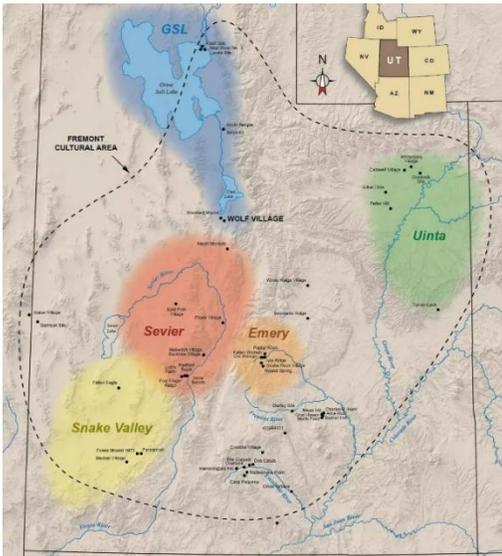
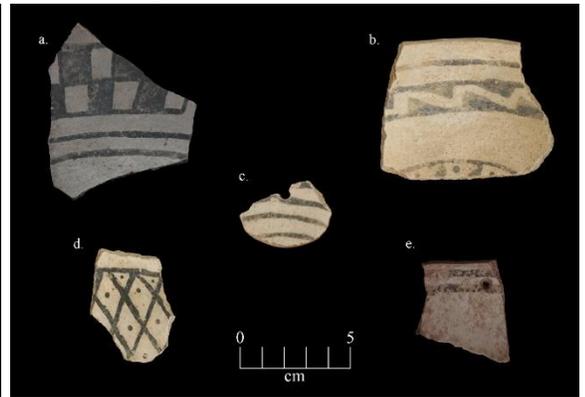




Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m. ~ Virtual Only
Featuring Bethany Miller, New Mexico State University, Discussing Fremont Culture Craft Specialization

Hello, HAS members - The April monthly members meeting for the Houston Archeological Society will be held virtually only via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Please note that there will be no in-person gathering. The Zoom link will be emailed to members the week of the meeting. As our speaker, we welcome Bethany Miller, an anthropology master's student at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico, focusing on archeology and cultural resource management. Bethany received her Bachelor of Science in Anthropology with a minor in Native American Studies and a certificate in Museum Studies from Utah State University in May of 2024. Since then, she has worked contract archaeology during the summers and participated in two field schools in Belize, most recently in the capacity of crew lead. Miller will be presenting her thesis research at the 2026 Society for American Archeology annual meeting poster session later this month. She will graduate with her master's degree in



May, after which she hopes to continue doing field and laboratory work in archaeology full time, potentially continuing on to a doctoral program in the future. Miller's presentation will discuss the Fremont Culture, which occupied the transition zone between the Colorado Plateau and Great Basin about 100-1300 CE. Issues surrounding Fremont social identity and social organization permeate Fremont archaeological research. By looking at aspects of standardization for evidence of craft specialization, some of these social identity questions can start being better addressed. The standardization of a craft, such as painted bowls, indicates a shared understanding of what a painted bowl should look like as understood throughout the larger social group. The Fremont produced Emery typology painted bowls from 1000-1300 CE, and the bowls were distributed widely across the Fremont region, providing a good case study for analysis of craft specialization. Miller's work explores the level of social cohesion present within the Emery production zone by comparing characteristics of plain and painted sherds from the proposed production zone to those from outside the proposed production zone, looking at aspects such as design, oxidation, porosity, and standardization in form. She sampled six different Fremont sites using museum collections, two from within the proposed production zone and four from outside

it. Miller's comparison of proposed production sites to non-production sites revealed a higher degree of standardization outside the production zone than within it. Additionally, in most measures, the bowls reflected levels of standardization that are seen in specialized crafting communities. We hope you will all join us virtually for this fascinating presentation on Thursday, April 16. Be looking for your meeting reminder with the Zoom link. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at president@txhas.org.

