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**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, January 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**



Greetings HAS members! Our January HAS meeting will take place on Thursday, January 18, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center. This meeting will be in person and also available to members via Zoom. Later, the lecture will be posted for the public on our YouTube channel. As our January speaker, we welcome lithic analyst and Paleolithic researcher Dr. Alan Slade, who will present a program on the Texas Folsom Fluted Point Survey. In 1985, David Meltzer of Southern Methodist University (SMU) initiated a survey of Clovis fluted points in Texas (TCFPS). That survey continues to the present under the control and curation of staff at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL).

Slade advises that previously there had been no official Folsom point survey, nor an 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 (Largent et al. 1991; Largent 1995), but nothing has been published since (but see Bousman et al. 2004). Before that, there were a few earlier accounts by Fischel (1939), Hester (1967), and Pertulla (1993), but these were much more localized and on a smaller scale. In the most recent Largent survey, there are 345 Folsom points documented from 102 localities in 63 of the 254 Texas counties. Moreover, 100 of these points came from one site, Chispa Creek in Culberson County (Seebach 2004). It is anticipated that these tallies will be significantly increased. The TFFPS will eventually come under the control and curation of TARL, as will the Clovis survey (TCFPS). During Phase 1 of the TFFPS survey, a comprehensive literature review was carried out, and contact was made with colleagues, professional and avocational archaeologists, collectors, and members of the general public who might have information about Folsom fluted points from Texas and the Texas Borderlands. That first phase of the project increased the total of Folsom point records from 345 to over 400. Phase 2 of the project was the processing, interpretation, and comparative analysis of the data. This presentation will introduce the results of the survey with an emphasis on how the current survey relates to the coastal region of Texas, including the areas around Houston. Slade will also discuss some plans for future research.

Dr. Alan Slade is currently a postdoctoral researcher with the University of Texas at Austin, Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL), and is also a member of the team that heads the Prehistory Research Project (PRP). Alan spent fifteen years as a Prehistoric and Paleolithic field archaeologist in Britain and Europe, and a further decade helping to curate the lithic collections in the British Museum. In 2007, Alan became interested in Early Paleoindian archaeology, in particular the Clovis culture, which existed from roughly 11,500 to 10,800 BCE near the end of the last Glacial Period. Alan spent six years studying the Clovis fluted points in collections across North America, largely facilitated and encouraged by Dennis Stanford of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Michael Collins invited Alan to continue his analysis of Clovis fluted point technology and to become a lithic analyst for the TCFPS project in 2019. Alan has directed the TCFPS at TARL since 2019. Alan was educated at Birkbeck College, University of London (UCL) Institute of Archaeology, and at the University of Southampton. He is a research fellow of the Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins (CAHO) at the University of Southampton. Alan serves on the committee for the Lithic Studies Society (LSS) and is also an active member of the Society for Museum Archaeologists (SMA). Since 2018, he has been an active member of the Texas Archeological Society, the Central Texas Archeological Society, and the Travis County Archaeological Society.

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](mailto:president@txhas.org).  
*Frank Kozar, HAS Vice-President*

## President's Message – Robert Sewell



**Happy New Year, everyone!** I hope y'all have recovered from the holidays and are ready to dig up Texas history with us again— one trowel full at a time - in 2024!

For 2024, we anticipate a revisit to the site 41WL3, commonly known as the Goloby Site, which is a prehistoric site located a few miles north of San Felipe de Austin in Waller County. HAS investigated this site back in the early 2000s and we have kindly been asked to excavate some more. Also, another project opportunity at a site near Alleyton, Colorado County, will be reviewed. This is another prehistoric site. And of course, we will continue to work at the Lone Oak Site, near Frelsburg, also in Colorado County. We have again been invited to participate in the excavations at Kirbee Kiln in Montgomery County. Most of these opportunities will not require any previous archeological expertise. We will teach new folks what they need to know. Look out for emails from [fielddirector@txhas.org](mailto:fielddirector@txhas.org) with further information about all these projects.

We will also have a number of outreach activities coming up during the year, including events at the Houston Arboretum in February and March. On February 24 at Arboretum Archeology Day, we will feature our popular Show-and-Tell ([Arboretum Archeology Day - Houston Arboretum & Nature Center](#)) and on March 16, we will present a talk at one of their evening programs ([HOUstory: Archeology in Houston - Houston Arboretum & Nature Center](#)).

In addition, don't forget that the TAS Field School takes place in June, and then the TAS Annual Meeting is planned for October. Both of these events are usually attended by many HAS members, and they are a great way to get to know people.

We have a terrific slate of speakers planned for our 2024 monthly meetings, so please come to either the in-person meetings or join us via Zoom (HAS members only). I look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

*Bob Sewell, HAS President*



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



### ARCHEOLOGY WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS

Nacogdoches County Annex  
101 W. Main St., Nacogdoches, Texas

[txarch.org/EducatorsWorkshop/](http://txarch.org/EducatorsWorkshop/)

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

### 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 \(txhas.org\)](#),

or download a hardcopy of the membership form at <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>

and mail it to us with your payment. Our memberships are the best deal in town, available at \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), \$15 (Student), and \$35+ at the Contributing Membership level. Remember that benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area, work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites, and receive free copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals.

