



**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, April 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Trini Mendenhall Community Center
Featuring Nicholas Bourgeois, Archeologist at Levi Jordan Plantation Historic Site**



Greetings HAS members! Our April monthly HAS meeting will take place on Thursday, April 18, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center. This meeting will be held in person and will also be available to members via Zoom. Later, the lecture will be posted and available to the public via our YouTube channel. We are pleased to welcome Nicholas Bourgeois, an archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission, who will present “Disturbed Archeological Sites: A Tool for Public Archeology Education.”

Nicholas grew up moving around the country, but his family eventually settled down in Baytown, Texas. After studying anthropology at Louisiana State University, Nicholas moved to California where he received a master's degree in World Cultures from the University of California, Merced. Nicholas spent several summers studying Maya cave archeology in Belize, and then returned home to Texas. He worked as a CRM archeologist before joining the Texas Historical Commission as the site archeologist for the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site, and Sabine Pass State Historic Site.

We hope you will all join us for this fascinating presentation. This meeting is free and open to the public. Be looking for your meeting reminder, which will also contain a Zoom link so that those HAS members who cannot join us in person will be able to 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.

Frank Kozar, HAS Vice-President



Top: Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site in West Columbia. Photo by Kahron Spearman, [TexasHighways.com](https://www.texashighways.com).
Right: Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site in Port Arthur. ([tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com))
Far Right: Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site in Brazoria County. Photo by Texas State Historical Commission.



President's Message – Bob Sewell



A major activity for Houston Archeological Society members during March was the excavation at the Kirbee Kiln Site in Montgomery County. This was the third year that HAS had been invited to assist.

Our hosts, Meredith Dreiss and David Brown, were just fantastic. David was so enthusiastic and complimentary of HAS, and Meredith generously provided lunch for folks each day. A BIG THANK YOU to Meredith and David. Professional archeologists included Amy Goldstein (Principal Investigator), Kristin Embree, Aundrea Thompson, and Chet Walker.

Over a period of eight days, twenty-four members helped out, with as many as twelve per day. Several new HAS members participated, and hopefully they enjoyed the experience.

The site is the location of a mid-nineteenth century groundhog kiln that was first excavated in the 1970s. Now, the excavations have progressed to rediscovering the auxiliary structures associated with the manufacturing of the stoneware produced at the site. These structures include living quarters for the potters working there and other production facilities.

We investigated several new locations on the site in addition to further investigating some previously identified brick features, possibly foundations. One of the new units revealed examples of stoneware pottery and an interesting metal rod-like artifact.

The weather that week caused some concern, but we only got rained out one half-day. Most of the remaining days, the weather was just great. We are looking forward to the next visit.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with our on-site activities and public outreach, then please contact me at president@txhas.org.

Bob Sewell, HAS President



Photos courtesy of Emma Baldwin/Aundrea Thompson



Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2024

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. – Bob Sewell, President, welcomed the many members who were attending in person as well as those who had joined online.

Treasurer and Membership Report – Louis Hebert, Treasurer. Membership stands at 133 with two new members joining tonight. Please spread the word that we have interesting presentations and many opportunities to take part in excavations in the greater Houston area. Remember that students receive a discounted rate of \$15. An audit of the HAS accounts was carried out in February by the Audit Committee, and the books stand in good order.

Newsletter – Betsy Wittenmyer, Newsletter Editor. Many thanks to all who have contributed such interesting articles. Please consider sharing photos of any interesting projects, research, trips to historic sites, and academies that you attend. We encourage all members and friends to submit articles for our monthly newsletter; please send them by the 15th of each month. We can assist you with editing. Students, we would like to hear about your archaeology experiences.

Reports and Publications – Sandy Meredith, Reports and Publications Editor. The Historic Munitions in Texas Publication is moving forward and is now at the editing stage, the cover has been chosen and publication should be possible in about two months.

Constitution Committee - Geoffrey Mills. We need to have a good protocol for opening and closing projects. It has been decided that further clarification is needed. Every member will receive an email explaining this proposed change and you are encouraged to vote on its adoption by return email by 6 p.m. on Friday, March 29, 2024.

Project Updates – Bob Sewell, President. Please contact Bob Sewell at fielddirector@TXHAS.org if you are not receiving invitations to join excavations. Our current projects are:

Kirbee Kiln – We will be working at this site of a mid-nineteenth century kiln during March 15–22, 2024.

Goloby Site (41WL3) – Located about twelve miles north of Brookshire in Waller County, we are working here at the request of the property owner. A report regarding the previous HAS excavations at this site approximately twenty years ago can be found on the HAS website: [HAS Report 22.pdf \(txhas.org\)](#). This is a prehistoric site dated 5,000 BC to about 1,400 AD. Native American ceramic and lithic artifacts are already being found in a previously unexcavated area. The next visit will take place after our week at Kirbee Kiln and details will be sent out to members.

Lone Oak – Located near Frelsburg, we will be visiting this site less frequently, and as a result the units have been secured.

Alleyton – A potential new site just to the east of Columbus and about twenty minutes closer than Lone Oak site. The proposal is in progress with a potential start date in early May.

Outreach Activities – Bob Sewell, President. Last month a team of HAS members helped with the show and tell exhibit during the Houston Arboretum Archeology Family Day. There were many organizations taking part, with activities for families. It was a great success with approximately 260 members of the public attending. It would be great to have more members involved with outreach. Everyone is welcome to take part. If you think you could help with presentations to groups, come and shadow one of our team to see how it works and learn the ropes.

TAS Academies – Bob Sewell, President. The Zooarcheology Academy held at Rice University last month was a huge success. The Ceramics Academy takes place in Fort Worth April 28th. Check the TAS website if you are interested.

Next Month's Meeting – Bob Sewell, President. Our next monthly HAS meeting takes place April 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be both in person and available via Zoom. Our speaker will be Nicholas Bourgeois talking about “Disturbed Archeological Sites, A Tool for Public Education.” Bourgeois is a graduate of the University of California, Merced, and after graduating he spent time studying Maya caves in Belize. After returning to Texas, he spent several years as a CRM archeologist before joining the Texas Historical Commission. He now serves as an archeologist at Varner Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, the Levi Jordan State Historic Site, and the Sabine Pass State Historic Site.

