



**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, December 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Annual Review and Holiday Gathering**

HAS members and friends, please join us for our annual Christmas gathering at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023. Enjoy holiday snacks and socializing as we recap the HAS speakers and archeology projects during 2023, such as Lone Oak, Santa Rosa, and Kirbee Kiln. HAS President Bob Sewell will serve as our host, and he will discuss past and future projects for interested HAS members. Please bring your favorite holiday treats to share. This holiday meeting is free and open to the public. Be looking for your meeting reminder, which will also contain a Zoom link so that those who cannot join us in person can tune in from afar.

The Trini Mendenhall Community Center is located at 1414 Wirt Road in Houston. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at president@txhas.org.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!

Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President



HAS Memberships for 2024 Are Due



We hope you will renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society - and maybe even give a membership as a gift to someone you know who might enjoy digging up Texas history with us, one trowel-full at a time. You can either pay your dues online using a credit card at [Membership - Houston Archeological Society \(txhas.org\)](http://www.txhas.org), or download a hardcopy of the membership form at <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf> and mail it to us with your payment. Our memberships are the best deal in town, available at \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), \$15 (Student), and \$35+ at the Contributing Membership level. Remember that benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area, work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites, and receive free copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!!

Note: If you joined after September, then your membership is good for 2024.



President's Message – Robert Sewell



As we head into the end of 2023 and a New Year, I want to thank you all for your support of the Houston Archeological Society. I hope that HAS can count on your continued membership in 2024.

2023 has been another challenging year with the excessive summer heat curtailing many of our outside activities. However, we did get to excavate on occasions, and we did a good deal of outreach. We continued our investigations at the Lone Oak Site near Frelsburg, Texas, and we opened up a new project on the Katy Prairie called the Santa Rosa Site. It has been gratifying to see several new members participate in both of these projects. HAS members also helped survey the area designated for a new construction project at the San Felipe Historic Site.

October was International Archeology Month and HAS participated in events at the San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and Kleb Woods Nature Preserve. Also, HAS members conducted several presentations to local schools and organizations. Public outreach is an important aspect of the HAS mission, as we continue to educate the public regarding archeology and history, particularly of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. I want to express my appreciation to all those HAS members who have donated their time to participating in our outreach activities, and I hope that they, and others, will continue to participate in our outreach during 2024.

We hope to have a new project starting up in early 2024. It is a prehistoric site and is fairly local to Houston, between Brookshire and San Felipe de Austin. This does not mean that we will cease all of our other projects. Far from it. In fact, the HAS Board has recently designated the Lone Oak Site near Frelsburg, Colorado County, as an HAS educational site due to the richness of the prehistoric artifacts still being recovered. It is a great site for new and relatively inexperienced members to “cut their teeth” on archeological excavation techniques.

We are also working with other archeological societies and organizations in the state in order to participate in their projects, including hopefully a return to the Kirbee Kiln Site near Magnolia in Montgomery County.

For those HAS members who are also members of the Texas Archeological Society, there will be opportunities to participate in the TAS Annual Field School next June and the TAS Annual Symposium in October.

And, of course, don't forget to renew your HAS membership for 2024.

I hope you and your families have a safe and healthy Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible either in the field, or at our monthly meetings.

Bob Sewell, HAS President



Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. – Bob Sewell (President)

Project Reports – Bob Sewell

Lone Oak - HAS intends to recommence excavations the week of November 27. Everyone welcome, details will be emailed when the timing is confirmed.

Santa Rosa - Some shovel testing was carried out earlier in the year. Investigations are still active, but excavation techniques are being reassessed because of the sandy environment.

New Site in the Brookshire Area - Project planning has begun after the Board's approval at the October Board meeting. The site was initially excavated around twenty years ago by HAS and we have been encouraged to return. A site visit revealed some good surface finds. Look out for further information in future emails and newsletters.

Outreach – Bob Sewell - Thank you to all those members who volunteered for the various activities during Archeology Month.

Houston Museum of Natural Science - HAS appreciated the prime spot in the HMNS entrance foyer to the museum. The day was a great success thanks to those who turned up to help. It was great to be there again.

Kleb Woods, Digging Up Old Stuff - This year, HAS volunteers worked alongside principal investigator Ashley Jones and some of her volunteer staff members supervising excavations in the units. This teamwork proved to be very successful, and the unit excavations were as popular as ever with the public, as well as the show-and-tell and HAS displays.

TAS Academy Reminder – Bob Sewell – The TAS Zooarcheology and Osteology Academy will take place at Rice University on February 10 and 11, 2024, but this event is now fully booked. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to TAS through the TAS website and put your name on the waiting list. Eleanor Stoddart, Bob Sewell, and Frank Kozar have had a walkthrough of the lab at Rice with Dr. Prendergast, who is leading the course, and preparations look great.

Reports and Publications – Bob Sewell - HAS is looking for a Publications Editor. Please contact Bob Sewell (president@txhas.org) for more details if you are interested. Candidates should be reasonably proficient with Microsoft Word and be prepared to work with Kindle Desktop Publishing and Amazon.