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



## Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2023

**Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.** – Bob Sewell (President) welcomed members.

### **TAS Academies** – Bob Sewell (President)

Eleanor Stoddart is coordinating the TAS Zooarcheology and Osteology Academy taking place in Houston at Rice University on February 10-11 February. Full – waitlist on TAS website.

Geoarcheology, Victoria, Texas on March 8 -10. Full – waitlist on TAS website.

Ceramic Academy, Dallas/Fort Worth on April 27 - 28. Spots available.

### **Treasurer and Membership Report** – Louis Hebert (Treasurer)

Finances - The 2024 budget is being prepared and will be presented to the membership in January. There are no big expenditures expected and adjustments will be made in line with the rising costs of services provided to the society.

Finances are healthy, please feel free to contact Louis at [treasurer@txhas.org](mailto:treasurer@txhas.org) if you have any questions.

Membership - Membership renewal has opened, available online through the HAS website. One quarter of our membership has already renewed for 2024, please get busy and renew now, it is excellent value! For members who joined in September or later, your membership is good through 2024.

**Newsletter** – Betsy Wittenmyer – 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. We can assist you with editing.

**Publications** – Bob Sewell (President) – We are pleased to introduce Sandy Meredith, our new Publications Editor. Sandy has accessed the HAS Amazon and Kindle publishing accounts, and we look forward to supporting her progress on our Journal.

**Our next monthly HAS meeting takes place January 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** Alan Slade will be speaking on the Texas Folsom Fluted Point Survey, in follow up to the Texas Clovis Point Survey update he previously presented to HAS. This meeting will take place at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center at 1414 Wirt Road in Houston, with a Zoom link available for members who cannot attend in person. Be watching your emails.

**The business meeting was brought to a close at 6:48**, after which Bob Sewell presented a slide show of the many activities that HAS has undertaken throughout 2023.

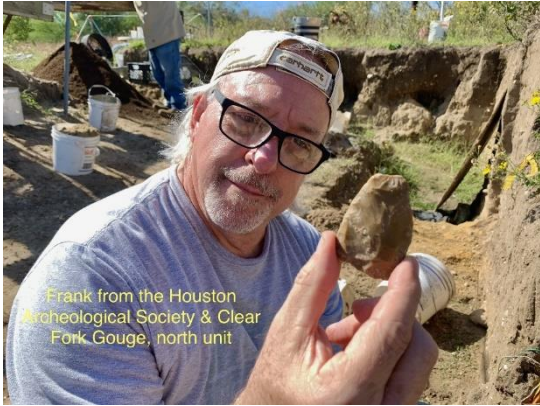
Bob then led a moment of reflection as we remembered our dear friend Louis Aulbach. Afterwards, members enjoyed holiday refreshments and partied in a manner Louis always enjoyed.

*Wishing you Happy Holidays - Emma Baldwin, Secretary*



**Meet HAS Student Member Jessica Calderon** - Hi! My name is Jessica Calderon and I'm from Bakersfield, California. Growing up in California, I have always been influenced by my Mexican-American culture. I graduated with my B.A. in Anthropology from the University of California, Merced, and I plan to continue my studies by going to graduate school to get my Ph.D. in Bioarchaeology. I attribute my interest in Bioarchaeology to my Mexican-American cultural background, mortuary rituals, and beliefs. Recently, I attended the Sanisera Archaeology Institute for International Field School in Menorca, Spain, under Dr. Fernando Contreras. We excavated and studied the ancient Roman city of Sanisera, which existed from the 2nd century B.C. to the 6th century A.D., and we excavated and analyzed remains from the Necropolis of Sanisera. The osteology corpus in the Necropolis included more than 232 individuals and so far, more than ninety tombs have been excavated. You can learn more about the program here: [Digging anthropology in the Sanisera Necropolis \(archaeology.institute\)](http://Digging anthropology in the Sanisera Necropolis (archaeology.institute)).

**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).

41VT141 was regularly occupied by prehistoric cultures over thousands of years. CoBALT recently had a guest excavator on site: HAS Vice President Frank Kozar! Frank managed to find a really nice bifacial Clear Fork tool to add to our ongoing study. It was great to have him onsite, and we hope he joins us again soon.

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](mailto: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.



**Reflections on the TAS Annual Meeting of October 2023**

**Nick Morgan, President, Travis County Archeological Society**

A big thank you goes out to everyone who came to San Marcos in support of the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society. It was one of the best-attended meetings in years and will not be soon forgotten. Registration numbers exceeded four hundred, and all together, over a hundred papers were presented. The silent auction and raffle brought in \$4,000 and the CTA Social was a rousing success.

Once the dust settles though, and the final tallies have been calculated, what remains in our memories are those moments that define the reason we chose to be part of the TAS and even a part of the institution of archeology itself. Of course, I'm referring to the comradery and the spirit of community that binds us into an extended family. We have our squabbles and disagreements, but in the end, we love being together. That simple truth was evident in the hallways between sessions, at the breakfast tables, and of course, at the bar. And friends, we put away a lot of liquor in two days—at happy hour, yeah, but even at other times despite the exorbitant prices!

