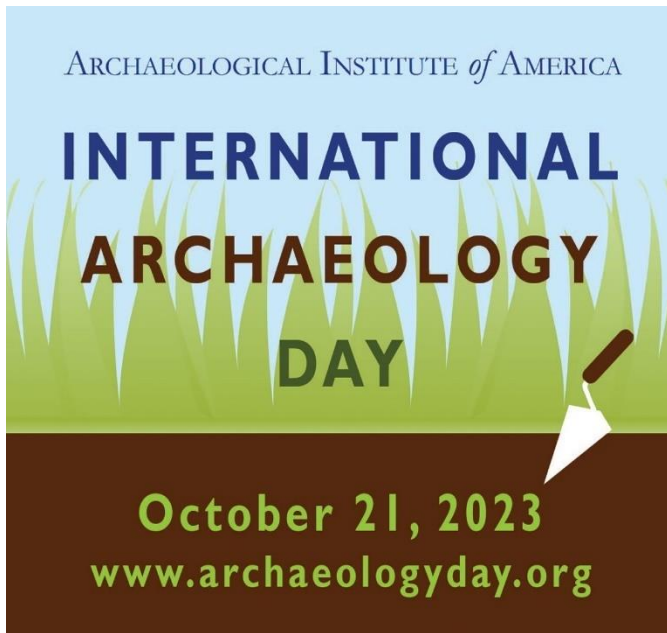
Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meetings are ordinarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived on our YouTube site at [www.youtube.com/channel](http://www.youtube.com/channel). For more information about HAS, visit [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org), email us at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org), or join our Facebook page at: [Houston Archeological Society | Facebook](#).

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## Upcoming Events



Source: [Caddo Culture Day | THC.Texas.gov - Texas Historical Commission](#).



**Celebrate International Archaeology Day  
at the Houston Museum of Natural Science  
October 21, 2023  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



**Be sure to reconfirm event details before making plans to attend.**

**VIRTUAL:**

**Archaeological Institute of America**

Information about AIA events in all formats may be found at the following online calendar. Select the desired month and Event Type Hybrid or Virtual; [Upcoming Events – Archaeological Institute of America](#). See archived lectures at [AIA Archaeology Hour - Archaeological Institute of America](#). Note the expert-guided international archaeological tours available.

**Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series**

Lectures resume in September. Past presentations available at the E-MLS website:

[Videos | Lecture Series \(engelhardtmoore.wixsite.com\)](#).

**Montpelier Foundation Archaeology Programs**

Additional past virtual lectures available at [Archaeology Lunch and Learn – Montpelier's Digital Doorway](#).

**Shumla Archeological Research and Education Center**

**8/16** – Wednesday, noon. What's Next for Shumla, presented by Jessica Hamlin, MA., Shumla Executive Director. Register at [Shumla Lunch and Learn Virtual Series: August 16, 2023 - Shumla](#). Past presentations available at [Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center - YouTube](#).

**Texas Historical Commission**

**8/17** – Thursday, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Crossing Borders and Cultivating Culture: Creole Zydeco. Register at [Friends of the Texas Historical Commission \(neoncrm.com\)](#). Past webinars and workshops available at [Webinars and Workshops | THC.Texas.gov - Texas Historical Commission](#).

**ON-SITE:**

**Caddo Mounds State Historic Site**

**9/2** – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. [Caddo Culture Day](#). Celebrate and learn about Caddo culture and history in the ancestral homeland of the Caddo people. Enjoy artisans, vendors, and other activities.

**Houston Heritage Society**

**Now through December 31** – Houston Livestock and Rodeo, Charles Goodnight Collection, and the General Duncan Store Exhibits, \$5 admission.

**Houston Museum of Natural Science**

**Current – September**. King Tut's Tomb Discovery exhibit. Ticketed. Related podcast: [Tut Tut, Now What? How Carter discovered King Tutankhamun](#).

**Jefferson Historical Museum**

**8/5** – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Twelfth Annual Civil War Symposium, Jefferson Historical Society & Museum, Jefferson, Texas, [www.jeffersonmuseum.org](#), Unexplored Tales of the Trans-Mississippi. Registration and fee required.



### **Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Site**

**8/12** – Saturday, Chalk Full of Lessons: Back to School at the Kreische House. Discover your favorite elementary lessons from the books that the Kreische children studied, as found in the site's archival collections.

**8/26** – Saturday, Beyond Beer: Beverages of the Bluff. Kreische's Bluff Beer was not the only drink enjoyed in La Grange. Try out a few historic non-alcoholic beverages found in nineteenth-century issues of The La Grange Journal.

**9/16** – Saturday, Monument Hill Remembrance Day. Join descendants of the Dawson & Mier Expeditions, members of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and Sons of the Republic of Texas, community members, sites staff, and volunteers as we honor the soldiers entombed on Monument Hill. The memorial ceremony will include guest speakers, wreath laying, and a gun salute. Seating may be limited.

### **Lake Jackson Historical Museum**

**8/12 and 9/9** – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Alden B. Dow Office Museum tours, 101 S. Parking Place, Lake Jackson.