See you in the field! Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President





President's Message

Around this time of the year, an important activity for the running of the Society's business is to conduct the annual audit of the financial records. A team consisting of Beth Kennedy, Larry Golden, and Muriel Walker met to review our accounts and validated our expenses against the bank accounts. I am pleased to report that they gave society a clean bill of health with no issues. Many thanks to Beth, Larry, and Muriel for taking the time to participate in this important business.



Excavations continued at both the Goloby and Lone Oak sites last month with beautiful weather. At Goloby, we continued shovel testing in a new area and have now identified two tests that we plan on investigating further. Many thanks to the landowner, Diane Goloby, both for this collaboration and for having the site mowed prior to our arrival. It looked great.

Last weekend, we visited the Lone Oak site and continued investigations into the area that has produced numerous Angostura projectile points. We had nine participants, including two folks who were new to the site, Scott Bier and Andrea Soemadi. This was Andrea's first time working at an archeological site. Meanwhile Frank Kozar rerouted the electric fencing.

Left: New members Scott Bier and Andrea Soemadi working at the Lone Oak site.



Right: Garry Hartmann screening at Lone Oak.



Unfortunately, we are losing our HAS Secretary, Noah Newland. Noah and her husband will be heading for new adventures in Oregon. We appreciate all that she has done for HAS. We will miss her and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

We are pleased to announce that John Gorczyk is stepping into this position. Thank you, John, for agreeing to serve as our new HAS Secretary.

I look forward to seeing everyone out in the field and at our monthly meetings. If you have any questions about the Houston Archeological Society, please email me at president@txhas.org.

Bob Sewell, HAS President





Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2026

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. – Bob Sewell, President. Welcome to all members in attendance. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Membership – Bob Sewell, President. Treasurer Louis Hebert was unable to make it tonight as he is on vacation. Membership stands at 132 members so far for 2026. Please don't forget to renew your membership before the end of March! Yearly dues are \$15 for students, \$25 for individuals, and \$30 for families. Memberships can be renewed quickly and easily on the HAS website: <https://txhas.org/membership.html>.

Treasury – Bob Sewell, President. Funds are looking good.

HAS Audit Committee – Bob Sewell, President. The 2026 HAS Audit Committee, consisting of Beth Kennedy, Larry Golden, and Muriel Walker, met recently to conduct an annual review of the books for Financial Year 2025. All was found to be correct and in order.

In Memoriam – Bob Sewell, President. A sad farewell to Jeanette Eleanor Siciliano (1938-2026), who passed away on February 25. Jeanette was a longtime HAS member, even serving as Newsletter Editor at one point. She will be dearly missed.

Projects – Bob Sewell, President.

- **Walnut Tree Hill**
 - Our last visit to this site was on February 7, and we plan to visit again soon.
- **Goloby Site (41WL3)**
 - We last visited this site on March 14 and continued shovel testing activities.
- **Lone Oak (41CD168)**
 - This site is our main focus at the moment, and our next planned visit will be on March 21.
- We are continuing to work on lab activities. Having nearly finished cleaning our artifacts, we will soon plan a lab session at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center for bagging and tagging procedures.
- We are regularly cycling through visits to all three of our active sites. Members interested in participating in site visits or lab activities may look out for invitations from fielddirector@txhas.org.

Outreach Activities – Bob Sewell, President.

- The youth robotics competition FIRST Lego League (FLL) has selected archeology as their theme for this year's event. HAS has been working with a few of these teams, including a recent follow-up with CFISD's Smith Middle School. A few of the teams we've worked with have progressed to the next round in the competition, and we wish them the best of luck!
- Bob recently distributed a questionnaire from a different FLL group – Team Quadruple A Batteries – to membership. The survey takes only a few moments to fill out, and any responses would be greatly appreciated by these students.

TAS Academy – Bob Sewell, President. The Texas Archeological Society's Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy took place on February 28 and March 1 at Rice University. HAS helped to host the event, and President Bob Sewell and Vice President Frank Kozar, among others, were on hand to provide assistance where it was needed. The weekend was a great success, with more than 40 folks in attendance, including several HAS members.