What we were a part of during those few days in October was a renewal of our identity, a redefining of who we are. Elton has handed over the “be it resolved” to the next generation. More students are presenting papers than ever before. Ashley Lemke's banquet presentation utilized new methods of communicating that were simply amazing, and abstracts were accessed by QR codes. The feared ageing demographics of TAS membership is no longer an issue: the young folks came out like never before.

Sadly, the 2023 Annual Meeting may well have been the last one we'll see at a convention hotel, at least for a long time to come. It's great for everyone to be in one place, but the prices have become prohibitive. Because we contracted so far in advance, we were able to secure a *somewhat* reasonable room rate with free parking, happy hour, and breakfast to sweeten the deal. Yet, for a lot of folks, the overall cost was painful. Time will tell. If this was the last meeting at a convention hotel, then we'll explore other plans. All said and done, though, it was good for our young folks to know what a traditional Annual Meeting looks like. It will be up to them to decide how to put one on.

Once again, thank you to all who attended, and thank you to local societies who provided scholarships, to the Travis County Archeological Society for hosting, and to Humanities Texas and the City of San Marcos for financial backing. Sincere thanks to all for this much-appreciated support!

## Writing and Archeology

Leonie Waithman

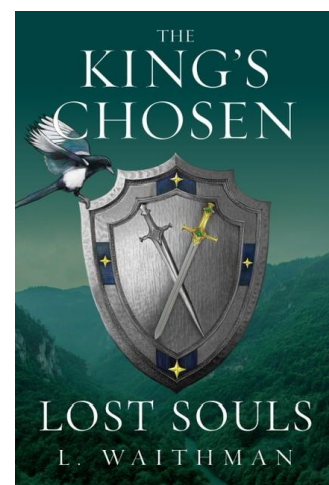
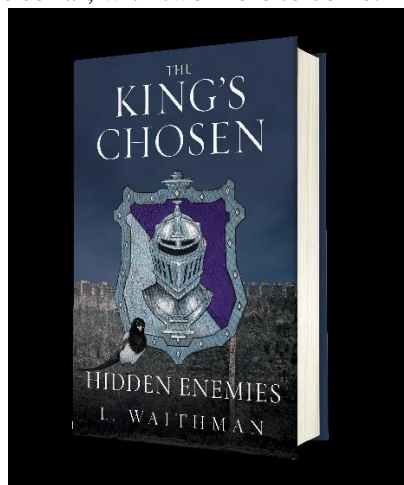
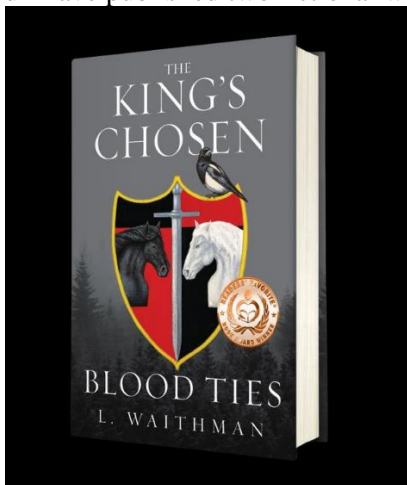
The December newsletter included a list of published works by HAS members. Most were works of historical non-fiction, which is not surprising, except for mine. I write fiction, but my stories take place in medieval times. When asked to write an article for this newsletter about my book series, I was given a question: Did I think there was a connection between my love for writing and archeology? Did one influence the other? The answer to that is no. Even though both tell a story, one through artifacts and the other with imagination, it is my basic love for history that is driving both.

Growing up near a castle in the Netherlands and traveling through Europe with a father who loved history heavily influenced my desire to seek answers to the stories behind the buildings and ruins I visited. Whose footsteps were I following down the deep tunnels of catacombs or dungeons? Who could have possibly sat by the window overlooking the rose gardens? What did they have to eat? When facts could not answer my questions, my imagination took over, and it wasn't long before I wrote stories.

Then, when I was sixteen, I met the local archeology group in my hometown. The group exposed and recorded the foundations of a 17th-century monastery that once occupied a site. Again, I had many questions, but the artifacts and features began to answer them this time. I remember marveling at the discoveries and realizing for the first time that most of history is still buried underground. These archeologists were uncovering visual evidence of the history of my hometown that previously I had only heard about. I wanted to be part of that, and I ended up helping them on many Saturdays as a teenager.

Our work progressed from the monastery, to the town's castle foundations, to a mixed site of pre-Roman, Roman, and early medieval. I didn't pursue a degree in archeology simply because they pushed all kids into pursuing degrees that would pay a decent salary. Archeology was not on that list. Neither was writing, so both those interests were put on hold for many years while I pursued other avenues. However, I could not deny myself what I had loved for long; once my children were older, I connected with both again.

First, I started writing. Then, I joined Sarah Chesney as a volunteer in the archeology department at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site and later joined HAS. Now, I regularly participate in fieldwork, uncovering Texas history one artifact at a time, and I have published two fictional works so far, with two more to come.



