



Houston Archeological Society Meeting, February 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Virtual Meeting



Source: [researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net)

Greetings HAS members! Our February HAS meeting will take place on Thursday, February 15, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. and will be presented virtually via Zoom for members only. Social time will begin at 6:00, followed by the business meeting at 6:30, and the presentation at 6:45 p.m. Later, the lecture will be posted and available to the public on our YouTube channel. Please be watching for an email with the Zoom link and any updates.

As our February speaker, we welcome Dr. Heather Para. Heather has provided the following abstract regarding her topic:

The island of Santorini is known worldwide for its significant archaeology (and its geothermal past!). This presentation will discuss work on a newly discovered (2018) site at the Byzantine port of Perissa. It will also provide an

overview of the sites of the ancient Spartan city of Thira, which is perched on a cliff above Perissa, and the nearby Minoan site of Akrotiri. A few gratuitous breathtaking scenery photos may be included for morale purposes!

Dr. Heather Para is the Exhibits & Collections Manager for the Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College. Para holds a PhD 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, also taking 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.



Archeological site of ancient Thira on Santorini. Source: [Ancient Thera - Santorini](https://www.ancientthera.com)

We hope you will all join us for this fascinating presentation. Be looking for your meeting reminder, which will contain the Zoom link. 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

President's Message – Bob Sewell



It's that time of year again when we are in the full throes of the Houston Archeological Society membership drive. So, many thanks to those of you who have renewed—it is much appreciated that you show such confidence in HAS. If you have not joined or renewed, then please do so as soon as you can, to ensure that you don't miss out on any of the activities that we will have going on this year. The new membership year began in January, but we extend a three-month grace period to our members to renew. That grace period ends at the end of March, and I hope that by then YOU will have renewed your membership. We depend on your support, and we believe that, in return, you benefit from joining our society. HAS offers (by far) the most “bang for your buck” compared to similar organizations. You can sign up online at <http://www.txhas.org/membership.html>. Membership levels are:
Student - \$15/Year; Individual - \$25/year; Family - \$30/Year; Contributing - \$35+.

Here are just a few of the benefits that your membership includes. You will be a part of one of the most active regional archeological societies in Texas. We will offer you opportunities to excavate with us at both prehistoric and historic sites, as and when they are available to us. And we will keep you informed about historical and archeological events and activities both locally and statewide, thanks to our unique networking opportunities. Projects coming up include the opportunity (and privilege) to dig with us at archeological sites such as San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, the Goloby Site in Waller County, the Kirbee Kiln Site in Montgomery County, and others. You will also be given the opportunity to work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites. Public outreach is an important calling for HAS, and participating members also benefit from the opportunity to interact with knowledgeable HAS members as our volunteers educate the general public. You will receive advance notice of our monthly meetings where speakers who are experts in their fields give presentations on topics including prehistoric and historic archeology. We open our in-person monthly meetings to the public, but members enjoy the additional ability to attend any virtual or hybrid HAS meetings via Zoom. HAS members receive our fantastic monthly newsletter, *The Profile*, which is full of timely, interesting, and relevant information. Complimentary copies of professionally written Journals and Reports that HAS publishes each year are currently available to HAS members. And these are just a few benefits of your membership of the Houston Archeological Society. You can download a copy of our membership form here: <https://bit.ly/47MOEXQ>.

I hope you'll join us for what promises to be an exciting year! If you have any questions at all about membership in HAS email me at president@txhas.org.

Bob Sewell, HAS 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 access to our current academic publications including HAS Reports, newsletters, and Journals. Please join us! Note: If you joined after September of 2023 then your membership is good through 2024.



**FEBRUARY
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!

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2023

Welcome! Bob Sewell called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Bob welcomed everyone in attendance both in person at the community center and those on Zoom.

Membership and Finances - Treasurer Louis Hebert gave an update on the current membership of approximately 100. Last year the membership reached 183 members, so we are about halfway. If you've not yet renewed, please do so - \$25 for single membership, \$30 for a family or couple, and \$15 for students - what a great value!!!! The budget for 2024 was unanimously approved by the membership with 58 yeas!!! The Board is constantly looking at reducing our expenses and is currently looking at changing publications to an online format only. The Board is also researching ways to reduce storage costs.

Newsletter – Thank you, Betsy. She is doing a wonderful job getting all the articles together. Please continue to submit your interesting articles and events for publication. They are due the 15th of each month, and all members are encouraged to submit content.

Reports and Publications – Sandy Meredith has figured out the account information that Louis Albach used with Direct Publishing. She has retrieved some lost content and placed this back onto our website. She is working on the next new publication featuring articles by Tom Nuckols on historical munitions. These hardcopy publications are expensive, at around \$5,000 for two journals a year, so the budget won't allow this easily. Other options will be considered.

Project updates – Bob Sewell

Lone Oak – Columbus location – still producing artifacts.