April 2026 Monthly Meeting – Our next meeting will be held on April 16 at 6 p.m., and our speaker will be Bethany Miller from New Mexico State University, discussing the Fremont Culture craft specialization. Tonight's presentation will be conducted by Becky Shelton from the Texas Historical Commission, discussing the THC's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network Program.

The business meeting was concluded at 6:43 p.m.

Noah Newland, HAS Secretary





In Memoriam



Jeanette Eleanor Siciliano

1938 - 2026

Jeanette Siciliano spent many years involved with the Houston Archeological Society when her family lived here in Houston, including serving as newsletter editor: [HAS Profile Archives 1993](#); [HAS Profile Archives 1994](#); [HAS Profile Archives 1995](#); [HAS Profile Archives 1996](#); [HAS Profile Archives 1997](#); [HAS Profile Archives 1998](#); [2000 Dec Profile](#). In 1996, Jeanette was awarded the HAS Merit Award for outstanding contributions to the Society. Many of our longtime members have warm memories of serving alongside her. The Houston Archeological Society sends deepest sympathy to the Siciliano family.

Jeanette Eleanor Boccard Siciliano, 87, passed away on February 25, 2026, following a long illness. Born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 2, 1938, to Catherine (Cloherty) and Paul E. Boccard, her formative years were spent in her beloved neighborhood on Lincoln Place. Her older brother, Eugene, mother, and father lived in an apartment that was within walking distance of Prospect Park, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Brooklyn Museum, where her father worked. Relatives lived close by, and Jeanette fondly recalled family gatherings, ice skating in the park, watching parades down Eastern Parkway, studying piano, spending enchanted hours in the library and the museum, and hearing the lions roar in the Prospect Park Zoo. After graduating from high school, Jeanette earned her Bachelor of Arts at Notre Dame College on Staten Island. Jeanette married Michael J. Siciliano in 1961 and they started a family while living in Canarsie, Brooklyn. Even with two young daughters, Jeanne and Lorraine, Jeanette pursued her love of learning, achieving her Master of Science from Long Island University in 1965 and teaching at King's College in Brooklyn. After Michael attained his Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics in 1970, the family moved to Houston, where he began a post-doctoral fellowship at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC). Their son, Peter, was born in 1971. Jeanette joined the faculty of MDACC, where she headed up a tissue culture lab in the genetics research department. Jeanette always fostered her love of education, art, music, and dance in her children. She was a devoted patron of the Houston Opera, the Houston Symphony, and local community theatres, where she enjoyed working behind the scenes stage-managing and organizing the box office. She was a voracious reader and lifelong expert crossword puzzle solver. She relished backpacking trips in the Rocky Mountains and the Grand Tetons with her family and a group of adventurous friends. Upon retiring from MDACC, Jeanette taught science at local community colleges and began a serious devotion to her passion for travel. She was very close to her half-sister, Geneva Tetu of Claremont, NH, and they undertook many happy driving expeditions throughout New England and Canada to visit family. Jeanette and her siblings made a pilgrimage to their parents' families' home countries in Messery, France, and Galway, Ireland. Over the years, Jeanette made many subsequent visits to her maternal Irish relatives on the charming island of Inish Bofin. She enabled her children and grandchildren to join her on her travels and to get to know the beautiful people and landscapes of Ireland. Jeanette's wide-ranging interest in the sciences included archeology, and she became a valued member of the Houston Archeology Society, engaging in field work and helping to publish their newsletter and plan destination trips. Her world travels included opera festivals in Germany, Machu Picchu, and many places in between. Jeanette made numerous trips back to her beloved New York City, where longtime hotel doormen became familiar friends, and she soaked up the museums and Metropolitan Opera performances. Jeanette is lovingly remembered as leading an inspiring, accomplished, and independent life. She is survived by her two daughters, her son, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many beloved nephews, nieces, and cousins. Memorial services in celebration of Jeanette's life will be held at future dates with family in locations that were dear to her. In lieu of flowers and in honor of her lifelong pursuit of learning, the family suggests donations be made to a college or university in support of arts and science. Source: [Jeanette Eleanor Siciliano Obituary February 25, 2026 - Legacy.com](#).