*Blood Ties* and *Hidden Enemies*, the first two books in The King's Chosen series, tell the story of Lucas, who has the sole power to save two kingdoms from destruction. Raised as a blacksmith's son, he is an outsider ostracized by the other village children. One night, a mysterious black stone at a nearby monastery whispers a haunting premonition to Lucas. When his father is brutally murdered, the monks take Lucas in, convinced he is an extraordinary hero foretold by destiny. However, a restless and eager Lucas runs off to join a traveling circus where he draws the attention of the powerful King Itan, who believes Lucas is one of "the chosen"—a group of boys who are descendants of warriors that once fought in a great battle. The king will stop at nothing to compel Lucas to join his chosen army, all while the soldiers who killed Lucas's father are

closing in. Before long, Lucas is embroiled in a covert plot to defeat the king while an unseen enemy begins planning to bring the young man down before he learns the truth of his remarkable power.

Writing the King's Chosen series sure has been a labor of love for which I have had to delve deeper into medieval times and explore English castles. With book three set to be released in March of 2024 and book four coming along, writing fills my days, but I rarely pass up the opportunity to go out with HAS on a dig, and I will continue to do so for as long as I can.

*We wish to congratulate Leonie on a recent honor and recognition! Blood Ties received a bronze medal in the 2023 Reader's Favorite International Book Award competition in the Young Adult Mythology and Folklore genre: Blood Ties - Readers' Favorite: Book Reviews and Award Contest (readersfavorite.com). See these links to her current books: Blood-Ties-L-Waithman/dp/1626349223; Hidden-Enemies-L-Waithman/dp/1626349843. The books are also available to order at any bookstore, and Leonie can sell signed copies directly.*



### Feedback Requested! We want to hear from YOU!



Send a quick email to [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto: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](http://www.webweaver.nu/unclesam.jpg).



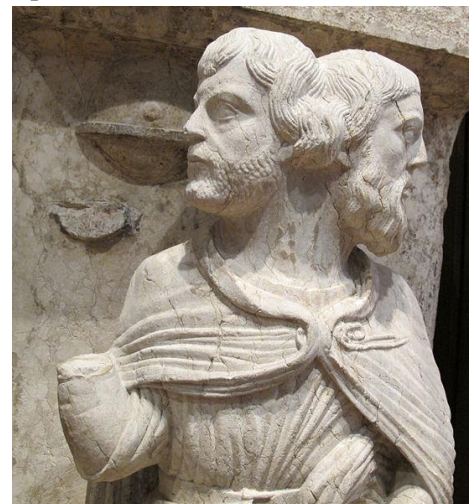
### From the HAS Archives



A repository of past issues of *The Profile* is available on the HAS website wherein you will find a wealth of fascinating archived articles, including this piece from January of 2006, written by Fred Kelly to welcome the new year ([2006 January Profile.pdf](#)). It's worth another read, so here it is from the HAS Archives:

January was the month that the ancient Romans honored their god, Janus, the namesake for January. Janus had two faces and keys jangling from his belt. One of his faces looked to the past and one to the future. His keys opened the doors to a new year, new associations, and new resolutions. So have a libation to the New Year, but remember the Romans poured their libations on the ground rather than drink them. Happy New Year!

*Fred Kelly*



Statue of the Roman god Janus in the collection of the Museum of Ferrara Cathedral, Italy. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).



## One and the Same?

Thomas L. Nuckols

### Introduction

I instilled in my oldest son, John, an interest in history. As a result, he and I often go day-tripping to locate and photograph Texas historical markers. John keeps a logbook and records every one of the historical markers we visit.

#### An Historical Marker in Seabrook

Recently, I accompanied John on a trip towards Galveston Bay in search of historical markers. In Seabrook's Pine Gully Park, we located one with an intriguing heading—PREHISTORIC INDIAN CAMPSITE—and the following inscription:

In this vicinity are the remains of a prehistoric Indian refuse pile comprised mainly of clam shells. Archeologists call such sites shell middens. They are the result of centuries of shellfish harvesting by early Indian groups. Shells found at this site have been identified as belonging to the *rangia cuneata* (common rangia) clam, a species once found in abundant numbers in the western Gulf of Mexico.

As the shell midden grew in size over the years, it became the foundation for a large Indian campsite. Stone tools and pottery uncovered here confirm later occupation. Although the tribal origins of the Indians cannot be determined, it is known that both Orcoquisac and Karankawa once lived in the area in historic times.

Shell middens were once common along the streams feeding into the bay. However, storms, subsidence, and natural erosion have destroyed many, as have mining operations that accessed the ready shell supplies for road construction projects. As a result, this is one of the best remaining examples of a prehistoric midden and campsite in Harris County. Because of its significance, the site received special protection as a State Archeological Landmark. (1988)

After reading this historical marker, I was reminded of an oft-repeated story that I have heard over the years from members of the local archaeological community.