Treasurer's Report - Louis Herbert - HAS finances remain in good shape. If you would like further information, please contact Louis at treasurer@txhas.org.

Membership - Louis Herbert - Membership currently stands at 183 members. Any member who has joined in September 2023 or later is granted membership through 2024.

Newsletter - Betsy Wittenmyer – We appreciate all the HAS members and HAS friends who are contributing articles, ideas, reports, and photographs. Subjects of interest are field schools, work sites, labs, academies, community outreach, historical and archeological sites, and topic research. We hope all members will consider sending content, with submissions requested by the fifteenth of each month. Betsy would love feedback concerning the newsletter. Please respond to the email at the end of the newsletter with any feedback, suggestions, or comments.

Next HAS Meeting - Bob Sewell – Our next meeting is on Thursday, December 14, at 6 p.m. We will meet in person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, 77055. Bring your favorite holiday snack to share as we present a short recap of 2023, celebrate the year's activities, and visit with friends old and new during our Annual Holiday Social.

Meeting Presentation – Bob Sewell - The speaker this evening is Mike McBride, president of the Hill Country Archeological Association, who will discuss investigations at the Crying Woman Ranch Site (41KR754) in Kerr County, Texas.

Meeting drawn to a close at 6:42 p.m. - Bob Sewell. A big thank you to Eleanor Stoddart for taking the minutes at the September and October meetings.

Emma Matthey, HAS Secretary

**Update from Heather Para, Ph.D., Exhibits and Collections Manager
at the Museum of the Coastal Bend**



The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) is based in Victoria and working the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). 41VT141 was regularly occupied by prehistoric cultures for over thousands of years.

Our own very talented Bill Birmingham was recently featured on social media for his astonishing restoration of a copper chocolatera from 41VT11 (Spanish colonial mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga). This is one of two chocolateras in the MCB collection, and it will be featured in the new exhibit *La Misión: Where Texas Ranching Began*, opening in the Fall of 2024. Bill's expertise in metallurgy, and just about everything else, is indeed our greatest asset.

MCB and CoBALT will be the 2024 hosts for the TAS annual meeting, taking place October 25-27, 2024. We need your help! If you are interested in volunteering, there are many jobs to be done (many of which can be done remotely) before the event. If you

have time and interest, please contact Heather Para at heather.para@victoriacollege.edu or (361) 572-6468.

As always, our archaeology lab is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stop in at the museum's front desk and we will direct you to the lab. Holiday schedule: please note that MCB will close on December 17 for winter break, to reopen January 2.



Update from Gary Pinkerton - Author, Researcher, and Previous HAS Guest Speaker



Low-light photo of Trammel's Trace. Hwy 77 between Naples and Atlanta, near Dalton Church. Site of a Texas Historical Marker. Photograph by Bob Vernon. Source: Trammel's Trace (trammelstrace.com).

HAS members will recall that Gary Pinkerton presented a Zoom lecture to our society in February 2021, discussing his research and resulting book about Trammel's Trace and pioneer and scout Nicholas Trammel. This award-winning work was published in 2016 by Texas A&M University Press. Trammel's Trace ran from the Red River to Nacogdoches, where it met the Camino Real de los T^ejas and was the first road into Texas from the northern boundary with the United States. It was an early trail for the Caddo, and was later used for migration from Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee before Texas became a Republic. Herewith, Gary updates HAS about his continuing work:

Since you have been interested in my writing and research in the past, I wanted to update you about what's happening behind the scenes. I've been making a lot of changes in preparation for an exciting upcoming year. As an author, I connect with a lot of people with similar interests. With that focus in mind, I am combining separate websites and Facebook groups for my books into single sources on the web and on Facebook. The new website, www.GaryLPinkerton.com, provides access to all the books and services I deliver. The website is new so it may have a few bugs, but I want to make it available to you now to give it a look and offer your feedback. To test it out, the first five people who order *Trammel's Trace* through

the new website will get a free copy of *Finding Trammel's Trace*, a guide to remains of the trail and its historical markers. That's a \$10 freebie. [Order the book here](#) and I'll email you the guide.

In addition to the website change, I've created a Facebook page as a common link to my work as an author, researcher, and website creator. The new author-oriented Facebook page is found at <https://www.facebook.com/garylpinkerton/>. It is a renamed version of the former Trammel's Trace page and over time will include more about all my work.

The coming year will be exciting and busy with the release of two new books in 2024. *Bridles & Biscuits: The Contraband Culture of Spanish East Texas* (Texas A&M University Press) is the story of the role of smuggling in the years before Nacogdoches became a permanent settlement in 1779, and the tenure and removal of Antonio Gil Ibarvo. *Paper Diver: How the World's Greatest Treasure Hunter Never Got Wet* (McFarland Publishing) is a biography of a fascinating character who told fantastic stories of underwater adventure. Harry Rieseberg sold himself as the world's greatest, but none of his tales were true. I'm really proud of this one. Learn more about each of these on the [website](#). At the new website, you will also see a menu option for [Services](#). There you will see my offerings of assistance with website creation, writing support, and other efforts in support of local historical organizations. More to come on that but check it out and see what you think. Thanks so much for your ongoing support and interest.