Santa Rosa – Katy Prairie – very sandy area – currently on hold.

Goloby – Previously worked at this site – Will open it up to all in late February.

Kirbee Kiln – March 15 to 22 – look for details soon.

New Site - Alleyton location between Sealy and Columbus – good items have been found by the landowner.

Outreach Activities – Bob Sewell

Houston Arboretum - February 24 – volunteers will be needed to help with the show and tell exhibit.

TAS Academies – the Ceramics Academy in Fort Worth is the only one that still has openings.

Our speaker next month will be Dr. Heather Para talking about archeology on the island of Santorini, Greece. Tonight, we welcome Dr. Alan Slade, who will update us on the Texas Folsom Fluted Point Survey.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by Diana Cooper

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Texas Archeological Society 2024 Academies



Zooarcheology and Osteology – Coming up right here in Houston at Rice University on February 10-12. However, this academy is FULL. Check the TAS website for more information and to be placed on the waitlist.

Geoarcheology – March 8-10 at Victoria College and the McNeill Ranch. This academy is also FULL. Check the TAS website for more information and to be placed on the waitlist.

Ceramics Academy – April 27-28 at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Still Available - sign up now! The academy will introduce the importance of archeological ceramics in terms of technology, chronology, dating, trade, subsistence, and cultural identity. Learn how pottery was fired and decorated, how it is classified and typed, and how we interpret ceramic analysis data. More information at: [Texas Archeological Society - Academies](#).

**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 works at the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). This site was regularly occupied by prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

The Museum of the Coastal Bend has a busy spring schedule ahead, including lectures, an exhibit opening, special curator-led tours, and a book festival. Check out all our offerings at: museumofthecoastalbend.org.

While the museum and archaeology lab were shut down for the winter holiday break, CoBALT took a break from excavation for some tool-making training. Bill Birmingham, founding CoBALT member and avocational archaeologist with over sixty-five years of experience, designs and makes all our exclusive and highly sought-after tools. These include ergonomically designed drag trowels, dirt scoops, bamboo tools for working around delicate material, and pins for marking grid layouts and finds. CoBALT team members learned all the steps to fabricating these tools, which will be available to purchase on a limited basis later in the year.



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.

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.

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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.

Texas Folsom Fluted Point Survey (TFFPS): Call for Data

Alan M. Slade, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin



The principal researcher of the TFFPS and colleagues at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) request your assistance to collect and update artifact information to be included in the inaugural edition of Texas Folsom Fluted Point Survey.

To date, there has been no official Folsom point survey or extensive overview of Folsom point occurrences for Texas. There was, however, an attempt to set up a similar Folsom database to that of Clovis in the early 1990s by Floyd Largent, but nothing has been published since. Before that, there were a few earlier accounts by Tom Hester, for example, but these were much more localized and on a smaller scale. In the Largent survey there are 329 Folsom points documented from 86 localities in 57 of the 254 Texas counties.

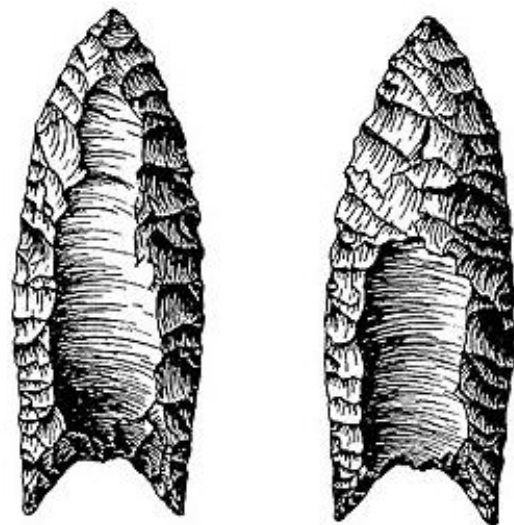
As of December 2023, after the completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project, the current tally nears 400 points from 80 counties. The TFFPS will eventually come under the control and curation at TARL. Phase 1 of the survey included a comprehensive literature review and an outreach effort to colleagues, professional and avocational archaeologists, collectors, and the general public, seeking information on Folsom fluted points from Texas and the counties bordering Texas. The first phase of the project is completed, and it is hoped that this current call for data will supplement our search with further reports.

Phases 3 and 4 will form a study of Folsom point occurrences regionally, and the concentrations of the points within those regions make for an interesting comparative analysis with the Clovis survey. It is anticipated that Phase 5, a digital database of Texas Folsom points, will greatly complement the Texas Clovis point digital database, serving as a valuable resource for Texas Paleoindian archaeology.