#### The Oft-Repeated Story

The story goes something like this. There used to be a huge prehistoric shell midden somewhere in the Kemah or Seabrook area. It was destroyed in the early 1900s when the shells were used for road construction. Coincidentally, just a couple of months ago, my friend and Houston Archaeological Society member Larry Golden gave me an anthology of stories about early life around the Texas Gulf Coast, *Return to Clear Creek*, by Bill Odell. Therein, I discovered this account entitled "The Day the Creek Was Opened."

Prior to 1900, schooners wishing to sail on into Clear Lake had to wait out in the bay for high tide to get through the creek.

A ledge piled high with shell measuring 10 feet wide in some places actually ran along the bank between Evergreen (the name changed later to Kemah) and Seabrook closing off Clear Creek with the bay. You could, if it was at low tide and you were a daring soul, walk between the two villages.

As the year passed, a little town up at the northwestern part of the lake sure got busy. Why, those folks from up at Clear Creek had vegetables and cow hides and bricks and timber coming down. And doggone, waiting for that high tide sure was a thorn in the side. So, most of the time the boats were unloaded inside the levee and loaded again on another schooner for the journey on to Galveston.



*Rangia cuneata* (common rangia), the brackish water clam that was the shellfish of the greatest subsistence importance to prehistoric peoples and is of the greatest analytical importance to archeological investigations along the coast of the northern Gulf of Mexico. TARK Archives. Source: [Shell Mounds and Shellfish](#) ([texasbeyondhistory.net](#)).

Something had to be done. A plan was studied to open the creek. A building company out of Galveston, the Sootaman-Dawson Company, was called in and in no time, there was all kinds of commotion going on over there in Kemah.

First, a railroad spur was laid that tied in up the tracks about where FM 2094 comes into town and ran all the way to the bay. A small locomotive backed 3 flatcars down that track and left them right there next to the levee.

Then, mules and men and tools arrived. And there was this large tool no one had ever seen before. Gosh, it was big and it looked like a big ole shovel head. The back side had two big handles where a couple hefty workers grabbed hold and a team of mules were hitched to the front.

Now, these mules pulled that big shovel right along the levee and you should [have] seen the dirt and shell it scooped up. It was the darnest thing you ever did see.

And those fellers back there on the end sure looked as if they had their hands full. It was their job to pull down on those handles to keep the shovel head from digging right into the dirt. They kept it up just enough to scoop along the top.

When they made a run, they'd guide the mules on over to the flatcars and there they'd dump their load. They turned the mules around and went back for another scoop.

While they did all that, other workers shoveled that pile on to the flatcars.

Didn't take them long to dig out the levee. Down to the end it seemed like they were digging more water than shell and a time or two, the shovel slipped right into the creek and had to be pulled out.

And in no time it was all over. The creek was opened once and for all. Of course it was nothing like the Corp of Engineers did many years later, but that dadburned creek was opened and now those boats could come right in. They sure could. (Odell 26, 27)

I suspect that Odell is describing that same fabled prehistoric shell midden. If so, what type of shell material was removed and did the mules and rail cars deliver the cargo elsewhere for road construction? In answer to the first question, I'll speculate that the shell was likely *Rangia cuneata* as "approximately 80 percent of these [shell middens in Texas] are the brackish-water clam *Rangia cuneata*, and most of the remainder are the bay oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*" (Aten 1). Regarding the second question, I'll propose that the shell was *eventually* used for road construction based in part on a story that I found about increasing automobile traffic in Seabrook.

During the early 1900s, Second Street served as the town's main road and Houston residents soon began to make round trips using their new-fangled motor cars. In 1900, a hand-drawn ferry was in operation between Seabrook and Kemah on the Clear Creek Channel. It wasn't until 1928 that a bridge was finally built between the two towns. In 1964, a new drawbridge was built and Highway 146 was established as a four-lane highway. (Ballentine and Brummerhop)



An amazing example of an upper Gulf Coast shell midden. The archeologist depicted here in this 1965 photo has just completed a test pit through a seven-foot-thick shell midden at site 41CH36 in the Wallisville Reservoir area of Chambers County in the lower Trinity River valley. TARL Archives. Source: [Shell Mounds and Shellfish: Staff of Prehistoric Life? \(texasbeyonhistory.net\)](#).

If you know anything about the Kemah/Seabrook shell midden, please contact me at [tluckols58@att.net](mailto:tluckols58@att.net). Perhaps we can discover and preserve more information about local middens.

#### References

Aten, Lawrence E. "Shell Middens." *Texas State Historical Association*, 1 June 1995, [www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/shell-middens](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/shell-middens).

Ballentine, John, and Emogene Gant Brummerhop. "Life In Early Seabrook." *University of Houston-Clear Lake*, Friends of Evelyn Meador Library History Collection. [UHCL-Seabrook \(tdl.org\)](http://UHCL-Seabrook(tdl.org))

Odell, Bill. *Return to Clear Creek*. Independently published, 1978.

#### Suggested Reading

Kramer, Mark. "Last of the Akokisas." *Armand Bayou Nature Center*, 19 June 2020, [www.abnc.org/nature-blog/last-of-the-akokisas](http://www.abnc.org/nature-blog/last-of-the-akokisas).