Tonight's Presentation – We are pleased to welcome Dave Dyer, who will discuss his book, *The Road to San Jacinto*, which retraces the journey of the Texian army from Gonzales to San Jacinto during the Texas Revolution.

The business meeting was concluded at 6:45 p.m.

Emma Baldwin, HAS Secretary

Congratulations to Eleanor Stoddart and Pam Wheat Stranahan!



HAS Member Eleanor Stoddart has recently been appointed to the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), a sub-board of the Texas Historical Commission. The AAB consists of professionals in archeology, architecture, and history, and members come from state agencies and private practice. The AAB is the board that reviews and votes on State Antiquities Landmark designations and considers extensions for expired permits. Eleanor will serve a two-year term as an archeologist representing a state agency (TPWD). Stoddart serves as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Region 4 (SE Texas) Cultural Resources Coordinator. Among her many responsibilities, Eleanor coordinates all activities with the potential to affect cultural resources, ensures agency compliance with state and federal antiquities laws, develops cultural resources management plans and archeological site monitoring, and is involved with outreach activities and engendering stewardship in the visiting public through education. Thank you for serving in so many important roles, Eleanor! You will certainly be an asset to the AAB.



-----O-----

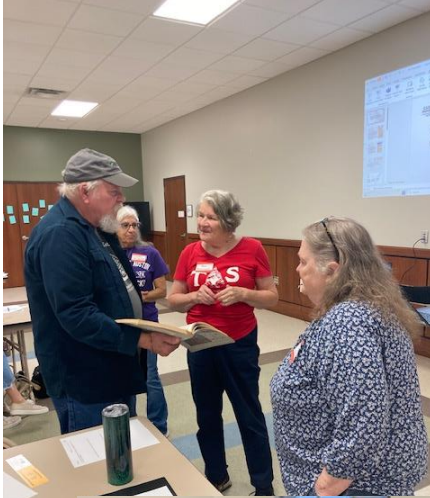
Congratulations to Pam Wheat Stranahan, an HAS lifetime member and former HAS president, who has been awarded the Texas Historical Commission Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in preserving and sharing Texas history and serving as an educator, historian, archeologist, and mentor for over forty-four years. Active with the Texas Archeological Society, Aransas County Historical Commission, Aransas County Historical Society, and the History Center of Aransas County, Stranahan has also authored many publications, including a book on the shipwreck La Belle, *La Salle in Texas: A Teacher's Guide for the Age of Discovery and Exploration*. Other TAS projects include a collaboration with Texas Anderson on a traveling exhibit, "Archeology in Texas," and a book penned with co-author Brenda Whorton, *Clues from the Past*. This recognition is well-deserved, Pam, and HAS thanks you for your many years of excellent work!



TAS Workshop for Educators: Bringing Archeology into the Classroom, Held February 10, 2024, in Nacogdoches

In February, TAS held an educator's workshop at the Nacogdoches County Courthouse Annex. An enthusiastic group of educators and SFA students had a full day of hands-on lessons designed to bring archeology into the classroom and generate more interest in experiencing archeology firsthand through TAS. Coordinator Pam Wheat Stranahan was joined by Sharon Menegaz, Linda Lang, Carol Macaulay, and from Caddo Mounds, Maggie Leysath. The participants experienced lessons as varied as Caddo Pottery and Mission Concepcion, French influence in Texas with a lesson on artifacts from La Belle, and TAS participation in the Presidio San Saba excavations. A generous grant provided all participants TAS membership for the year as well as CEUs to take back to their schools. We look forward to holding more of these workshops in the future!

~ Sharon Menegaz



Photographs courtesy of Carol Macaulay.

TAS Zooarcheology and Osteology Academy, Held February 10-11, 2024, at Rice University

A total of fifty TAS members from across the state recently attended the Texas Archeological Society's Zooarcheology and Osteology Academy held at Rice University. This brand-new Academy, taught by Dr. Mary Prendergast and her students, sold out in record time! It was an intense two days of learning, and all came away with some new skills and some excellent resources to help them in their future work.

- Eleanor Stoddart



Photographs courtesy of Frank Kozar.

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 at the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant paleontology site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

The Museum of the Coastal Bend and CoBALT hosted the Texas Archaeological Society's Geoarchaeology Academy March 8-10. Roughly fifty participants spent three days both in the museum and in the field at 41VT141 learning about soils and sediments.



Left: CoBALT founding members Bill Birmingham (L) and Frank Condon (R) inspect a deposit in Trench 4.

Below: Academy attendees touring the site at 41VT141.



Left: Ken Lawrence teaching from the trench - and an artifact found in the process of opening the trenches!

Above: Karl Kibler leading one of Friday's lectures.



Left: Charles Frederick with samples from the site.
Below: Chovanec Folsom point.



Earlier this month, in cooperation with Dr. Alan Slade of the Texas Archaeological Research Lab at UT Austin, CoBALT recorded a Folsom point belonging to Mark Chovanec. It is the first recorded Folsom from Goliad County. For more information on the Folsom Fluted Point Survey, contact Dr. Alan Slade at Alan.Slade@austin.utexas.edu.

The Museum of the Coastal Bend is opening a new section of the permanent exhibit called Theories in Stone. This exhibit will encompass prehistoric artifacts for which we have no concrete understanding of their function or use. The exhibit opens April 6, with a special exhibit tour at 2 p.m. led by Dr. Heather Para, Exhibits and Collections Manager.

As always, our archaeology lab is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Stop by the museum’s front desk and we will direct you to the lab.

MCB and CoBALT will serve as the hosts for the next TAS Annual Meeting, which takes 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.



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@txhas.org. Report on an interesting on-site experience, academy, field school, lecture, cultural trip, or public outreach event! Send photos of yourself on an HAS or TAS adventure! What archeological artifact or historical event have you been researching? We hope that you will add your voice to our community’s conversation, as a variety of articles helps to make our newsletter more interesting! Your contributions may be brief, such as a couple of paragraphs or about 250 words. We can help with editing. Please submit information for upcoming issues no later than the fifteenth of each month.