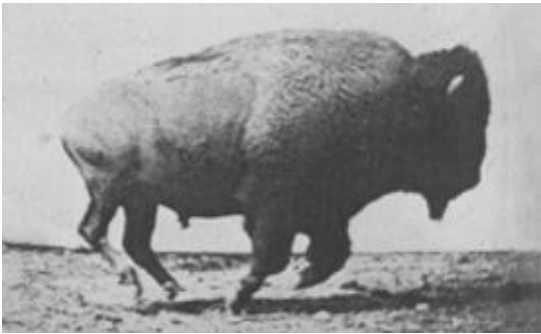
For details about how to report any Folsom point discoveries and where to send the reports, please see: <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/tarl/research-projects-and-programs/texas-clovis-fluted-point-survey.html>.

The TFFPS Phases 1 and 2 were funded by the Summerlee Foundation and two anonymous donors, Phases 3 and 4 are currently funded by the Texas Archeological Society, and Phase 5 will be funded in 2024 by the Texas Historical Foundation.

Contact Information: alan.slade@austin.utexas.edu; (512) 468-4664 (cell); (512) 232-4898 (office)



Folsom point (both sides) from northern Wilson County.
Drawing by Richard McReynolds, from Chandler 1997.
Source: [Earliest Peoples \(texasbeyonhistory.net\)](http://EarliestPeoples.texasbeyonhistory.net).



**~ Leap Year 2024 ~ a Bison Jump ~
Hop on this Remarkable Opportunity to Volunteer!**

Images left and at end, American Bison, 1887. Series of photographs by Eadweard Muybridge. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Saving the Nighthawk Bison Jump - Gus Costa, PhD, RPA

In 2021, THC Steward Rick Day and his wife, Susan, located bison bones eroding out of a slope below the caprock escarpment on the western border of Caprock Canyon State Park in Briscoe County. TAS fellow Chris Lintz, in coordination with Tony Lyle (regional TPWD archaeologist), launched a follow-up reconnaissance and documented extensive bison bones in two locations: one directly below the caprock cliff face (41BI564) and another 125 meters east (41BI565). The surfaces around these sites yielded abundant lithic chipping debris, burned rock, and a handful of notched and stemmed dart points and arrowpoints. These sites were inferred to represent a Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric bison jump kill site and an adjacent processing site. Realizing the significance of this find and potential loss due to ongoing erosion, TPWD collaborated with Drs. Brett Houk and Tamra Walter at Texas Tech University to organize a field school to test and salvage a sample from the sites in the Fall of 2022. Mid-2022, I joined the team as lead for geoarchaeology and faunal analysis and have been absolutely obsessed with bison archaeology ever since.



Texas Tech students excavate at Nighthawk bison jump. Photograph courtesy of TTU.

Bison jumps are a renowned hunting method employed by Native Americans in which these animals were stampeded in mass over cliffs. Jump sites are commonplace in the northern plains, but only one site, Bonfire Shelter (41VV218, Val Verde county), has ever been documented in Texas and the southern plains in general. Although there are at least two other candidate jumps in the southern plains, few archaeologists accept them. Bison kill sites

aren't uncommon, however jumps are like unicorns in the southern plains. The discovery of a jump at Nighthawk adds critical data to understanding ancient bison hunting in the southern plains.

“Fake Bison News”

There are a lot of tall tales, misinformation, and just-so stories regarding bison hunting in Texas. Northern plains observations have been uncritically applied to our area. Analogies can be useful, but they need to be rooted in real archaeological data dug up in Texas. Much of what we think we know about bison hunting in Texas is questionable.

Many folks think all bison kills are jumps when, in fact, most mass bison kills, especially those in the south, are arroyo traps or mud mires. Most claimed bison kills aren't mass kills, they are one or two animals or parts of animals brought back from an unknown kill spot. There are lots of ways to obtain dead bison, and the implications of each procurement strategy are wildly different socially, economically, and spiritually.

Viewing all bison killed by ancient people in Texas as the same sort of site is like equating the construction of a treehouse to a skyscraper. Both are built structures, but the activities and agendas they reflect couldn't be more different. As a jump site, Nighthawk is the skyscraper. It took massive amounts of communal work to lure, drive, and process the massive amount of materials produced from these full herd-sized kill events. There are few kill sites in the southern plains where this level of bison industrialization is so strongly implied.

Since publicizing our work at Nighthawk, we've encountered many folks who claim that they know of other jumps in Texas. I'd love to know about them and check them out. I am certain I know of another jump near Caprock Canyons State Park on private land, and one day I hope to study it. In the end, almost none of these sites, jump or not, have been rigorously studied by professional archaeologists and published. Most supposed jumps that have been looked at by scholars in our area aren't jumps, some aren't even bison kills. In the end, we don't really know what we think we know about bison hunting in Texas. Accordingly, we have a lot to gain from getting archaeologists and the public engaged with investigating bison kills, and I hope to spend as much time as I can working toward that goal.