**9/2** – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit the historic archeological site of the Abner Jackson Plantation, FM 2004, Lake Jackson.

### **San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site**

**8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, 8/30** – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Public Group Tours Wednesdays in August. Wednesday public guided museum tours of the indoor museum gallery; a staff member will guide visitors on their tour from the beginnings of the town of San Felipe de Austin to its eventual destruction in 1836, included with museum admission fee.

### **San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site**

**8/5** – Saturday, San Jacinto Family Day: Scenes of San Jacinto.

**8/6** – Sunday, Texas Revolution Touch Table: Hold History in Your Hand. Stop by the San Jacinto Museum for a chance to play with replicas of nineteenth-century toys, weapons, tools, food, clothing, and much more.

**8/12** – Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Boom: Cannon Demonstration. Cannon demonstrations on the hour and half hour.

**8/19** – Saturday, Life on the Frontier: Butter Churning.

**8/20** – Sunday, Battleground Van Tours, starting at 12:45 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. and lasting about an hour.

**8/26** – Saturday, Battleground Van Tours, starting at 12:45 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. and lasting about an hour.

### **Shumla Archeological Research and Education Center**

**9/24** – Sunday. Painted Shelter and Vaquero Shelter. Full Day Guided Trek, \$120.

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### **Calling All HAS Members – Please send photos and articles for *The Profile*!**

We would like **all HAS members** to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. Please send submissions to newsletter staff members at wittenmy@flash.net or newsletter@txhas.org. Report on an interesting on-site experience, academy, field school, historic location, or community outreach event! Send photos of yourself on an HAS or TAS adventure! What archeological artifact or historical event have you been researching? Your contributions can be brief, such as a couple of paragraphs or about 250 words. Please submit information for upcoming issues no later than the fifteenth of each month.



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

**HAS BOARD MEMBERS**

Frank Kozar, President, [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org) or [tupflash@aol.com](mailto:tupflash@aol.com)  
Sarah Chesney, Vice President, [sarah.chesney@thc.texas.gov](mailto:sarah.chesney@thc.texas.gov)  
Bob Sewell, Treasurer, [treasurer@txhas.org](mailto:treasurer@txhas.org)  
Emma Baldwin, Secretary, [secretary@txhas.org](mailto:secretary@txhas.org)

Eleanor Stoddart, Director-at-Large [eleanorstoddart@hotmail.com](mailto:eleanorstoddart@hotmail.com)  
Leonie Waithman, Director-at-Large, [lwaithman@live.com](mailto:lwaithman@live.com)  
Mike Woods, Director-at-Large, [mikeswoods@aol.com](mailto:mikeswoods@aol.com)  
Linda Gorski, Board Advisor, [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com)

**TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Sandra (Sandy) E. Rogers, Region V Director, [sojourne47@gmail.com](mailto:sojourne47@gmail.com)

**AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS**

Elizabeth Aucoin, [ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net](mailto:ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net)  
Liz Coon-Nguyen, [elizabeth.coonnguyenmd@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.coonnguyenmd@gmail.com)  
Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251  
Debbie Eller, [debjajul@yahoo.com](mailto:debjajul@yahoo.com)  
Charlie Gordy, [chasgordy@yahoo.com](mailto:chasgordy@yahoo.com)  
Bruce Grethen, [bruceg999@gmail.com](mailto:bruceg999@gmail.com)  
Sue Gross, [suegbobs@comcast.net](mailto:suegbobs@comcast.net)  
Joe D. Hudgins, [manso@jdhudgins.com](mailto:manso@jdhudgins.com)  
Kathleen Hughes, [hughes.kathleen@yahoo.com](mailto:hughes.kathleen@yahoo.com)  
Brenda Jackson, [brendajacks1@yahoo.com](mailto:brendajacks1@yahoo.com)  
Ron Jackson, [ronj845@gmail.com](mailto:ronj845@gmail.com)

Beth Kennedy, [bethiekennedy902@gmail.com](mailto:bethiekennedy902@gmail.com)  
Don Keyes, [keyes\\_don@hotmail.com](mailto:keyes_don@hotmail.com)  
Clint Lacy, [clacy13@comcast.net](mailto:clacy13@comcast.net)  
Sharon Menegaz, [smenegaz@rcseagles.org](mailto:smenegaz@rcseagles.org)  
Tom Nuckols, [tnuckols58@att.net](mailto:tnuckols58@att.net)  
Sandra Pollan, [pollanone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pollanone@sbcglobal.net)  
Sandra (Sandy) E. Rogers, [sojourne47@gmail.com](mailto:sojourne47@gmail.com)  
Gary Ryman, [gkryman@gmail.com](mailto:gkryman@gmail.com)  
Steve Salyer, [salyer4@hotmail.com](mailto:salyer4@hotmail.com)  
Bob Sewell, [robert-sewell@att.net](mailto:robert-sewell@att.net)  
Paul Spana, [pcspana@comcast.net](mailto:pcspana@comcast.net)

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