The April 8th Solar Eclipse - Information and an Invitation

Sergio J. Ayala, PhD, Executive Director, Gault School of Archaeological Research

Overview

The eagerly anticipated celestial event of the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse is set to captivate Austin and its surrounding areas with a breathtaking display of cosmic alignment. This rare occurrence, slated for April 8, 2024, promises a spellbinding sight as the moon traverses its path to completely obscure the sun, casting a temporary veil of shadow over the landscape.

Insights into the Eclipse Type

Diving into the astronomical intricacies, despite the sun dwarfing the moon in size by a staggering 400 times, a remarkable optical illusion ensues due to their respective distances from Earth, portraying them as equal celestial orbs in the sky (see the imbedded image below from sciencenote.org).

Seeing the Eclipse at the Gault site

Enthusiasts and curious onlookers alike in Austin are poised to witness this extraordinary event unfold against the backdrop of the Hill Country's scenic vistas. The eclipse will grace the skies from 1:32 p.m. to 1:41 p.m. CST, offering a fleeting window of cosmic wonder. Notably, Austin residents and visitors will experience the pinnacle of the eclipse at 1:36 pm CST, treating them to approximately 1 minute and 46 seconds of the ethereal totality, where daylight momentarily yields to the enigmatic allure of this celestial phenomenon. At 10 a.m. on April 8th, we will host a tour of the Gault site and invite our guests to stay with us for the afternoon eclipse. The cost is \$40 for the day package (tour and eclipse), \$20 for the tour alone. To register, click on the link below!

**BE SURE TO PURCHASE PROPER GLASSES AHEAD OF TIME FOR THE ECLIPSE...
DO NOT LOOK AT THE ECLIPSE WITH YOUR NAKED EYES!**

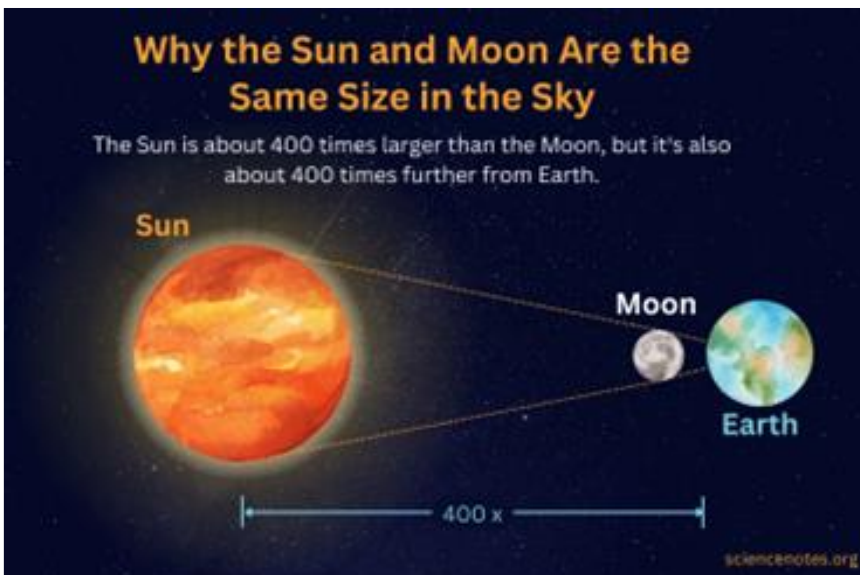
Anticipation and Preparation

As anticipation builds for this celestial spectacle, residents are urged to prepare accordingly, whether by securing appropriate eyewear for safe viewing, preparing for traffic issues, or simply embracing the awe-inspiring majesty of nature's grandeur. With its fleeting yet profound impact, the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse is poised to etch itself into the annals of Austin's cosmic history, offering a moment of unity and wonder beneath the vast expanse of the Texas sky.

Preparations for Traffic

There is a lot of concern in the region about traffic along the major highways. Some think that IH-35 may get bogged down to a halt. Consequently, we urge people to consider this and anticipate taking other routes to the Gault site, such as Hwy 183, Hwy 29 to Hwy 183, and using Hwy 195. The Gault Site address is 3433 FM 2843, Florence, Texas 76527. The gate entrance on FM 2843 is next to the 15-foot-tall Gault stone monument on the roadside. We will have the tour sign staked outside the entrance gate, next to the monument. We will check our donations data with the arriving guest names to ensure that there is fairness to all guests on site. There will be an option to pay on site with cash or card, too!

[Click Here to Make a \\$40 Donation to Attend the Solar Eclipse Day at the Gault site!](#)



Incredible! What are the odds of these celestial conditions being this way and what were the primordial conditions in the early solar system that helped earth develop its partner, our moon? Astronomy is a marvelous field of study. Join us on April 8th to see this in person!

For more information contact:
gaultschoolofarchaeology@gmail.com.

See you soon!
Dr. Sergio J. Ayala

Adapted from an article published previously in the GSAR newsletter.

Notes on Munitions: It's Probably a Twenty-two

Thomas L. Nuckols

In 1873, after his wife's death, my great-great uncle Samuel Reuben Nuckols (1831-1903) moved from Hanover County, Virginia, to Texas.¹ After living in various places in the central part of the state, Samuel bought the Whitney Hotel in Whitney, Texas, in 1893. He operated the hotel until his death in 1903.

In the c. 1890s photograph below, twenty-three Nuckols family members pose on the front porch of the Whitney Hotel. My great-great grandmother Victoria Elizabeth Leadbetter Nuckols (1840-1905) is standing to the far right, holding a rifle. Despite studying the image of my great-great grandmother with the aid of a magnifying glass, I'm unable to identify the rifle she's holding. However, I'd say that it is probably a single shot twenty-two (.22 caliber rimfire).



Twenty-three members of the Nuckols family on the front porch of the Whitney Hotel in Whitney, Texas, in the 1890s. The red arrow points to my great-great uncle Samuel Reuben Nuckols. The green arrow points to my great-great grandmother Victoria Leadbetter Nuckols. My great-great grandfather Alpheus Burl Nuckols (1840-1907) is standing to her right. Collection of Thomas L. Nuckols.