Nighthawk in a Nutshell

Our preliminary results for Nighthawk were presented in a special symposium last year at TAS. We also published a brief story on the site in the November 2023 issue of TPWD magazine:

https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2023/nov/ed_2_jump/index.phtml

The essential information developed on the sites to date follows:

1. A substantial amount of the archaeological deposits have been lost to erosion (>70% of sites).
2. 41BI564 is a jump site. The site is on a surface sandwiched between two cliffs (i.e., it's on an elevated surface below a cliff and the latter site surface is bounded by cliffs so bison can't get up there unless they fall from above). The jump status is also corroborated by the broad dispersion of bones (diagnostic of a non-arroyo context), their landform-deposit context (as compared to an arroyo fill) and indications of jump-related bone trauma.
3. Currently there is limited evidence of processing of the bison remains at either site. A larger sample is needed including materials from east of 41BI565. Most bone at 41BI564 (the jump) appears to represent unused or inaccessible animals from the kill.
4. Most of the 41BI564 appears to reflect one Late Archaic event at 1,631 mean cal BP. However, high resolution XAD pre-treated radiocarbon dating on bone (with Dr. Jon Lohse) is planned to further resolve the precision of the kill event(s).
5. A Late Prehistoric component (571 mean cal BP) is present in the gully (Areas C/D) at 41BI564, however the deposits related to this timeframe <1000 BP appear to be scarce and deflated.
6. The TTU assemblage comprises 336 identifiable bison elements from the two sites. This includes eight crania (two bulls, three cows) and five mandibles. A minimum of 11 individuals are represented from both sites. Overall herd composition indicates a cow/calf group.
7. The Late Archaic component included a 1.6-year-old mandible, which indicates an early Fall jump season.
8. Differential preservation of remains and small scattered sink basins suggest a complex site formation history with remobilization and reburial of bone.



Join Team Nighthawk

The testing work has been great, but we aren't satisfied we've learned enough about the site. The site is too rare to do nothing further. Every time we visit, new bones are eroding away. Last year, we resolved to expand the scope of the project to emergency salvage of the jump site along with comprehensive survey and testing of deposits that haven't yet been interrogated. Fortunately, we received a generous grant from the Summerlee Foundation and will be receiving support from TPWD to conduct our next phase of work starting in **March 2024**. We've teamed with the non-profit organization Plains Archeological Research (PAR) to facilitate this work: <https://www.plainsarch.org/>.

Ken Lawrence poses near the bone bed at 41BI565.

We are still looking for experienced volunteers to help with our excavation. Please note volunteers will need to be able to hike 2.2 miles (round trip) and climb/descend a 45-foot cliff. **If you are interested in volunteering this March at Nighthawk, please send me an email** and I'll provide more information: augustgcosta@me.com.



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From the HAS Archives



A repository of past issues of *The Profile* is available on the HAS website, where you will find a wealth of fascinating archived articles. This piece from February of 2006 continues with Fred Kelly's lessons about the names of months ([2006 February Profile.pdf](#)):

February was the month the ancient Romans honored Februus, god of purification and namesake of February. This was the time to clean and purify one's surroundings and mental outlook.

Also, it was a month for family reunions and a time to set things right with family members, living and dead. In other words, February is the time for "spring cleaning."

~ Fred Kelly

Third century mosaic, month of February.
 Archeological Museum of Sousse, Tunisia.
 Source: [Februarius, the month of purification \(vita-romae.com\)](#).
 Also see [What's in a name? Months of the year | British Museum](#).



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What Was That?

Thomas L. Nuckols

I thought that I was familiar with every sound made by all the creatures that inhabit South Texas, until recently.

I often spend time on the Nuckols Ranch in Big Wells, Texas. My grandfather, Tom “Pappy” Nuckols (1905-1986), purchased some land in the mid-1960s in nearby Valley Wells. Pappy built an elevated deer stand on the Valley Wells site. To this day, my family and I affectionately refer to it as Pappy’s Stand.



An afternoon view from Pappy's Stand, November 2023. Sauz Mocho Creek is visible behind a squadron of javelina (collared peccary, *Tayassu tajacu*) that emerged from the brush to eat corn dispensed by the feeder. The arrow points to a baby. Javelina are edible, taste like lean pork or goat, and they are best barbecued. A game animal, hunters are allowed two javelina a year. My grandfather used to order tamales made by local women from javelina meat, however, we don't eat them anymore. Photograph by the author.

lurked nearby. We remained in place for another hour or so without hearing the shrieks again, all the while wondering what kind of animal had produced those chilling sounds.

Once back home in Houston, an internet search revealed that the animal sounds John and I heard that night in the deer stand were made by a fox. Visit this link to experience what we heard:

https://m.facebook.com/100044910623559/videos/126181977711259/?_so=_permalink.