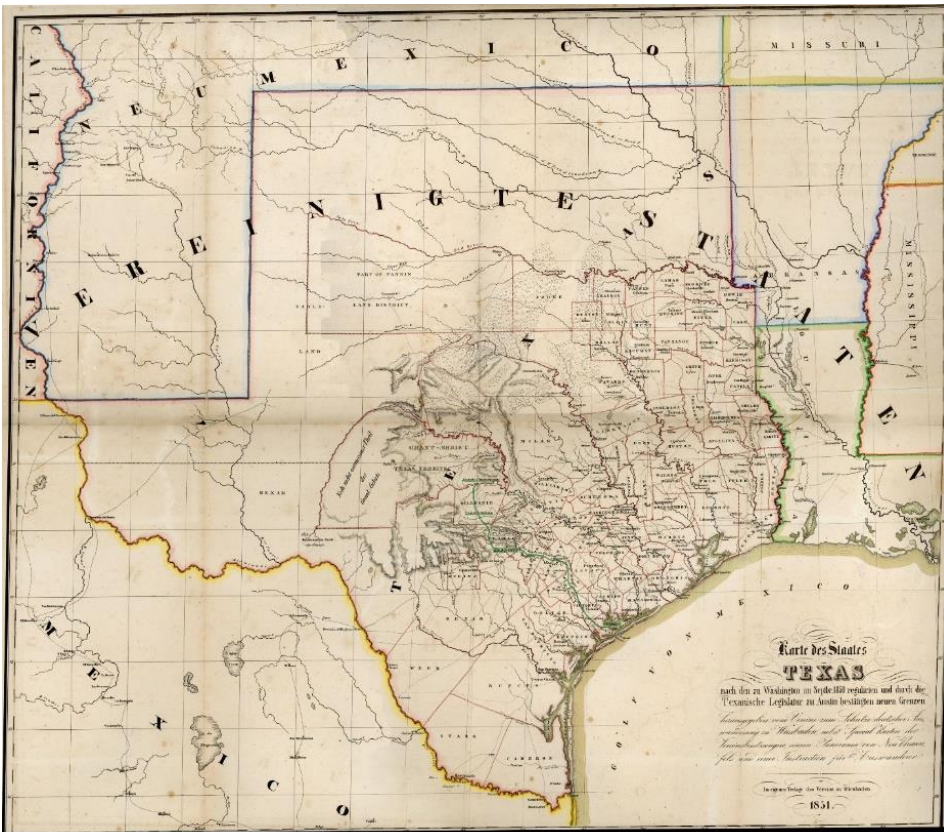
Howells, Robert G., et al. *Freshwater Mussels of Texas*. Texas Parks and Wildlife Press, 1996.

Online links: [Atlas Map - Atlas: Texas Historical Commission](#)  
[Prehistoric Indian Campsite in Seabrook, Texas - StoppingPoints.com](#)



## The German Settlers of Spring Branch

Robert Morin and Betsy Wittenmyer



The Adelsverein's map of Texas, 1851. Source: [wikimedia.org; Adelsverein Karte des Staates Texas 1851 UTA.jpg \(3051×2688\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adelsverein_Karte_des_Staates_Texas_1851_UTA.jpg).

Escaping poverty, crop failures, and political agitation, early German immigrants arriving in what is now Harris County during the Republic of Texas era (1836–1846) established ethnic enclaves in three main areas: Bear Creek, White Oak, and Spring Branch.

German immigration to Texas increased with the 1842 formation of the Mainzer Adelsverein, the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants to Texas, a colonization effort that used direct trans-Atlantic transportation to Galveston from the newly-established (1830) Bremerhaven port. Shipping line Norddeutscher Lloyd (NDL) operated the steamships in collaboration with German immigrant, diplomat, and merchant Julius Kauffman in Galveston.

### Spring Branch

Founded earlier than Houston itself, the Spring Branch neighborhood lies northwest of downtown, roughly within the borders of Interstate 10, the 610 Loop, Hempstead Road, Tanner Road, and Addicks Reservoir. According to lore, the area was named during a casual conversation between one of the earliest residents, Karl Julius Kolbe (who arrived in 1846 from Gotha in the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Thuringia), and a stranger, as they discussed the tributary of Buffalo Bayou running through the land. The dense forests and grass prairies of Spring Branch supported the farms, dairies, and sawmills of the early German pioneer families. In addition to the Kolbe family, area founders included the Bauer (1847), Rummel (1848), Schroeder (1839), Ahrenbeck (1847), Hillendahl, and Reinermann (1834) families. The 1850 census recorded thirteen German households containing thirty-seven adults and twenty-six children.

Vestiges of the Spring Branch/Memorial Germanic heritage survive today in street names such as Gessner, Conrad Sauer, Witte, Wirt, Blalock, Reinermann, Hillendahl, Bauer, Fries, Kolbe, Schroeder, Hedwig, Look, Tappenback, Beinhorn, Rummel, Clay, Oberpriller, Telchow, Tendler, Mueller, Riechart, Bingle, Riedel, Beutel, Pech, Burkhardt, Emnora, Fredrich, Hufmeister, Weiman, Koehn, and Neuens. Additionally, two of Harris County's earliest structures from these days remain: St. Peter Church at 9022 Long Point and the Fritz Schroeder home at 435 Piney Point.