-----O-----

Feedback Requested! We want to hear from YOU!

Send a quick email to newsletter@txhas.org and let us know about things such as your regular favorites, which articles and reports did you most enjoy, what did you really read and what did you skip, topics you'd like to see in the future, what could be longer or what should be shorter, what could be omitted, and any other suggestions about how we can improve.



Source: www.webweaver.nu/unclesam.jpg.

¹ See Nuckols, Thomas L., Notes on Munitions, The Nuckols Genealogy in Texas and a Toy Cap Pistol, <https://www.txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2019/2019%20October%20Profile.pdf>, page 4.

Meet HAS Student Member Heather Leonard



Heather and Dr. Leslie Bush

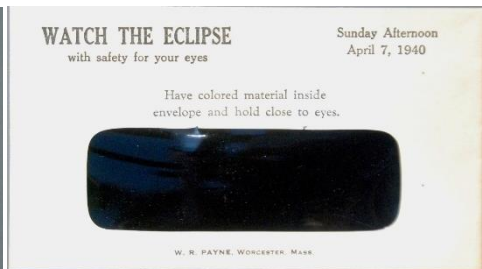
I live in Pflugerville, just north of Austin, and in addition to being a member of HAS, I am the secretary of the Travis County Archeological Society.

Though I have always liked archeology, around eleven or twelve years ago I was in a dark place mentally and discovered the old British TV show *Time Team* on YouTube—and I was hooked.

Currently I am a high school teacher, but in 2017 I found myself googling archaeology programs. I attended Archeology 101 at San Felipe on my fortieth birthday in 2018, and I haven't looked back! I've been to every field school since 2018, including my first one at Camp Wood. I've had the privilege of being a crew chief the last two field schools. I've volunteered at TARL and on local digs. In 2021, I completed a BA in Anthropology at Western Illinois University online and was honored to be the Anthropology Student of the Year.

I recently wrote my thesis, entitled “Their Memory Hallowed in the Land They Loved: Revealing Island Identities through Monumentality and GIS Mapping,” and finished an M. Litt. in Archaeological Studies at the University of the Highlands and Islands, Orkney College in Scotland. I had the pleasure to dig in Orkney on the small island of Rousay in 2022. I returned twice in 2023 for both research and a family trip because I'm applying for the PhD program there. We're hoping to move to Scotland in January 2025. Someday I hope to be a college professor. You can follow my archeology adventures at www.abonetopickblog.com.

-----O----- Eclipse Ephemera



Eclipse viewers, clockwise from lower left corner: August 31, 1932, February 12, 1831; September 5, 1793; April 7, 1940; August 31, 1932.

See more at the Hopkins Observatory Collection, Williams College.
[Eclipse Viewers – Astronomy \(williams.edu\)](http://www.williams.edu/astronomy/eclipse-viewers).

Information about the 2024 TAS Annual Meeting, October 25-27, Victoria, Texas

O. C. Garza, Publicity Chairman

Victoria eagerly awaits hosting the 2024 TAS Annual Meeting and welcoming three hundred archeologists to our city. The official hosts are the Museum of the Coastal Bend and CoBALT Archeology. We have an excellent conference location and are planning side trips to our ongoing excavation site at the McNeill Ranch (41VT141), the Goliad mission and presidio, and the Museum of the Coastal Bend, a true archeology museum.



HOME OF THE SIX FLAGS

<https://www.victoriatx.org>.

groups are more than fifty years old! The city also boasts great multicultural restaurants, especially Tex-Mex, and lots of live-music venues and entertainment locations.

More announcements about the 2024 Texas Archeological Society meeting will be forthcoming. For more information and to volunteer, contact ocgarza@suddenlink.net.

For more information about Victoria, see: [Victoria, TX | Official Website \(victoriatx.org\)](http://victoriatx.org); [Victoria, TX \(Victoria County\) \(tshaonline.org\)](http://tshaonline.org); [De Leon, Martin - tshaonline.org](http://tshaonline.org).

-----O-----

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 archived articles, including this piece from April of 2006, continuing Fred Kelly's lessons about the names of months ([2006 April Profile.pdf \(txhas.org\)](http://txhas.org)).

April is the month for regeneration. The name is believed to come from the Latin word apertum, meaning the "open" season or beginning of warmth for the body and spirit. During this month the ancient Romans honored the goddess, Venus, the giver of life, and celebrated sacred rebirth and the return of spring. Eggs have symbolized this time of year since prehistoric times and the tradition is carried on today during Easter celebrations.

— Fred Kelly



Fresco of Venus in a Shell, found in a Pompeian garden, at the House of Venus Marina, 62 C.E. [Pompeii's Venus in a shell: the significance.](http://tshaonline.org)

More Antique Maps

Geoffrey Mills

In follow up to my April article, I include two more antique maps from my personal collection, one of southeast Scotland and the other of present-day Ukraine and adjacent areas. I bought these maps not because I lived there, my usual focus, but because I found them quite artistic and historically interesting. They were both associated with the famous Dutch mapmakers Willem Blaeu and his son Johannes (Joan). It should be noted that Holland was the center of cartography during the 17th century.

The first map is based on the survey of southeast Scotland conducted by Timothy Pont and revised by William Gordon for inclusion in Volume 5 of Blaeu's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* or *Atlas novus*, which was published by Johannes in 1654.



Blaue, J. "Annandiae Praefectura vulgo – The Stewartrie of Annandail." From Volume 5 of Blaeu's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* or *Atlas novus*, 1654. A digitized and searchable copy of this map can be found at the National Library of France: [Annandiae Praefectura, Vulgo, the Stewartrie of Annandail / Auct. Timotheo Pont ; Excud. Io. Blaeu | Gallica | bnf.fr](#).



This copper engraved map covers East Dumfries, Annan, and the Solway Firth. Pont compiled this map for Blaeu between 1583 and 1601. Often published in different languages, this version uses Latin with English place names. This map has German text to verso (on the back). Using Google Lens to translate the words to English renders a nonsensical description. The words basically describe the geographic context of each of the map areas. I will leave it to any German readers to provide a better translation.