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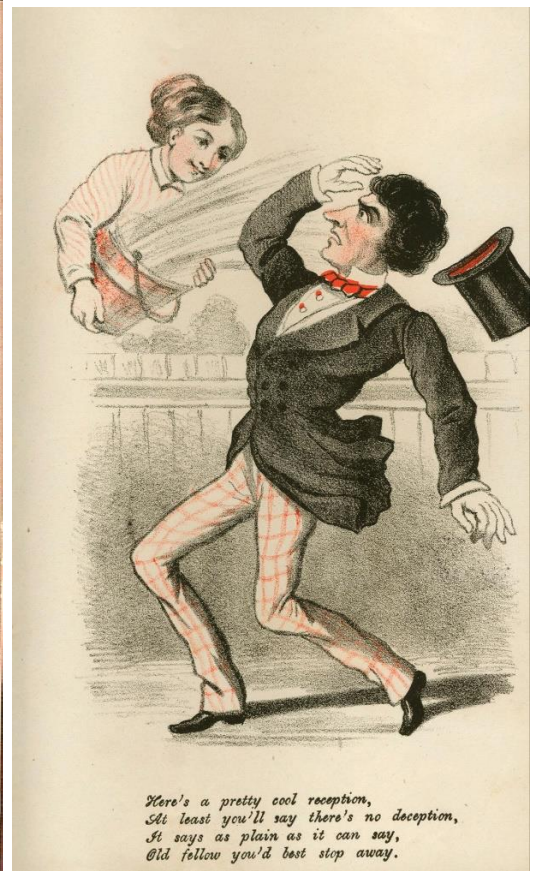
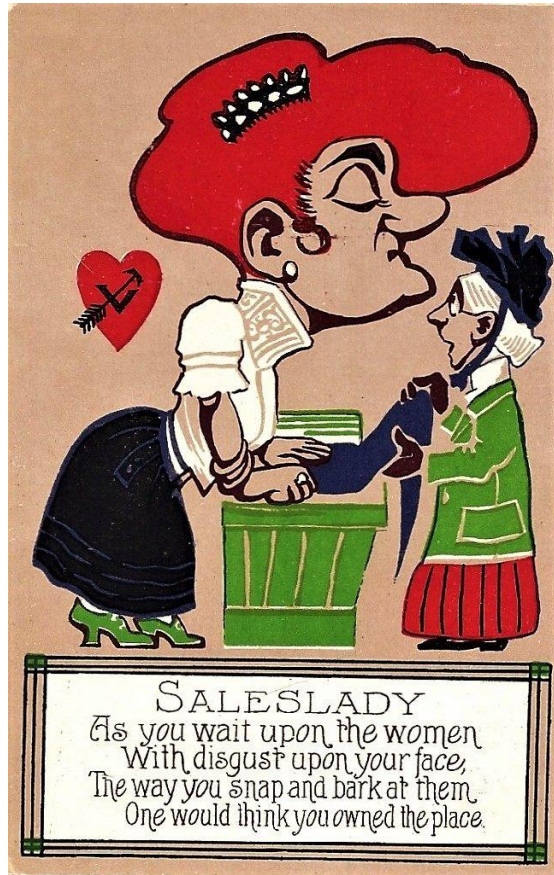
Calling All HAS Members – Please send photos and articles for *The Profile*!

We would like **all HAS members** to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. Please send submissions to newsletter@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? Add your voice to our community’s conversation. 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.

Victorian Vinegar Valentines

These rather vicious cards delivered insults instead of sweet sentiments!

Figure 1. For a rude saleslady, c. 1910; <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/vinegar-valentines-victorian>.
 Figure 2. For an unwelcome visitor. Courtesy of Royal Pavilion & Museums; [He Loves Me—Not: Vinegar Valentines in the 19th Century — Online - Don't Take Pictures \(donttakepictures.com\)](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/vinegar-valentines-victorian).
 Figure 3. Civil War era vinegar valentine; [Emerging Civil War](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/vinegar-valentines-victorian).
 Figure 4. A slithery valentine, c. 1870; <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/vinegar-valentines-victorian>. See [Down with Love: A Brief History of the Vinegar Valentine](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/vinegar-valentines-victorian) — Maryland Center for History and Culture (mdhistory.org): [The Insulting "Vinegar Valentine" Card](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/vinegar-valentines-victorian) | [Archival Moments](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/vinegar-valentines-victorian).



WWI Soldier Paul Hendrickson: Flirtations, the Flu, and a Lost Love

Betsy Wittenmyer



Figure 1. Corporal Paul Hendrickson.
Courtesy of James and Betty Hendrickson Gill.

Many local historians and HAS members are familiar with the Paul Hendrickson Collection in the Woodson Research Center Special Collections & Archives at Rice University ([Paul B. Hendrickson World War I collection - Rice University Digital Collections](#)). Hendrickson trained at Camp Logan, generally the site of today's Memorial Park. HAS members have assisted with archeological work there, identifying extant features of the ephemeral camp, such as manholes and the concrete foundations of shower houses.