From the HAS Archives



A repository of past issues of *The Profile* is available on the HAS website wherein you will find a wealth of fascinating archived articles, including this piece from December 2012, written by our dearly-missed friend and former HAS member, the late Louis Aulbach ([2012 December Profile.pdf \(txhas.org\)](#)). It's worth another read, so here it is – from the HAS Archives:

Season's Greetings from your local Brewery - circa 1912! Most of you will have received many "season's greetings" cards by the time you read this newsletter. However...we thought you'd like to see just one more card that was sent to Houstonians...one hundred years ago...in 1912!

Traditionally, the holiday season has been a time for retail businesses to communicate the company's good wishes to their customers. In the early nineteenth century, the Houston Ice and Brewing Association used an engraved greeting card to announce the winners of its "guess the number of bottles" contest while extending best wishes for a happy holiday season. The card was a simple, but direct, message to its customers and to those who stopped by its booth at the city's annual November festival known as the Carnival, or more properly, the No-Tsu-Oh Festival. This Mardi Gras-style festival was a week-long celebration of local businesses, most notably the cotton trade, in which pageants, parades, and balls were held throughout the week. No doubt, the local brewery also played a big role in the festivities. The Houston Ice and Brewing Association was the producer of several beers, including the Magnolia, Richelieu, and Southern Select brands. The brewery was located on Buffalo Bayou at Franklin Avenue and was very convenient to the street celebrations of the Carnival along Commerce Avenue and Franklin Avenue. Today, the Magnolia Ballroom is a remnant of the large brewery complex that spanned the bayou. This greeting card dates from about 1912 and was in the personal files of my maternal grandmother, Hildegard Cox, a longtime resident who first came to Houston in 1908 as a college student. The No-Tsu-Oh Festival began in the late 1890s, and the last festival was held about 1915. Nevertheless, the message conveyed by the card is timeless.
-- Louis F. Aulbach



A Tale of Two Money Boxes

Thomas L. Nuckols

Introduction

In August of this year, my youngest brother, Danny, and I spent a few days at the Nuckols ranch in Big Wells, Dimmit County, Texas. Since our last visit several months previously, honeybees had established a hive inside a portion of the front wall of the ranch house. Regarding Mother Nature, my brother and I have a policy of “live and let live,” so the bees will be allowed to stay. Besides, since the house is well past its one-hundredth birthday and is in constant need of repair, we are not too concerned about any damage caused by the bees’ presence.

One day, we took a break from ranch chores and visited our friend George Henrichson, who lives in Valley Wells, eleven miles from Big Wells. George owns Henrichson Ranch, which he inherited from his father, William Lawrence Henrichson (1905-1994). The cattle ranch was originally established in the early 1900s by George’s grandfather, George William Henrichson (1868-1940). Knowing that I have an interest in anything historical, George showed me his grandfather’s metal money box (Figure 1).



Figure 1. George William Henrichson’s metal money box. Photograph by Thomas L. Nuckols.

Figure 2. The O’Brien family, Good Luck Colony, 1912. Early residents of the Colony lived in tents until houses could be built. Collection of Thomas L. Nuckols.

Good Luck Colony

In 1900, George William Henrichson, along with Thomas Randall Keck and John A. Kerr, established a real estate firm in Cotulla, La Salle County, called the Texas Land and Loan Company. In 1909, the company acquired approximately 10,000 acres of land in Dimmit County along both banks of the Nueces River and its tributary, the Sauz Mocho Creek. In an enterprise called the Good Luck Colony, the company sold ten-acre tracts of this Dimmit County land for \$9 per acre to farmers who wanted to take advantage of the newly emerging Bermuda onion industry (Figures 2, 3) (Ludeman 1975: 168, 172, 176, Tidwell 1984: 123).¹

¹ See The Portal to Texas History, The Bermuda Onion (Digital Files), <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1353068/>.

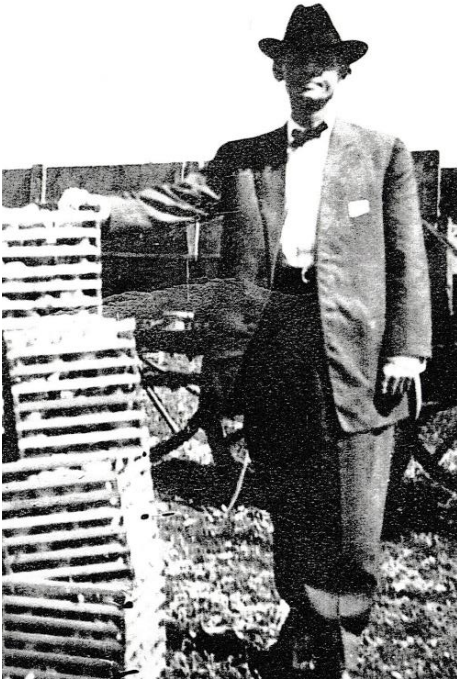


Figure 3. The caption on back of this photograph reads, "This picture was donated by Mr. Rasmussen, who now resides in Gonzales, Texas. It was taken around 1912 in Valley Wells, Texas, and is a picture of a Bermuda onion farm. He stated that Dimmit County got its start by the growing and selling of onions. Mr. Rasmussen stated that his parents arrived in 1912 and operated an onion farm just like this one." Collection of Thomas L. Nuckols.