Blaeu, J. "Taurica Chersonesus. Nostra Aetate Przecopsca et Gazara Dictiur," 1654. Rough translation: "Taurica Chersonesus. In our time called Przecopsca and Gazara." A digitized searchable copy of this map can be found at the online Internet Archive, courtesy of the University of Alberta; [Taurica Chersonesus, nostra aetate Przecopsca, et Gazara dictur. : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive.](#)

My second map, published by Johannes Blaeu in 1654, depicts what is now Ukraine. This map has gone through several iterations, starting with Mecator (1595) through Johann Janssonius (1638) to Johannes Blaeu (1654). I believe that this map is the Blaeu version. This antique map charts Crimea, Ukraine, and parts of southern Russia. Note Taurica Chersonesus, a World Heritage archaeological site situated on the southwest corner of the Crimean peninsula ([Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)). Moscow is just visible near the north margin of the map. Przecopsca can be seen due north of the Crimea.

Once again, I plan to bring these maps to our next in-person monthly meeting.

Sources:

Baynton-Williams, Roger. *Investing in Maps*. Corgi, 1971.

Blaeu, J. "Blaeu Atlas Maior, 1662-5 - Volume 2." [Maps.nls.uk](#), National Library of Scotland, [maps.nls.uk/atlas/blaeu-maior/vol/2](#).

Blaeu, J. Cartographe, et al. "Annandiae Praefectura, Vulgo, the Stewartrie of Annandail / Auct. Timotheo Pont ; Excud. Io. Blaeu." *Gallica*, 1654, Bibliotheque nationale de France. GE DD-2987 (2523). [gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53056879s/f1.item#](#).

[Annandiae Praefectura, Vulgo, the Stewartrie of Annandail / Auct. Timotheo Pont ; Excud. Io. Blaeu | Gallica \(bnf.fr\)](#)

Blaeu, Willem. "Taurica Chersonesus, Nostra Aetate Przecopsca, et Gazara Dictur." *Internet Archive*, vol. II, [Willem Janszoon Blaeu], [archive.org/details/WCW_D9](#). Collection of the University of Alberta. [Taurica Chersonesus, nostra aetate Przecopsca, et Gazara dictur. : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive.](#)

Lister, Raymond. *Antique Maps and Their Cartographers*. G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1970.

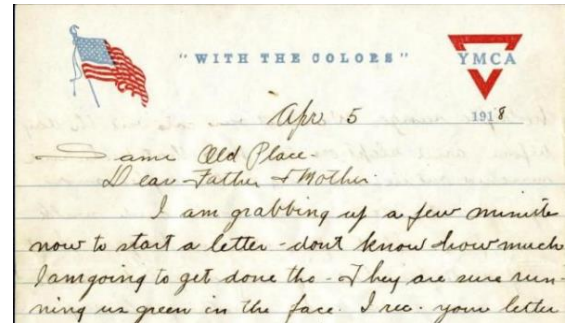
You can also find digitized searchable versions at the Internet Archive, [Taurica Chersonesus, nostra aetate Przecopsca, et Gazara dictur. : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#), and the National Library of Scotland, [View map: Blaeu, Joan, 1596-1673, Taurica Chersonesvs - Blaeu Atlas Maior, 1662 \(nls.uk\)](#), [Blaeu Atlas Maior, 1662-5 - Volume 2 \(nls.uk\)](#).

April 5, 1918 – A Letter from Camp Logan

Betsy Wittenmyer

Most HAS members are aware of Camp Logan, the temporary World War I training camp that was located a short distance northwest of the growing city of Houston. Much of the historical site forms today's Memorial Park, and century-old features still remain. The Rice University Woodson Research Center maintains an excellent resource, the Paul B. Hendrickson World War I Collection, donated by Jim and Betty Hendrickson Gill in 2017. Betty's father, Paul Hendrickson, enlisted at age twenty, optimistic about the adventure of defending freedom along the frontlines of France. His many diary entries and letters discuss his experiences, including his training at Camp Logan. Through his eyes, we can journey back in time and view the soldiers' activities here in Houston 106 years ago, in April of 1918.

In a letter written to his parents on April 5, 1918, Hendrickson reports that his company marched about six miles west of the main camp, out to the rifle range. There, the men set up tents, cots, and equipment, preparing to encamp for several days during their riflery training in the remote outpost. "We were shooting all day Easter Sunday – Something I never did before . . . slow fire – rapid fire – and at all kinds of targets on 100 – 200 – 300 – 500 and 600 yd. ranges."



Houstonians will not be surprised to hear that the group endured a torrential spring rainstorm. "The first nite out there it rained something a fright . . . water was 2 & 3 inches deep in our tents and all over." Paul felt his tent blowing, gathered all his belongings with him upon his cot, and hoped that the tent stakes would hold securely.



In the aftermath, the soldiers discovered a slew of "horned toads." Most likely, they encountered our Texas state reptile, the horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)—frequently called a horned toad or horned frog (à la TCU)—same Phylum, but different Class. The men began catching them, and pranks ensued. "We put one in one of our corporal's mess kits the other evening . . . we all fell in for mess and marched up to the serving place . . . one gave the order 'open mess kits' and we all took off the kit lid." When the hungry unsuspecting victim unlatched his mess kit, he discovered the vile surprise perched inside: "he actually turned pale – threw up his hands – let out a whoop and was out of the crowd in 2 seconds – his mess outfit all over the ground and the toad too . . . he said he didn't believe he wanted any supper." Despite the intense training, it sounds like the dough boys still enjoyed some light-hearted Texas moments.



Top Image: Paul's letter of April 5, 1918, Rice University Woodson Research Center, <https://digitalcollections.rice.edu/Documents/Detail/letter-from-paul-b.-hendrickson-to-james-perry-and-ethelinda-martin-hendrickson/236131>.

Far Left: Texas horned lizard, Texas Parks and Wildlife, TPWD-Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*).