Hendrickson's letters, diary entries, and amazingly accurate hand-drafted map of the camp (often referenced by researchers) illustrate daily life while preparing for duty in France, additionally describing the later challenges and horrors of the Western Front ([Map of Camp Logan, Houston, Texas - Rice University Digital Collections](#)). It appears that, as a jaunty single fellow, he also spent a lot of time thinking about women! A great correspondent, Hendrickson regularly wrote numerous female friends and spoke of them in his diary. While stationed at his first post, Camp Parker in Quincy, Illinois, Paul received a pass for a quick trip home to Danville, Illinois. He visited Maude Anderson, who seemed to be a hometown sweetheart. However, she decided to marry a different local boy, Victor Van Hook.



Figure 2. Paul and Maude Anderson photographed during Paul's visit home from Quincy in June of 1917. Source: [Pictures of Maude \(Anderson\) Van Hook \(jimgill.net\)](#).

Paul writes of Mary Loff, Rose Levin, and Pearl Smith from Alvin, Texas, who "[couldn't] be a nicer girl ... she is so southern ... a perfect blonde ... she thinks I'm so wise" (Letter of Jan. 1, 1918). Leah Longstreth mailed Paul a "box of candy and a couple of kerchiefs ... she is still writing to me and writes the most interesting letters for a girl" (Letter of Jan. 1, 1918).

But while stationed in Quincy, Paul had become particularly bewitched by Stella Dodd, an army nurse. They attended band concerts, spent afternoons together, and she loved to



Paul's photos of Stella Dodd, captioned as follows. Fig. 3. As she danced for me one evening at her home. She danced for many home talent plays for charity work. Very accomplished in the art of dancing. Fig. 4. (From Stella to Paul) Hello! Paul. Fig. 5. A Sunday afternoon at Camp Parker after a band concert. Fig. 6. Stella after becoming a nurse, in which cause she contracted influenza and sacrificed her life for her country. Sources: [Pictures of Stella Dodd from Quincy, Illinois](#); <http://www.jimgill.net/wwipages/notes/people/sdodd.html>.

dance, performing in talent shows. Paul wrote, “she danced for me one evening at her home . . . very accomplished in the art of dancing” (Hendrickson, Stella Dodd from Quincy, Illinois). They struck up regular communication and exchanges of photographs throughout the war. On November 30, 1918, while posted in northeastern France near Rupt-sur-Moselle, Paul received an envelope with heartbreaking contents. While tending to patients, Stella contracted Spanish Flu, consequently passing away on November 4 at age twenty. Stella’s mother wrote to Paul with the tragic news, including the obituary:

Miss Stella Dodd died this morning at the State hospital in Peoria, where she was a nurse. Her death is very sad. She was a victim of the “influenza” and after a week’s illness, her life closed just when it seemed full of promise of usefulness in her profession of mercy. (Obituary of Stella Dodd, Nov. 4, 1918)

By now, having witnessed much suffering and death, Paul wrote cryptically:

Stella died of Span. Flu. At Peoria Hospital, where she was nurse, on Nov 4 at 7:15 am. Buried Nov 6. At 10 am. sick 6 days. Had best of care. (Diary Entry of Nov. 30, 1918)

Sacrificed her life for her country. (Inscription on Hendrickson’s photo of Stella Dodd, Pictures of Stella Dodd from Quincy, Illinois)

After the Armistice of November 11, 1918, Paul served in peace-keeping forces, playing trumpet and cornet with the company band. The group performed for Luxembourg’s Grand Ducal Family. “Gold braid & ornament-bedecked” guards escorted the musicians through “the great grounds to the palace . . . and into the court (Diary Entry of Nov. 11, 1918; Letter of Jan. 8, 1919). Flirtation ensued, as Hendrickson reported that the bold soldiers tried chatting up the royal ladies (Diary Entry of Nov. 11, 1918; Letter of Jan. 8, 1919).

After his discharge on June 6, 1919, Paul Hendrickson finally walked over the threshold of his family home, safe and sound. Throughout the war, Paul had also corresponded with a neighborhood girl down the street, Cecil Frances Rife. As he was four years her senior, she seemed like a child when he left to join the Expeditionary Forces, his “little friend” and “little pal” (Letters of June 18, 1918; Aug. 18, 1918). He would write with advice about schoolwork and piano lessons—to keep studying and practicing—and about the opposite sex—“a boy is a stupid sort of an insect” (Letter of Nov. 29, 1918). Their friendship continued upon his return, and they shared similar interests, such as music. When Paul was age 26 and Cecil had blossomed into a 22-year-old woman, their relationship evolved into love. They married in 1923, lived in Danville the rest of their lives, and enjoyed a long and happy union.



Fig. 6. Cecil Frances Rife, the teenager down the street.
Fig. 7. Cecil became Paul’s wife five years later. Photographs courtesy of James and Betty Hendrickson Gill; <http://www.jimgill.net/wwipages>; Collection: Paul B. Hendrickson World War I collection | ArchivesSpace Public Interface (rice.edu).