Reminder – Upcoming Conferences and Events



Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference Featuring Carolyn Boyd ~ Austin ~ April 8–10, 2026



HAS friend Carolyn Boyd will be a featured presenter at this year's Real Places Conference. Join preservationists, educators, interpreters, historians, archeologists, and heritage tourism professionals at the 2026 Real Places Conference in Austin, Texas, to get inspired, gain practical tools, and connect with people shaping preservation across Texas and beyond. The many interesting sessions include Touring the Texas General Land Office Archives, Digital Mapping of an Old Chinatown as a Preservation Strategy, and a panel on Collaborations in Archeology Education in Brazoria County. More information may be found at Real Places Conference 2026.



El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association ~ Two Upcoming Events

Wilson County History and Heritage, April 18 ~ Floresville

The Wilson County History & Heritage Festival will take place on April 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Floresville Event Center located at 600 State Highway 97, Floresville, Texas 78114. Learn more about the history of Wilson County and El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. The Trail de Flores chapter will have a table at the event and also conduct a presentation. The festival includes reenactments, demonstrations, and food trucks. This event is free. , so get out to learn more about the history of Wilson County and El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail!



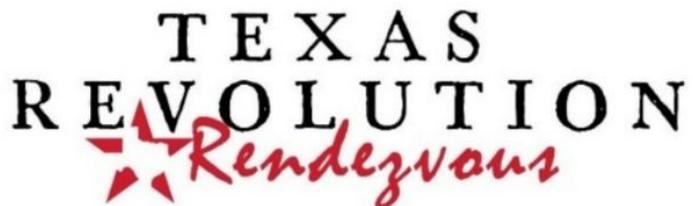
El Camino Real de los Tejas Annual Meeting, May 1–2, 2026 ~ Alto

Speakers from Mission Tejas State Park, Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, Mission Dolores State Historic Site, Stone Fort Museum Nacogdoches, and more will take part. There will also be a tour of historic sites in the area, including Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, the Cherokee County Courthouse, and the Lobanillo Swales. Hear updates from partners at the National Park Service and Texas Historical Commission. The meeting is free to attend; register here.



2026 Texas Revolution Rendezvous Symposium ~ San Antonio ~ April 17-19, 2026

This symposium will be held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio from April 17 through April 19, 2026. The 1835 Dinner features a menu based on historic foodways followed by a lecture on the Runaway Scrape presented by historian Stephen L. Hardin. Additional options during the conference include tours of historic San Antonio and the Alamo, visits to local museums, artisan vendors, a guided riverboat ride, thought-provoking lectures, panel discussions, and interactive sessions; Texas Revolution Rendezvous.





Southwestern Federation of Archaeological Societies 59th Symposium ~ April 25, 2026

The Panhandle Archaeological Society of Texas (PAST), will host this symposium, which takes place on Saturday April 25, 2026, at the Springhill Suites in Amarillo. The program features ten papers focusing on the cultural and natural history of southeastern New Mexico, west Texas, and the Texas panhandle. Topics include rock art and rock shelters, bison jumps, frontier fights and forts, interesting artifacts, and more. An optional fieldwork opportunity at the Sanford Dam and Canada River takes place on Sunday morning. Registration is only \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. Contact Dr. Paul Katz at prkatz44@gmail.com for more information.



TAS Field School Registration Now Open ~ Rockdale, Texas ~ June 13-20, 2026



It's time to register for the Texas Archeological Society 2026 Field School! Each summer, the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) sponsors a week-long archeological field school. The program provides training in archeological techniques to Society members and contributes important new data to the state's archeological and historical heritage. No prior archeological experience is necessary. Participants may register for a minimum of three days or for the full week. Several Field School Scholarships are also available. This year the 2026 TAS Field School takes place in Rockdale, Texas, from June 13-20. Learn more at <https://www.tshaonline.org/san-francisco-xavier-presidio>; [2025 TAS Field School](#).