Below: Example of a WWI mess kit, closed and open. Source: Etsy, <https://www.etsy.com/listing/1695255391/vintage-us-military-1918>.

Sources: TPWD-Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*); Letter from Paul B Hendrickson to his father and mother, 5 Apr 1918 (jimgill.net); <https://digitalcollections.rice.edu/Documents/Detail/letter-from-paul-b.-hendrickson-to-james-perry-and-ethelinda-martin-hendrickson/236131>; <https://digitalcollections.rice.edu/documents/detail/paul-b.-hendrickson-diary/236275?item=237156>; Paul B. Hendrickson World War I collection, 1914-1950, MS 694, Woodson Research Center, Fondren Library, Rice University.

HAS Reference Desk

BBC: Spaghetti-Harvest in Ticino | Switzerland Tourism



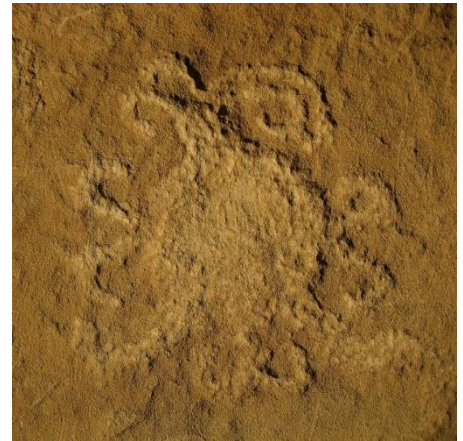
The famous BBC 1957 April Fools' Day prank report depicting harvesting pasta from trees. Source: https://youtu.be/tVo_wkxH9dU.

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. A good resource for all archeology enthusiasts, this link from the Archaeological Institute of America provides daily archeology news: archaeology.org/feed.

April Showers: [d41586-019-03699-7.pdf \(nature.com\)](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-fossilized-rain-reveals-earth/); <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-fossilized-rain-reveals-earth/>; [Splat Science: Fossilized Raindrops Reveal Early Earth's Hazy Skies | Live Science](#); [BBC News | Fossilized rain drops found in India](#).

April Fools' Day: [History's Greatest April Fools Jokes \(nationalgeographic.com\)](http://nationalgeographic.com); [April Fools' Day: Origins, Meaning & Hoaxes | HISTORY](#); [A brief, totally sincere history of April Fools' Day - The Washington Post](#); [Top 100 April Fool's Day Hoaxes Of All Time](#); [The Museum of Hoaxes](#); [The Hundred-Million-Dollar Robbery of the U.S. Treasury \(hoaxes.org\)](http://hoaxes.org).

Solar Eclipses in Archeology and Ancient Cultural Beliefs: [The Solar Eclipse and Archaeology - Archaeology Review \(ahotcupofjoe.net\)](#); [Astronomy and ancient eclipse art](#); [Connecting ancient beliefs to today's understanding of eclipses | News \(unt.edu\)](#); [CCP 3.1.20.B.a - Enūma Anu Enlil 20 B | Cuneiform Commentaries Project \(yale.edu\)](#), [These 5 Ancient Cultures Thought Solar Eclipses Were Omens and Prophecies | Discover Magazine](#); [Archeoastronomy uses previous total solar eclipses to help us measure history | Queen's Gazette \(queensu.ca\)](#); [Eclipses evoked fear and reverence in ancient civilizations – BG Independent News \(bgindependentmedia.org\)](#); [How past civilizations and tribes viewed solar eclipses](#); [Ancient civilizations may have recorded solar eclipses | 9news.com](#); [Eclipse History | Total Solar Eclipse \(nasa.gov\)](#); [History of solar eclipses and strange answers to them \(dodofinance.com\)](#), [Eclipse Maps Entered a Golden Age Thanks to Edmond Halley - Atlas Obscura](#); [Eclipse Viewers – Astronomy \(williams.edu\)](#).



This petroglyph in Chaco Canyon may represent a solar eclipse observed in 1097. Source: [Strange Petroglyph in Chaco Canyon May Represent Ancient Total Solar Eclipse | Archaeology, Astronomy | Sci-News.com](#)

-----O-----

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

April 9 – HAS Board Meeting

April 18 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. In person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center and also accessible for members via a Zoom link. Featuring Nicholas Bourgeois, Archeologist at Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site.

May 16 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Brad Jones, Texas State Archeologist.

June - No meeting in June due to Field School.

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: The majority of virtual events listed are free unless otherwise indicated.

Archaeological Conservancy

Virtual lectures announced and archived at Virtual Lectures - The Archaeological Conservancy.

AIA Houston/Archaeology Now

4/14 – Sunday, 2 p.m. The Ukrainian Project - Scythians: Golden Horses & Swift Arrows, presented by Dr. Carolyn Willekes, Mount Royal University. [YouTube Live Talks Scythians: Golden Horses & Swift Arrows — Archaeology Now](#).

4/27 – Sunday, 2 p.m. The Ukrainian Project - Talking Walls: Graffiti from the War, presented by Roksolana Makar. For more information see [Zoom Lectures — Archaeology Now](#).

American Institute of Archaeology

4/13 – Saturday, Noon MDT/1:00 p.m. Central. Rock Art of Southeast Asia: Crouching Tigers, Hidden Elephants, presented by Noel Hidalgo Tan, Senior Specialist in Archaeology at the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, Bangkok. Hybrid lecture, free: [Saturday April 13, 2024: Dr. Noel Hidalgo Tan Cruz, Senior Specialist in Archaeology at the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts in Bangkok | The Denver Society \(aiadenver.org\)](#)

4/17 – Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Central. Dr. Benjamin Hellings, Associate Curator of Numismatics at the Yale University Art Gallery, presents [Managing And Curating Yale University's Numismatic Collection](#).

4/17 - Wednesday, 8 p.m. Eastern/7 p.m. Central. [AIA Archaeology Hour With Deborah Carlson](#), PhD; learn about a fascinating first century B.C. shipwreck off the Aegean coast of Turkey. [Register HERE](#).