Early Spring Branch resident Karl (Carl) - Kolbe. Source: [Carl Julius Kolbe \(1819-1894\)](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/111111111) - Find a Grave Memorial.

## St. Peter Church

Soon after the Bauer and Rummel families arrived in Spring Branch, August Bauer (who immigrated with his wife, Emilie, from Weisa, Saxony, in 1847) led a ceremony of thanksgiving. After the 1848 Christmas season, the pioneer families began felling trees and storing the accumulated logs, gradually working towards erecting a permanent German Protestant church on the thanksgiving site, which would serve the community as both a religious and social center. By 1854, a log cabin church existed, dedicated to St. Peter and occupying a four-acre lot donated by the Rummel and Bauer families. Disaster struck in 1864 when the frontier church caught fire. A new building arose within the year, constructed with sturdy twelve-inch timbers handpicked from the Rummel-Hildebrandt-Bauer sawmill located near the present intersection of Voss and Beinhorn Roads (Rummel-Hildebrandt-Bauer Sawmill Historical Marker).

The hand-pegged roof beams and the pews were built onsite and can still be appreciated today at St. Peter United Church of Christ, which stands on its original location and is considered Houston's oldest surviving church building (St. Peter Historical Marker).

As early as 1854, the congregation sponsored a school (The Spring Branch School Society) until the establishment of a public school in 1889. This early support of education became the foundation of the Spring Branch School District, and Spring Branch Elementary School at Campbell and Long Point Road stands on the site of the initial school.



Left: St. Peter Church. Photograph by Robert Morin.  
Right: Grave of Christiane Caroline Bauer Rummel, inscribed in German. Source: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/35169923/christiane-caroline-rummel>.



The earliest grave in the St. Peter cemetery interts Gottfried Matzke, who died in December of 1856 at age eighteen. The yellow fever epidemics of 1859 and 1867 necessitated mass unmarked burials as the stricken community struggled to deal with the diseases. In fact, church founder August Bauer perished from yellow fever in 1854, when just in his thirties. Alongside the pioneers in the still-active graveyard rest veterans of the Civil War, WWI, and WWII.



Schroeder home. Photograph by James Hulse. Source: The Fritz Schroeder Home Historical Marker (hmdb.org).

## Fritz Schroeder Home

Dorathe (1847-1919) and Friedrich "Fritz" Schroeder (1833-ca. 1903) built their farmhouse in 1865 after Fritz returned from Confederate duty, using lumber from the Rummel-Hildebrandt-Bauer sawmill, and perhaps incorporating an even older, smaller, pre-existing residence. Both Dorathe and Fritz immigrated from Hannover, Lower Saxony, as children with their families. Over the years, various owners made renovations, and during the development of Smithfield Estates in the 1990s, the historic home was donated to the City of Piney Point Village and moved to its present location at 435 Piney

Point Road. The Schroeder home is believed to be the oldest residential building in west Houston (The Fritz Schroeder Home Historical Marker).

Explore more of the area's history on this heritage trail drive:

<https://www.harriscountyarchives.com/Portals/1/Documents/Marker/Memorial%20Villages%20Heritage%20Trail%20Markers%20narrative.pdf>

Additional Sources:

Early American History: Rigors of the Journey Made by German Emigrants to the USA

Super Neighborhood 85 - Spring Branch Central (houstontx.gov)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring\\_Branch,\\_Houston#:~:text=Spring%20Branch%20began%20as%20a\\_sawmills%20to%20cut%20area%20timber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Branch,_Houston#:~:text=Spring%20Branch%20began%20as%20a_sawmills%20to%20cut%20area%20timber)

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/spring-branch-tx-harris-county>

Galveston Monthly - Exploring Your Island Paradise

[https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/landmarks/09L221\\_Lackner\\_House\\_2002\\_Bolsover\\_St.pdf](https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/landmarks/09L221_Lackner_House_2002_Bolsover_St.pdf)

Christian Matzke (1799 - 1886) - Genealogy (geni.com)

Spring Branch History (springoaks.org)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/149610279/august-bauer>

St. Peter's United Church founded a community (chron.com)

<https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/memorial/news/article/spring-branch-road-names-reflect-immigrant-4392256.php>



### 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](mailto: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. Don't let lack of confidence inhibit you, we can assist with editing! Please submit information for upcoming issues no later than the fifteenth of each month.



### HAS Reference Desk



Stone chest and artifacts, Templo Mayor, Mexico. Photograph Mirsa Islas, Courtesy Proyecto Templo Mayor. Source: <https://www.archaeology.org/issues/536-2401/features/11940-mexico-templo-mayor-relics>.

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.