According to Tidwell:

Unlike some of the real estate promoters who came into Dimmit County, the Texas Land and Loan Company did not invest in "showy" facilities to lure in new customers. The brushland was sold in its original unimproved condition. The single bonus offered – and it was a significant one – was the installation of an artesian well. The first well (of four), drilled between 1910 and 1912, produced an astonishing flow of water.

The Texas Land and Loan company recognized that the small farmers who bought in the area frequently could not afford to drill their own water wells. Thus, the Good Luck Colony developers devised a scheme which was unique among all the planned real estate projects in the country. They installed the first well and gave away shares of it to all who purchased land around it. The well then became the property of those who would use it for irrigation and household purposes (1984: 123).

The first Good Luck Colony residents began arriving in 1910. In 1911, a school was built, and in 1914 a post office opened. By 1915, the colony's population peaked at approximately seventy-five. Soon after, the community's name was changed to Valley Wells. Between 1916 and 1918, the population of Valley Wells began to decline due to low crop prices and a hailstorm that completely pulverized the Bermuda onion crops. There were complaints among some residents that the name for their settlement should have been "Bad Luck Colony." By the mid-1920s, the town recorded only ten inhabitants (Leffler 1995). Today, with a population of

just a few dozen souls on outlying ranches, Valley Wells is considered a ghost town and the only vestige of the original townsite is a cemetery. An obsolete iron truss bridge that once spanned the Nueces River also rests near the tombstones (Figures 4, 5).



Figure 4. A 1960s photograph of the Author atop the single lane iron truss bridge spanning the Nueces River near Valley Wells. The bridge was built in 1909 by a steel company in Iowa. The bridge, now sitting in an unused portion of the Valley Wells cemetery, was removed intact and replaced c. 2001 by a two-lane concrete bridge. Collection of Thomas L. Nuckols.

See <http://www.texasescapes.com/TexasGhostTowns/ValleyWellsTexas.htm>.

Figure 5. Today the bridge rests in an empty section of the Valley Wells cemetery. Valley Wells, Texas, AKA The Good Luck Colony (texasescapes.com). Photograph by Barclay Gibson, August 2011.

Day-Tripping

Recently, my oldest son John and I went day-tripping and antiquing in Wharton. On our drive home, we stopped at the Wharton County Historical Museum, located at 3615 North Richmond Road (Business 59).



Figure 6. The A.H. & J.E. Pierce metal money box displayed in the Wharton County Historical Museum. Photograph by Thomas L. Nuckols.

As I viewed the museum's exhibit about the history of Wharton County cattle ranching, a particular artifact caught my attention, and I couldn't believe what I was seeing: a metal money box similar to the one owned by George William Henrichson. Painted on the front of the box were the names A.H. & J.E. Pierce (Figure 6). In 1871, Abel Head "Shanghai" Pierce (1834-1900) and his brother, Jonathan E. Pierce (1839-1915), formed a partnership in the cattle ranching business, establishing the Rancho Grande. The Wharton County town of Pierce was named for the brothers. As a result of Abel Head Pierce's world-wide search for a vigorous breed of cattle, the Pierce estate

imported Brahman from India, supplying Texas with a base stock allowing ranchers to develop large herds of American Brahman (Emmett 1952).

An additional display at the Wharton County Historical Museum featured artifacts recovered during the Houston Archaeological Society's investigation of Post West Bernard (41WH16) in 1984. The Republic of Texas established Post West Bernard in the summer of 1837 to fulfill ordnance needs for its military prior to the completion of the Houston Arsenal in 1838 (Hudgins 1984, Spitzenberger 1995).

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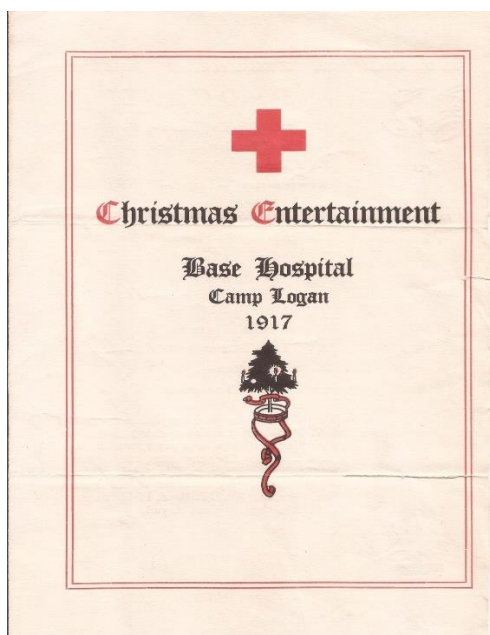


Picturing Camp Logan - The Holiday Season Part Two: Christmas

Robert Morin and Betsy Wittenmyer



Christmas greeting postcard. Robert Morin Collection.



Program from Camp Logan Base Hospital including Christmas carols. Robert Morin Collection.