4/18 – Thursday, 6 p.m. Eastern/5 p.m. Central. [From Myth To Polis: Deciphering The Cultural Life Of Ancient Aphidna Using Multi Modal Landscape Analysis](#).

AIA lectures are also archived on their website.

Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series

4/4 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Central. Lecture by Thomas Holtz, PhD, Vertebrate Paleontologist, Department of Geology, University of Maryland. Free, <https://engelhardtmooore.wixsite.com/lecture-series>. Past virtual lectures archived on the site as well.

Eventbrite Free Online Archaeology Events

For listings and more information from various institutions see: [Free Online Archaeology Events | Eventbrite](#).

4/2 – Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. Workshop designed for educators discussing early examples of globalization in the ancient world.

4/3 – Wednesday, 5 p.m. The Institute for American Indian Studies: Hudson River Valley.

4/5 – Friday, 11 a.m. Building Careers in Cultural Heritage.

4/15 – Monday, 8 a.m. Historical Military Heritage: protocols for conservation, management and sustainable reuse.

4/17 – Wednesday, 7 a.m. Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

4/25 – Thursday, 11 a.m. Funerary paraphernalia from the Tomb of King Tut.

Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan

Upcoming and archived information: [Kelsey Museum of Archaeology - YouTube](#) and [Online Exhibitions | U-M LSA Kelsey Museum of Archaeology \(umich.edu\)](#).

Montpelier Archaeology Department

4/17 – Wednesday, 11 a.m. Central. Lunch and Learn. Overseers Site research from four seasons of excavations. [Registration - Zoom](#).

Shumla

4/17 – Wednesday, Noon. Lunch and Learn. Hearthstone Project Results 1 of 4: The Rule of Paint Sequencing. David Keim initiates a four-part series about the ambitious Hearthstone Project, sharing the results of microscopy analyses and how the ancient painters practiced paint sequencing. [Click to Register](#).

Texas Historical Commission

4/18 – Thursday, 6 p.m. *The Women With Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II*, presented by author Katherine Sharp Landdeck, PhD, of Texas Woman's University, the home of the WASP archives. Register at [Trained in Texas: The Inspiring Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II - Friends of THC \(thcfriends.org\)](#).

Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC) Webinar

4/2 – Tuesday. Googling the Roman Empire, presented by Sue Alcock, Professor of Classical Archaeology, University of Oklahoma. Alcock's research interests include the Hellenistic and Roman East, landscape archaeology, archaeological survey, and archaeologies of memory and of imperialism. More information: [Current Season \(2023 – 2024\) \(trac.org.uk\)](#).

ON-SITE:

AIA Houston/Archaeology Now

4/6 – Saturday, 2 p.m. The Ukrainian Project – Cultural tour of the Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church, 9102 Meadowshire Street. Learn about icons, traditions, folk embroidery, and pysanky eggs. Free, limited spots, register online: [Preserving & Remembering the Homeland Tickets, Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 2:00 PM](#).

4/13 – Saturday, 2 – 4 p.m. Ancient Maya Traditions, Katherine Tyra Branch Library, 16719 Clay Road.

Barrington Plantation State Historic Site

4/6 – 4/7 – Saturday, Sunday. [Spring Cleaning](#), living history.

4/20 – 4/21 – Saturday, Sunday. [Cooking in the Quarter](#) and Kitchen. Cooking using historical recipes.

Brazos County Historical Commission

Through 5/18 - Steam, Smoke & Steel: Riding the Rails through Time, highlighting the captivating history of trains. Includes a diorama featuring local Bryan/College Station train history, photographs, artifacts, and model trains; Brazos Valley Museum, <https://www.brazosvalleymuseum.org>.

Gault School of Archaeological Research

4/8 – 10 a.m. Tour of site and viewing of eclipse. \$40, for reservations see [GSAR \(neoncrm.com\)](#).

Houston Heritage Society

Through 7/31 - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Exhibit, \$5 admission.

Houston Museum of Natural History

4/3 – Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Lecture on the upcoming solar eclipse, \$12/\$18 fee, [LEC - Preparing for the Celestial Spectacle, April 3, 2024 6:30PM | Houston Museum of Natural Science \(hmns.org\)](#). Ongoing, admission fees required - Dinosaur Discoveries, an immersive holographic video about paleontology, Wortham Theater. Dinosaur Discoveries - HMNS; Dinosaur Discoveries: A Holographic Adventure | Houston Museum of Natural Science (hmns.org); King Tut's Tomb exhibit.

Lake Jackson Historical Society

4/18 – Thursday, Noon. Lunch and Learn at the museum. Kennedy Wallace, THC, will discuss historic preservation projects at the Levi Jordan and Varner-Hogg Plantations. \$5 fee, bring your own lunch or order in advance at [Something to Chew On with Kennedy Wallace | LJHA \(ljhistory.org\)](#).

Levi Jordan Plantation

4/13 and 4/20, Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. - [Scanning & Oral History](#). Oral history interviews and archival scanning will be collected with time slots available through May.

4/20 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Earth Day. Activities include soil color science, stratigraphy matching, and painted pebbles.

Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria College

4/6 – Saturday, 10:30 – 3 p.m. Come visit the new [Focus Exhibit: Theories in Stone](#), which examines prehistoric objects from the museum collections that have unknown purposes. Special exhibit tour led by Dr. Heather Para at 2 p.m.

4/12 – Friday, 9:30 a.m. [John W. Stormont Lecture Series: Prehistory in Victoria and the Coastal Bend](#), expert panel discussion.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

4/6 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. [Fire on the Brazos](#). Learn more about March 29, 1836, when the town of San Felipe de Austin was evacuated and burned as a defensive tactic against Santa Anna and the advancing Mexican army.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

4/3 – Wednesday, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Cannon firing demonstrations every half hour. [Cannon Demonstration | Texas Historical Commission](#).

4/6 – Saturday. [San Jacinto Family Day: Who Was the Yellow Rose?](#) Learn about the real story of Emily West.

4/13 – Saturday. Cycling Saturday, grounds open early for bicyclists with no motorized vehicles.

4/13 – Saturday. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Demonstrations by the Bay Area Weavers and Spinners.