American Rock Art Research Association Annual Conference Great Falls, Montana ~ June 25-29

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) will be hosting its annual conference in Great Falls, Montana, on June 25-29, 2026. Events include field trips, presentations, the annual business meeting, an auction, vendors, awards, and a banquet. Click [here](#) for more information. Submit abstract submissions for in-person talks and posters regarding rock art research, preservation, documentation efforts, and education topics: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conf-Call-For-Papers-2026/>; araraprogram@rockart.us.



~ Remember to Renew Your HAS Membership for 2026 ~

Houston Archeological Society



A final reminder that 2025 memberships expired at the end of March. Folks who have not renewed by April 1, 2026, unfortunately will be removed from our membership list. Among the benefits as a member, you will receive invitations to our excavation activities. In addition, you also get to participate in the monthly meetings via Zoom if you cannot make the meeting in person or if we only conduct the meetings virtually. You can

easily sign up again using a credit/debit card by going to our membership page at www.txhas.org/membership.html OR complete the form and mail it with your check to the mailing address on our website. We look forward to welcoming you back to HAS for 2026 and seeing many of you in the field or at our monthly meetings. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please contact treasurer@txhas.org.





Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation Updates

February 23, 2026 - Archaeologists continued excavations in EUs 47, 65, 75, 115, and 120. EU-47 archaeologists reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. Soil deposits mirror the adjacent EU-48. No features were encountered and artifact density has significantly decreased. EU-65, located on the northeast corner of the north transept, reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. Deposits within EU-65 consisted of modern disturbances, such as construction sand and a utility located on the southwest corner of the unit. Recovered artifacts include ceramic, construction materials, metal, and glass.



Left: EU-75 at 190 cm below surface, photo facing west. Right: Flake recovered from EU-120 at 50 cm below surface. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - February 23 | The Alamo](#). Content and photographs courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.

Excavations concluded at EU-75. Most of the unit terminated at an approximate depth of 150 cm below surface. However, a small 50 cm by 50 cm subunit in the corner was excavated an additional 30 cm in depth to expose the foundations. Archaeologists began final unit documentation, which includes soil profile maps, geo scans, and photographs. Excavations started at EU-115 on the south side of the Church. Archaeologists reached an approximate depth of 70 cm below surface. During excavations, archaeologists encountered the backfill of two previous archaeological investigations, one from 1995 and the other from 2019. Minimal artifacts were recovered. Archaeologists excavating in EU-120 reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. Archaeologists encountered three utility pipes previously documented in adjacent units. Artifacts were mostly from mixed contexts due to the construction episodes, however an intact clay loam was encountered at the base of the unit. There were no artifacts from the deeper clay loam.

March 2, 2026 - Archaeologists continued excavations in EUs 47 and 115. Three new EUs (77, 84, and 114) started excavations last week. Excavations concluded at EU-47. The unit terminated at an approximate depth of 100 cm below surface. Archaeologists also completed final documentation, which included soil profile maps, digital scans, and photographs. Excavations started at EU-114, located on the south side of the Church, and reached an approximate depth of 60 cm below surface. Archaeologists encountered modern disturbances, such as utility pipes and the backfill from a 2019 excavation unit. Recovered artifacts include ceramic, glass, construction materials, lithics, and metal. Archaeologists began



Left: Ceramic from EU-114. Right: Horseshoe from EU-84. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - March 2 | The Alamo](#). Content and photographs courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.