December of 1917 found Camp Logan personnel under a strict training regime with the goal of “whipping the division into shape” (Holiday 1). Yet, General Bell issued orders allowing the men a few days of respite from drills so they could rest and enjoy the Christmas holiday. Some went home to Illinois for a quick one-day visit with family, returning as required by December 24. Christmas Day festivities at the camp featured a lieutenant dressed as Santa Claus, riding in a sleigh pulled by four mules, adding “zest to the ceremonies” (Christmas 2). Every man received a Christmas package provided by the Red Cross. Those without holiday mail from home still received personal notes, arranged by the chaplain. Large “Merry Christmas” signs adorned every company’s entry street. Troops around the camp decorated with local greenery such as holly, smilax, and moss, and erected trees—but the 122nd Field Artillery seemed to have surpassed them all:

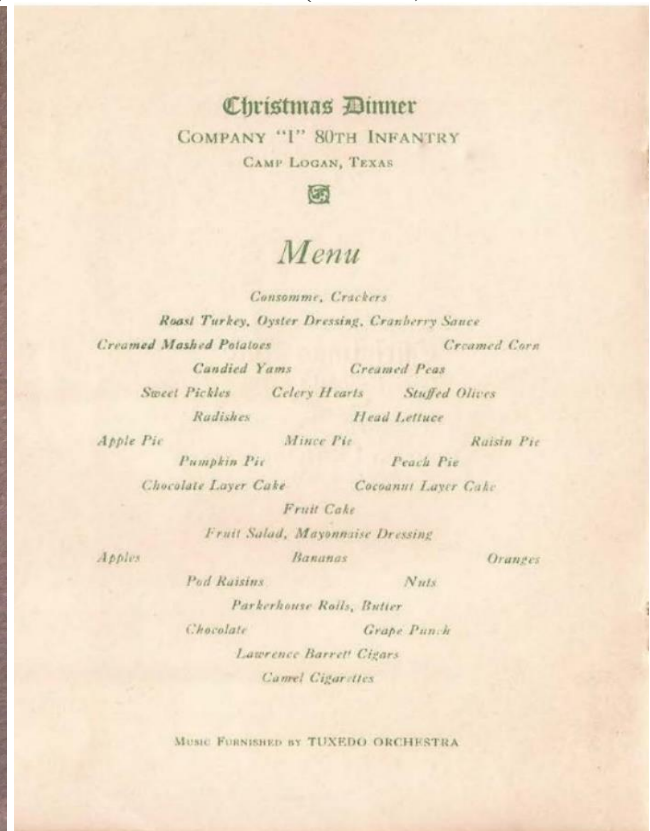
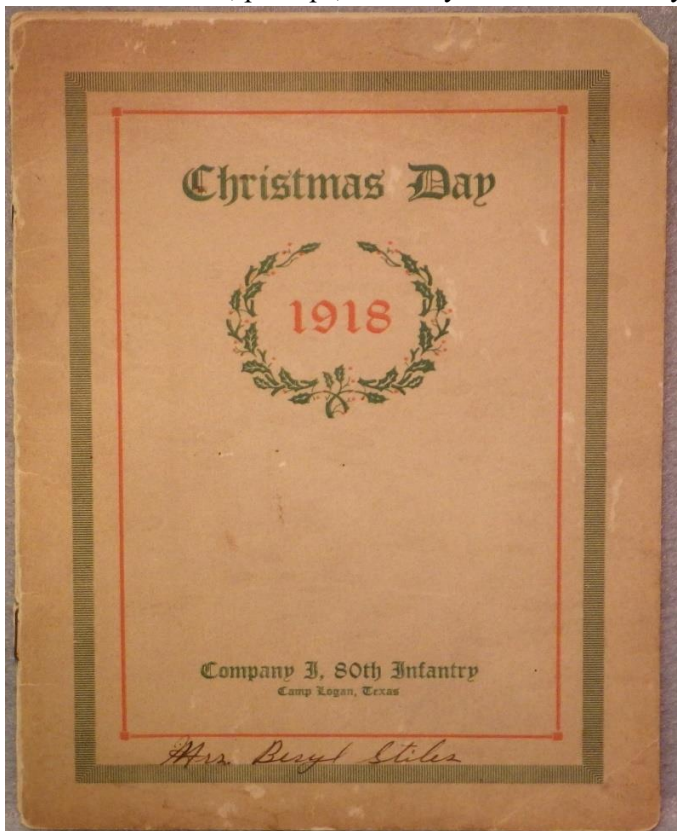
One of the most imposing trees in the entire camp was the one decorated by the men of the 122d Field Artillery. It was more than a hundred feet high and glittered from top to bottom with vari-colored lights. On the very top shone a bright silver-colored star that could be seen from all portions of the camp (*Houston Chronicle*, “Christmas Entertainments,” December 25, 1917).

Christmas caroling, concerts, and masses were followed by a bounteous meal in the bedecked mess halls. Servicemen under medical care in the infirmary, although isolated from the grander festivities, were treated to their own celebration.