Sources:

Collection: Paul B. Hendrickson World War I collection | ArchivesSpace Public Interface (rice.edu)
Diary of Paul B Hendrickson, 24 November to 30 November 1918 ([jimgill.net](http://www.jimgill.net))
history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/336hendricks_on.html
<http://www.jimgill.net/wwipages/letter18/p180101f.html>
Letter from Paul B Hendrickson to his father and mother, 1 Jan 1918 ([jimgill.net](http://www.jimgill.net))
Letter from Paul B Hendrickson to Miss Cecil Rife, 20 Nov. 1918 ([jimgill.net](http://www.jimgill.net))
Map of Camp Logan, Houston, Texas - Rice University Digital Collections
Obituary of Stella Dodd ([jimgill.net](http://www.jimgill.net))
Paul B. Hendrickson World War I collection - Rice University Digital Collections

HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, paleontology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions for thought-provoking archeology and history references, resources, and links.

Although February can be bleak, the month includes holidays with interesting and ancient historical backgrounds.



Ming Dynasty earthenware roof tile depicting a dragon c. 1366-1400. Source: [roof-tile | The British Museum](#).

Saturday, February 10, marks the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Dragon. Learn more about the history, traditions, and archeology:

[2,000-year-old 'celestial calendar' discovered in ancient Chinese tomb | Live Science](#)
[10,000-Year-Old Engraved Stone Found to be World's Oldest Lunar Calendar | Ancient Origins \(ancient-origins.net\)](#)

[The Ancient Story of Dumplings in China — Archaeology Now](#)

[Lunar New Year 2024 - Animal, Dates & Celebrations | HISTORY](#)

[Lunar New Year origins, customs explained | University of California](#)

[The Lunar New Year: Rituals and Legends | Asia for Educators | Columbia University](#)

[Origin and Customs of the Chinese New Year \(wku.edu\)](#).

Valentine's Day brings sentimental cards and chocolate in heart-shaped boxes - how did this popular annual holiday on February 14 and its traditions evolve?

<https://iblog.iup.edu/trowelsandtribulations/2022/02/11/i-dig-u-valentines-day/>;

<https://www.thechocolatejournalist.com/blog/first-sold-chocolate-valentines-day/>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bLEnxF4Ef8>; [Valentines Day: History of the Heart Symbol | TIME](#);

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-chocolate-and-valentines-day-mated-life-180954228/>;

[The Hidden History of Valentine's Day | University of Nevada, Las Vegas \(unlv.edu\)](#);

[The Strange History of Valentine's Day \(thenotsoinnocentsabroad.com\)](#);

<https://folklore-society.com/resources/valentines/>;

<https://www.americanantiquarian.org/Exhibitions/Valentines/early.htm>;

“Mother of the Valentine”: Esther Howland, Worcester, and the American Valentine Industry –

Past is Present; <https://commonplace.online/article/touching-sentiment/>;

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>;

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/gory-origins-valentines-day-180968156/>;

<http://museumcollections.hullcc.gov.uk>;

<https://www.npr.org/2011/02/14/133693152/the-dark-origins-of-valentines-day>.



Early American valentine produced by Esther Howland (1828-1904). Source: “Mother of the Valentine”: Esther Howland, Worcester, and the American Valentine Industry – Past is Present.



And we can hope for an early spring forecast this Groundhog Day, an event with German folklore and Celtic pagan roots:

[A Short History of Groundhog Day | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine](#);

[Groundhog Day: Phil's Myth Stretches Back Centuries | Live Science](#);

[Punxsutawney Phil: The Groundhog Behind the Myth | Live Science](#);

[Groundhog Day: The German Connection • The German Way & More \(german-way.com\)](#).



Vintage Postcard; Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, PA, 1963.

Sources:

[600ed4c2df61e6563d80ba5d4dfb245a.jpg](#);

[1-2-1DE2-25-ExplorePAHistory-a0m9y9-a_349.jpg](#).

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.

February 15, 2024 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Heather Para speaking about archeological site on the Greek island of Santorini. Virtual meeting. Watch your emails for a Zoom link.

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.

April 18, 2024 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Nicholas Bourgeois, Archeologist at Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site.

May 16, 2024 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Brad Jones, Texas State Archeologist.

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](#).

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Upcoming Events

Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.

VIRTUAL:

American Institute of Archaeology

2/4 – Sunday, Noon p.m. Central. Drawing from archaeological and historical evidence, Dr. Petra Creamer of Emory University discusses the intricate web of socio-economic, cultural, and political transformations experienced by the non-elite populace under Assyrian rule, illuminating how the empire's administrative policies influenced Assyria's subjects – from those residing in urban centers to rural communities. Free, virtual: [AIA Event Listings - Society Sunday 2024 Public Lecture](#).