4/14 – Sunday. Picture Yourself at San Jacinto; receive complimentary instant photographs in front of the historic monument and learn about its rich history.

4/20 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. [San Jacinto Day Celebration](#). Enjoy a day of fun, reenactments, and living history activities celebrating the 188th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Shumla

Shumla Treks in April on Saturdays and Sundays - fees and information at [Shumla Treks - Shumla](#).

4/13 – Eagle Cave, Skiles Shelter, and Kelley Cave; 4/14 – Black Cave and Vaquero Shelter; 4/27 – Crab and Sunburst Shelters;

4/28 – Painted Shelter

Texas Historical Commission

4/3 – 4/5 - Real Places Conference, Austin, in-person/virtual, registration fee and general information:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/3c272a07-2177-4e93-ac87-583880c4d02d/register?rp=ade62510-a87d-430f-a570-44bd4ea7ba41>.

Washington-on-the-Brazos

4/6 - Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. [Gamblers, Horse Racers, and Sports of all Classes: Sporting in Washington in the 1840s](#).

4/13 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fanthorpe Inn, [Election 1835 at Anderson Historical Park](#). Cast your vote in a replica ballot box.

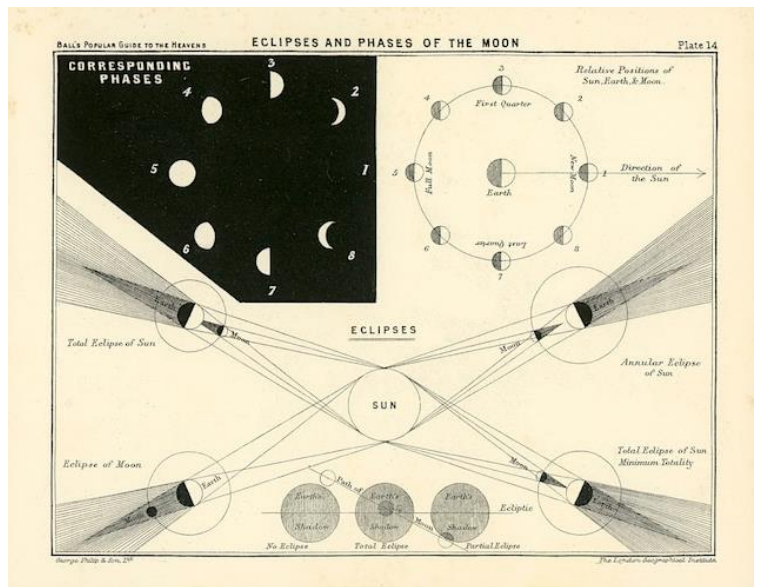
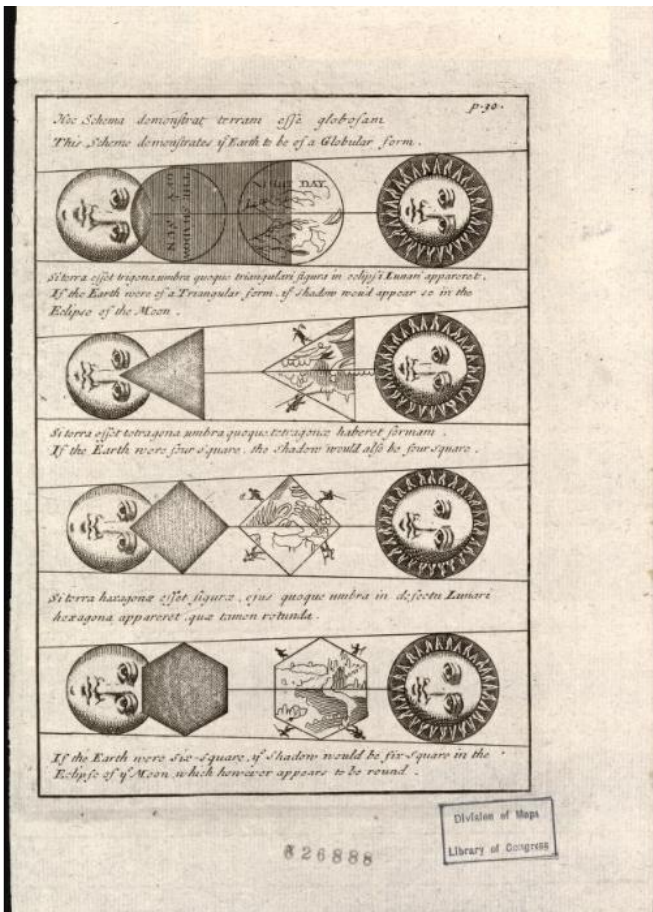
-----O-----

April 8, 2024, Total Eclipse - Two Interactive Maps:

[Interactive map for the 2024 Eclipse Simulator | Eclipse2024.org](#)

[Solar Eclipse Map \(celestialprogramming.com\)](#)





Above: Ball's Popular Guide to the Heavens, 1910. *Eclipse and Phases of the Moon*. Source: Etsy; [C. 1910 Eclipse & Phases of the Moon Print Original](#) [Antique Print Celestial Print Astronomy Print Lunar Eclipse Print Moon Phases - Etsy](#).

Left: Buno, Johannes. *Four diagrams of Solar eclipses*. London, 1711. Source: Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/2013593159/.

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Sewell, President, president@txhas.org
 Frank Kozar, Vice President, tupflash@aol.com
 Louis Hebert, Treasurer, treasurer@txhas.org
 Emma Baldwin, Secretary, secretary@txhas.org

Eleanor Stoddart, Director-at-Large, eleanorstoddart@hotmail.com
 Leonie Waithman, Director-at-Large, lwaithman@live.com
 Geoff Mills, Director-at-Large, geoffm1877@gmail.com
 Linda Gorski, Board Advisor, lindagorski@cs.com

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sharon Menegaz, smenegaz@rcseagles.org

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS

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

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

Disclaimer: For concerns or issues regarding any article published in this newsletter, please contact the author of the article. The content of any article published is solely the responsibility of the author. Copyright ©2024 by the Houston Archeological Society. All rights reserved.