By December of 1918, times had changed. Although the European front lines lay in quiet devastation after the Armistice, at home, the country, as well as Houston and Camp Logan, struggled to recover from a Spanish Flu epidemic that peaked in October 1918, requiring school closures and suspension of public activities (Schools 1). Six to seven hundred cases afflicted Camp Logan (Medley). Over seventy Christmas trees were provided throughout the convalescent wards—with the Society column in the Houston Chronicle issuing a request that the women of Houston come to assist with decorations during “this great undertaking” (Society 18). Every patient and nurse received a gift; a Santa and the Liberty Theater troupe came through the wards bringing cheer. Within the ranks of healthy soldiers, a “large exodus” of those granted leaves crowded the “outgoing trains in all directions” (Discharges 29). Overall, despite the termination of the war, military discharges were not yet fully underway. So, the camp once again suspended drills, planned events, and served hearty turkey dinners to the soldiers on base: “No effort is to be spared to give . . . as good a Christmas as possible and a better one in some cases, perhaps, than they would have if they were not in the service” (Santa 29).



Christmas dinner in a mess hall decorated for the holiday, Camp Logan. Note the earthen floor.
Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History, www.history.army.mil.



Christmas Day 1918 Program for Company I, 80th Infantry. Robert Morin Collection.

*The Camp Logan articles are dedicated to
the memory of the late Louis F. Aulbach ~
dearly missed friend, local historian,
and former member of HAS.*

Sources

“Christmas Entertainments Feature of Day at Camp Logan; A Big Turkey Dinner Enjoyed.” *The Houston Chronicle*, 25 December 1917, 1-2. [A-Z Databases \(houstonlibrary.org\)](#).

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Robert Morin Collection.

“Santa Claus to Hold Carnival at Base Hospital.” *The Houston Chronicle*, 22 December 1917, 29. [A-Z Databases \(houstonlibrary.org\)](#).

“Schools Are Ordered Closed Here; Public Gatherings Forbidden.” *The Houston Chronicle*, 9 October 1918, 1. [A-Z Databases \(houstonlibrary.org\)](#).

“Society: Soldiers’ Festivities for Christmas.” *The Houston Chronicle*, 22 December 1918, 18. [A-Z Databases \(houstonlibrary.org\)](#).



Holiday History



Left: The first Christmas card, designed in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole and J. C. Horsley. See [History of the Christmas Card Smithsonian Magazine](#).
Right: Vintage blown-glass ornament from Lauscha, Germany. See following article. Source: [Antique Lauscha Santa Glass](#).

Historical Blown-Glass Christmas Ornaments – Lauscha, Germany



Lauscha, Germany, IMG_5288.jpg (1600×1067) (obenauf-thuringen.de).
 Historical ornaments in the Museum of Glass Art, Lauscha, glasmuseum-lauscha.de.

Glassblowers in the German village of Lauscha, Thuringia, are credited with developing hand-blown Christmas tree ornaments. The skill has been practiced in the Thuringian area since the twelfth century, where the abundant forests and mountain streams have consistently provided the necessary raw materials: clean water, firewood for kilns, quartz silicate to transform into glass, lime for hardening, and beech wood for the potash/lime/silica mixture favored in northern European formulas. Historically, monasteries first supported glassworks for use in their windows and pharmaceutical vials. Craftsmen expanded into optical and other technical wares. Trade routes and markets increased glassware commerce and attracted artisans from Franconia, Hesse, Swabia, and Bohemia. By 1781, decorative glass beads produced in the area became popular exports. These developed into round blown-glass ornaments around 1850, becoming silvered and more elaborate by 1867, as German nobility popularized Christmas trees. As they increased in notoriety, Lauscha glass ornaments were shipped to England and attracted the attention of F. W. Woolworth, who began stocking them in his American retail chain in the 1880s. Today, the glassblowing cultural heritage of Lauscha is recognized by UNESCO. Most of the ornaments are still produced by small family businesses in over five thousand varieties.

Sources: [Christmas Tree - Lauscha Glass Museum \(glasmuseum-lauscha.de\)](http://Christmas Tree - Lauscha Glass Museum (glasmuseum-lauscha.de)); Nationwide Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage | German Commission for UNESCO; The History of Shiny Brite Ornaments - Antique Trader.



TWO SESSIONS
**FEBRUARY 9TH AND
 10TH, 2024**

**ARCHEOLOGY WORKSHOP
 FOR EDUCATORS**

Nacogdoches County Annex
 101 W. Main St., Nacogdoches, Texas
txarch.org/EducatorsWorkshop/

Learn about how to integrate archeology into your lessons and get access to teaching resources. Only \$25!

Texas Archeological Society's
 Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy
 February 10-11, 2024 - Houston

Learn basic identification, analysis, and interpretation of archeological animal and human skeletal remains. The Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy will be held at Rice University.

FULL – Waitlist Only

To Register, visit: <https://www.txarch.org/Academies>
 Scholarship Opportunities: https://txarch.org/TAS_Scholarships_Overview
 Registration Fee: \$125 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available.



Your HAS Happy Holidays Shopping Guide Gift Suggestions for the Archeology and History Lovers in Your Life!