2/9 – Friday, 4 p.m. Central. Dr. Maggie Popkin of Case Western Reserve University presents *Imagining the Roman Empire Through Its Souvenirs*. Free, virtual: towson-edu.zoom.us/j/98825554469?pwd=bGpsWXFuemQvRVcrL1VQaU10WWlqZz09.

2/15 – Thursday, 6:30 Pacific/8:30 Central. Dr. Rhodora Vennarucci of the University of Arkansas discusses the Felt Shop of Verecundus in Pompeii and the cultural implications of shopping and commerce in Roman society. Free, virtual: [Socii and Sociability: Shopping for Status in a Roman Shop](#).

2/19 – Monday, 6 p.m. Central. Dr. Brian Rose of the University of Pennsylvania discusses *Archaeology, Museums, and War in the 21st Century*, an overview of cultural heritage destruction and preservation programs in conflict zones. Free, virtual: [AIA Event Listings - Archaeology, Museums, and War in the 21st Century](#).

2/22 – Thursday, 3:30 p.m. Central. Dr. Dorian Borbonus of the University of Dayton presents *Dignity and Social Control Through Burial Practices in Ancient Rome*. Free, virtual: [AIA Event Listings - Dignity and Social Control](#).

2/22 – Thursday, 6 p.m. Mountain/7 p.m. Central. Dr. Jessica L. Lamont of Yale University discusses archaeological and material evidence for the practice of magic in the ancient Greek world, from binding spells to curse tablets to incantations. Free, virtual: https://asu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrcOyhpjIjHdKS0QhImhdu_R_d9QkeH7A7.

2/28 – Wednesday, 7 p.m. Central. Dr. Nam C. Kim of the University of Wisconsin-Madison explores the archaeological record of the Red River Valley in northern Vietnam, home to powerful indigenous kingdoms, fortified capitals, and exquisite bronze craftsmanship. Free, virtual. Register at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series

2/1 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. *Montana Hidden Treasure: Finding Uncommon Preservation in "Common" Fossils*, presented by Dr. Nathan Carroll, Curator of Paleontology at Carter County Museum, Ekalaka, Montana. Amber and fossils preserve exceptional soft tissues like feathers, fur, and insects. For more information see: <https://engelhardtmooresite.com/lecture-series>.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85446733837?pwd=ODZCbKRTSll1TndLVHZNcHVpYkFydz09>

ON-SITE:

Barrington Plantation State Historic Site

2/3 to 2/4 – Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [Butchering & Curing](#). Weather Dependent - butchering a hog on Saturday and beginning the curing process on Sunday.

2/17 – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [Cooking in the Quarter](#), demonstrations on cooking a traditional meal in the style of enslaved foodways using period ingredients and methods.

2/18 – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. [Cooking in the Kitchen](#) - cooking demonstrations using historic recipes.

Brazos County Historical Commission

Now 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](#).

Friends of Archaeology

2/13 - Tuesday, 11 a.m. Clayton Library, Houston. America's First Cultures, a virtual lecture series by *Dr. Edwin Barnhart*, Director of Maya Exploration Center, University of Texas. How Paleo-Indians evolved into the people of The Archaic Period. For more information; contact Kathleen Solcher at kathleen@solcher.com.

Lake Jackson Historical Association

2/3 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Jackson Plantation Historical Site, open the first Saturday of every month.

2/10 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Alden B. Dow Office Museum, open the second Saturday of every month. www.ljhistory.org.

Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria College

Special Exhibit - Historic and iconic ranching photographs drawn from the museum's popular temporary exhibit, Cattle Boom!

2/3 – Saturday, 2 p.m. John W. Stormont Lecture Series. Historian Joseph Fox discusses historical events that took place in Victoria, including an effort to join Mexican Federalists to start a country with Laredo as the capital, and the murder trial of Dennis Chapin.

3/2 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Hands-on History: Texas Independence Day Author Fair. Join Texas authors for book signings, individual book sales, author readings, and discussions about their works.

2 p.m. John W. Stormont Lecture Series. An interview with Louise S. O'Connor, author of *Cryin' for Daylight: A Ranching Culture in the Texas Coastal Bend*.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

2/24 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tying the Knot - The Fanthorps' 190th Anniversary at San Felipe de Austin. Learn the story of the early life, courtship, and marriage of Rachel Virginia Kennard and Henry Fanthorp and discover traditions associated with a colonial Texas wedding.

Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center

Treks will resume in March.

Texas Historical Commission and the Houston Holocaust Museum

2/29 – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Resisters: How Ordinary Jews Fought Persecution in Hitler's Germany.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

2/17 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Living History Saturday: Delegate Election Day. Recreation of the statewide February 1836 election which elected delegates for the Convention of 1836 at Washington. The men elected to this convention would declare independence from Mexico and write the Constitution for the Republic of Texas.

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

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