*Archaeology Magazine* announced its Top Ten Discoveries of the 2023 Year, and they span the globe from Mexico to China. Read more about them on the AIA website: [Sacred Spring](#) in San Casciano dei Bagni, Italy; [Cave of Swords](#) in Ein Gedi, Israel; [Medieval Paintings](#) in [Old Dongola, Sudan](#); [Templo Mayor](#) in Mexico City, [Neolithic fortresses](#) in [Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, Russia](#); [Inca worker burials](#) at [Machu Picchu, Peru](#); a [papyrus book](#) in [El Hibeh, Egypt](#); [Imperial Menagerie animal burials](#) in [Xi'an, China](#); and [Nero's Theater](#) in [Rome, Italy](#). Read more about these exciting archeological sites at:

[Top 10 Discoveries of 2023 - Archaeology Magazine](#)

CNN recognized these archeological discoveries as among the most significant of the year: a [rare bronze age sword](#) in [Bavaria, Germany](#); [ancient sandals](#) in a [Spanish cave](#); a [2,400-year-old flush toilet](#) in [Xi'an, China](#); [prehistoric cave paintings](#) discovered in [Spain](#) using [drones](#); [coins found underwater](#) off the coast of [Sardinia](#); and a [Stonehenge-like sanctuary](#) in the [Netherlands](#). Read more at: [The 15 best art, design and archaeology discoveries of 2023 | CNN](#).

Did ancient Babylonians initiate the custom of New Year's resolutions? [The History of New Year's Resolutions | HISTORY](#).

## 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.

**January 8, 2024** – HAS Board Meeting

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

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

**March 21, 2024** - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Dave Dyer speaking on *The Road to San Jacinto*, retracing Sam Houston and the Texian army's route from Gonzales to San Jacinto.

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



### Upcoming Events

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

#### **VIRTUAL:**

##### **American Institute of Archaeology**

**1/24** – Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Central. Jeff Altschul of the Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis presents Cultural Resource Management: What Most Archaeologists Do for a Living. Virtual: [Webinar Registration](#).

**1/29** – Monday, 4 p.m. Central. Self-fashioning in a Roman Province, the Isiac Funerary Reliefs from Athens, presented by Lindsey Mazurek, Indiana University. Virtual: [Launch Meeting - Zoom](#).

##### **Engelhart-Moore Lecture Series**

Information about future and previous lectures are available at: [engelhardtmoore/lecture-series](#).

##### **Montpelier Foundation**

**1/17** – Wednesday, 11 a.m. Central. Lunch and Learn; review of upcoming 2024 Expedition Programs. More information and registration here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).

##### **Smithsonian Institution**

**1/16** – Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. Central. Join Gwen Manthey, paintings conservator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, as she reveals new discoveries in analytic techniques in conservation research.

Free, more information at <https://events.blackthorn.io/en/5f4ZMUx7/virtual-conservator>.

**1/18** – Thursday 10:30 a.m. Central. Archaic Introgession in Modern Humans: What It Can Tell Us About Archaic Humans and About Ourselves. Presented by Fernando Villanea, geneticist and professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Boulder, who researches how Neanderthal and Denisovan ancestry impacts the life and health of modern people. Free, more information at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/46150763/archaic-introgession-in-modern-humans>.

**1/27** – Saturday, 9 a.m. to Noon, Central. During the ongoing conflict in Yemen, museums have been destroyed and looting of archaeological sites is rampant. This program will feature experts in the field of the protection of cultural heritage and present insights from government officials regarding the issues related to looting and the illegal selling of antiquities. Free, more information at: [https://smithsonian.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_soRofMd8S9CfllxTVm1OOg#](https://smithsonian.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_soRofMd8S9CfllxTVm1OOg#).

A current calendar of other Smithsonian virtual lectures presented for modest fees may be found at: [Events | Smithsonian](#).

#### **ON-SITE:**

##### **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. For more information see [Brazos Valley Museum](#).

##### **Caddo Mounds State Historic Site**

**1/19** – Friday, 6 to 8 p.m. Caddo Artist Series - Michael Sheyahshe, Caddo artist, discusses his artwork and concepts in his book *Native Americans in Comic Books* as a part of the ongoing Caddo Artist Series.

##### **Houston Heritage Society**

**Now Through 1/15** – President JFK's visit with LULAC in Houston.

### **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. Joseph Fox, historian, presents At the Crossroads: Three Undertold Stories from Victoria History. Fox discusses significant, but little-known, events that took place in Victoria, Texas.

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

**1/6** – Saturday - A Day with the Press. Learn more about historic print shops, setting type, and printing.

**1/13** – Saturday - Women's Clothing and Fashion in San Felipe de Austin. Fashion and winter wear in the early nineteenth century. Sit and Stitch in the Villa, sewing projects at the Historic Villa de Austin.

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

**1/6** – Saturday. Opens early for Bird Watching at the Battleground. Family Day, Scenes from San Jacinto. Make a diorama.

### **Washington-on-the-Brazos**

**1/13** – Saturday. Coffee Brewing at Washington on the Brazos. Henry Fanthorp was said to serve a strong cup of coffee! Learn about roasting, grinding, and brewing coffee in the Tavern.

**1/20** – Saturday. Living History Saturday: Learn about 19<sup>th</sup> Century Medicine.

**1/20 and 1/21** – Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Barrington Plantation, Huddled 'round the Hearth. Tasks on winter days.



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

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