Source: <https://www.npr.org/2016/12/20/506215632/how-red-and-green-became-the-colors-of-christmas>.

Book Recommendations:

Books recommended by HAS members! [Lives in Ruins by Marilyn Johnson](#) (recommended by Bob Sewell); [The Road to San Jacinto by Dave Dyer](#); [Excavating the Lost Colony Mystery by Eric Klingelhofer](#); [H. L. Hunley Recovery Operations, ed. Robert Neyland and Heather Brown](#); [The Hermione: Lafayette's Warship by Emmanuel de Fontainieu](#); [Fossil Men: The Quest for the Oldest Skeleton and the Origins of Humankind, by Kermit Pattison](#) (recommended by Tom Nuckols)

Books written by HAS members and friends! [Inside Camp Logan, Aulbach, Gorski, and Morin](#); [Porch Talk by Doug Boyd](#); [The Public Land of Ostia Antica by Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski](#); [Trammel's Trace by Gary Pinkerton](#) (www.GaryLPinkerton.com); [Blood Ties by Leonie Waithman](#) (lwaithman.com); [Sea of Mud by Gregg Dimmick](#); [Carolyn E. Boyd, works on the Lower Pecos](#)

More books ~ [The Heritage Society](#); [The 10 Best Books About Texas](#); [Texas History](#) (goodreads.com); [Books – Legacy of Texas](#); [Suggested Reading](#) (sanjacinto-museum.org); [Digging Up Texas by Robert Marcom](#); [20 Best Archaeology Books of All Time](#)

Fun coffee mugs! [Munsell Mug](#); [Stonehenge, 17th c. artwork mug](#)

Trowels ~ [Archaeology Trowels - MARSHALLTOWN](#)

Custom trowels and tools ~ [The Anvil & Yew](#); [Custom Celtic Trowel](#); [Handmade Trowels ~ Pre-Colombian atlatl reproduction ~ Pre-Columbian Style Atlatl](#)

Archeology trowel jewelry! [mariliejacob](#); [Maldon Jewelry](#); [Jim Clift - Etsy](#); [archaeojewelry](#)

Odds and Ends ~ [Archaeology Bottle Opener 'the Key'](#); [Cookie Cutters](#); [Lewis Chessmen Decoration – National Museums Scotland Shop](#) (nms.ac.uk).

Reproductions of historical maps ~ [Maps/Legacy of Texas](#); [Puzzles/Maps - Etsy](#)

Ancient architecture Lego sets! [Great Pyramid Giza 21058](#); [Roman Colosseum 10276](#)

Boots??? [Archaeology Neat Vibe Boots](#) (groovebags.com)

Antiquities-themed home décor ~ [Ancient-Greek-Pottery Throw Blanket](#); <https://rdbl.co/49zGDG4>

Cool T-shirts ~ [Archaeology Pop Art Dark T-Shirt](#); [Group of Petroglyphs](#); [Mayan Calendar T-shirt](#)

Humorous T-shirts! [Copolite Happens T-Shirt](#); [My Life is in Ruins T-Shirt](#); [Archaeology Shirt I Dig It](#); [No It's Not Just A Rock](#); [Archaeology is Like History But Dirtier AND.... Ugly Archaeology Christmas Sweater](#)



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.

December 14, 2023 – HAS Meeting and Holiday Party at 6:00 p.m. On site at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road in Houston, with a Zoom link to be provided via email for those who cannot attend in person. Bring a holiday treat to share.

January 10, 2024 – HAS Board Meeting

January 18, 2024 – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Alan Slade discussing the Folsom Fluted Point Survey.

February 15, 2024 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Heather Para speaking on Greek archeology.

March 14, 2024 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Dave Dyer speaking on *The Road to San Jacinto*, retracing Sam Houston and the Texian army's route from Gonzales to San Jacinto.

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. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our Facebook page at: [Houston Archeological Society | Facebook](#).



Upcoming Events

Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.

VIRTUAL:

American Institute of Archaeology

12/1 – Friday, 5:30 p.m. ET/4:30 Central. Tattooed Mummies and Female Figurines from Ancient Egypt: New Results from Deir el-Medina. Dr. Marie-Lys Annette, Johns Hopkins University. To attend virtually, please use the following link: <https://towson-edu.zoom.us/j/98825554469?pwd=bGpsWXFuemQvRVcrL1VQaU10WWlqZz09>.

12/6 – Wednesday, Noon Central/1 p.m. Eastern - Digging Up Britain: Ten Discoveries, a Million Years of History, a conversation with author Mike Pitts, highlighting ten archaeological finds that change the way we think of British history and prehistory. Zoom, [Register HERE](#) to attend.

12/6 – Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. MT/8:00 p.m. Central. Landscapes of Predation: Exploring Hostile Social Environments Dr. Catherine Cameron, University of Colorado. Register at [AIA: Hostile Social Environments](#).

12/30 – Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Central. Archaeological Narratives and the First Nations of Australia. Zoom lecture by Dr. Harry Allen, Fellow at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Join at [Launch Meeting - Zoom](#).

Engelhart-Moore Lecture Series

12/7 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Central. The Memphis Hathor Temple: Recent Work and New Discoveries, presented by Dr. Michelle Marlar, Director of Egyptian Archaeological Missions at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Free virtual lecture, join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86966702516?pwd=a1RGNFVtOHVUVGxmMnQzL1BTaU5Idz09>

More information and previous lectures are available at: [engelhardtmooore/lecture-series](#).

Smithsonian Institution

12/19 – Tuesday, 6:30 ET/5:30 Central. Dr. Eric Cline, George Washington University, presents a thesis based on the latest archaeological and textual discoveries that a Trojan War, or several such wars, did indeed take place during the Late Bronze Age. \$25, register at: [The Trojan War: Did It Happen? - Smithsonian Associates](#). A current calendar of other Smithsonian virtual lectures presented for modest fees may be found at: [Online Events | Smithsonian](#).

ON-SITE:

Archaeology Now (AIA Houston Chapter)

12/5 – Tuesday, 7 – 10 p.m. Learn about the ancient Mesopotamian hero Gilgamesh at the Marsh Arabs mudhif structure on the campus of Rice University, which members of HAS helped construct.

Brazos County Historical Commission

12/5 – Tuesday, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Holiday Open House with local crafts and a new special exhibit, Dog Tales: The Human Canine Connection, which examines the natural history of dogs, their transformation over time, and the close relationship they have with humans both as companions and work partners. For more information see [Brazos Valley Museum|Holiday](#).

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site

12/2 – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Caddo Culture Day, celebrating Caddo culture and history with artisans, vendors, and other activities.

Houston Heritage Society

Now through December 31 – Houston Rodeo, Charles Goodnight Collection, and Duncan Store exhibits, \$5 admission.

Now through January 2 – Bagby Street City Lights Holiday Downtown Magic.

12/2 and 12/9 – Saturdays, 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 p.m. Annual Candlelight Tours, \$20. Tickets: [Candlelight \(fareharbor.com\)](#).

Houston Museum of Natural Science

King Tut's Tomb Discovery exhibit. Ticketed. Related podcast: [Tut Tut, Now What? How Carter discovered King Tutankhamun](#). Dinosaur Discoveries, Wortham Theater.

12/7 – Thursday, 11:00 a.m. Planetarium. Fate of the Maya. \$9. Tickets: [Fate of the Maya, December 7, 11:00AM](#).

Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Site

12/8, 12/9, 12/15, 12/16, 12/17 – Weekends, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Trail of Lights. Decorations throughout the decorated grounds and house along with live entertainment, refreshments, family crafts and activities, and visits with Santa. \$8.

12/19 – 12/23 - 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Encore Nights. Lighted trails only, \$5. More information at [Kreische Brewery - Trail of Lights](#).

Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria College

12/1 – Friday, 9 – 11 a.m. McNeill Ranch archaeological excavation site tour.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

12/2 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. San Felipe de Austin Historic Career Fair. Learn about all the jobs, skills, and daily chores two hundred years ago with demonstrations and participation in hands-on activities.

12/16 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Christmas at San Felipe de Austin. Presentations on religion and reflections on the Christmas season in Mexican Texas, learn the legend of the poinsettia, enjoy poinsettia papercraft activities and refreshments at the outdoor oven.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

12/9 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. San Jacinto Family Day: Medicine Making. Learn about historic medicines that used natural ingredients like cinnamon and willow bark, use a mortar and pestle.

12/16 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Life on the Frontier: Spinning and Weaving. Demonstrations by local artisans.

Varner-Hogg Plantation

12/16 – Saturday, 6 – 9 p.m. Candlelight Christmas. Enjoy decorations, wassail, cookies, and photos with a Victorian Santa.

Washington-on-the-Brazos

12/8 and 12/9 – Friday and Saturday, 6 – 8:30 p.m. Barrington Plantation. Candlelight Christmas. Costumed interpreters bring to life the festivities of the season with musket fire, music, and dancing.

12/16 and 12/17 – Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Barrington Plantation, cooking demonstrations. Cooking in the Quarter and Cooking in the Kitchen.

12/16 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dickens on the Brazos | THC.Texas.gov - Texas Historical Commission. Collaboration between Fanthorpe Inn and Washington-on-the-Brazos. At Independence Hall, visit a Christmas post office. At the Tavern at Washington-on-the-Brazos, enjoy readings from Charles Dickens and historical seasonal refreshments.



HAS Reference Desk

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



Has anyone ever received this Best-selling Christmas card of all time? If you have, let us know at newsletter@txhas.org!

Despite the commercialism that surrounds the Christmas season, the essence of the holiday means that Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus. Relevant ancient sites throughout the Mediterranean are studied by both secular and Biblical researchers, such as the Sisters of Nazareth Convent:

Ken Dark, PhD; Early roman-period Nazareth and the Sisters of Nazareth Convent, *The Antiquaries Journal*

https://www.antiquities.org.il/survey/new/default_en.aspx

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/finding-king-herods-tomb-34296862/>

[Ancient Tomb of St. Nicholas - Santa Claus - Discovered Beneath Turkish Church](#)



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

We would like **all HAS members** to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. Please send submissions to 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

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