excavations at EU-84, located at the northeast corner of the Church. By the end of the week, archaeologists reached an approximate depth of 40 cm below surface. The deposits within the unit included modern disturbances. Recovered artifacts include ceramic, a complete glass bottle, construction materials, and a horseshoe. Excavations concluded at EU-65 at approximately 100 cm below surface. The soil deposits and presence of utility conduits suggest this area experienced several construction episodes. Archaeologists completed final documentation, which included soil profile maps, digital scans, and photographs. Excavations started at EU 77, and archaeologists reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. This unit is located at the northeast corner of the Church. Archaeologists encountered multiple mixed deposits and utility conduits. Artifacts from the first few levels included ceramic, glass, nails, and construction materials. However, a complete Coca-Cola bottle was recovered. Excavations concluded at EU-115 on the south side of the Church. Archaeologists reached an approximate depth of 150 cm below surface. The natural caliche was exposed along the southern half of the unit and was cut by masons in the 18th century for the construction of the south transept wall. A small subunit measuring 50 cm by 30 near the corner was excavated an additional 30 cm in depth to expose the foundations. Archaeologists also completed the final unit documentation. Courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.



Complete bottle and ceramic sherd from EU-84. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - March 2 | The Alamo](#). Content and photographs courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.

Alamo Artifacts

The Alamo Collection contains manuscripts, objects, and artwork spanning over 300 years of Alamo history. Explore the artifact portal and come back often to see what is new: [Alamo Artifact Collection](#). Courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.



The Alamo Podcast

Episode 122: The Alamo Defenders' Fate. The battle for the ages broke out at dawn on March 6, 1836. The fort was surrounded, with the men inside outnumbered by about ten to one. The Alamo's former curator Dr. Bruce Winders and Alamo Researcher Thomas Ledesma explore what happened after the final shot was fired, the collective fate of the Defenders' bodies, and how generations of Texans who came after made sure we always remembered their sacrifices. You can stream the Alamo's podcast [at the website](#), [on YouTube](#), or on your preferred podcasting app. Courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.



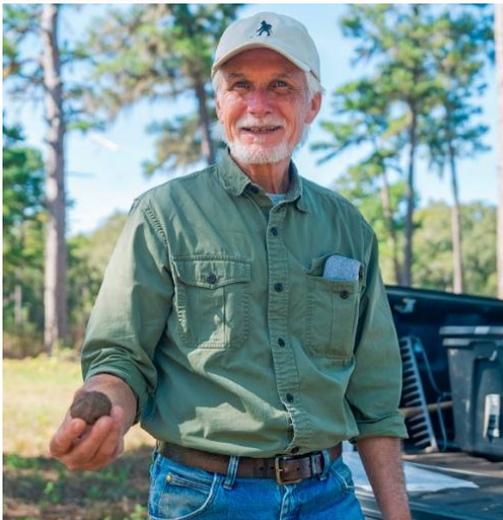
Every April during Fiesta, wreaths are laid to honor the heroes of the Alamo. [Fiesta | The Alamo](#). Content and photographs courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.





HAS Friends Aundrea Thompson and Chet Walker Assist in Discovery of Hernando de Soto's Campsite

HAS members who participated onsite at Arroyo Dulce or Kirbee Kiln may recall working alongside Aundrea and Chet, archaeological geophysicists from Archaeo-Geophysical Associates of Austin, who conducted magnetometer and ground penetrating radar surveys. The following news is adapted with permission kindly granted by James Madison University (JMU) and Madison, the magazine of James Madison University from the article JMU Professor Leads Discovery of Hernando de Soto's First Campsite by Josette Keelor.



Above left: HAS friend Chet Walker, an archaeological geophysicist from Archaeo-Geophysical Associates based in Austin, Texas, participated in the archaeological dig at Deer Run Plantation in Calhoun County, Georgia, in October 2025, conducting magnetometer and ground penetrating radar surveys on the area. Right: Dennis Blanton talks with Chet Walker at the Deer Run site. Below left: Blanton displays the pommel of a 16th-century Spanish sword found by a member of his research team. Photographs by Steve Aderton, courtesy of James Madison University.

For nearly twenty years, Dennis Blanton, PhD, anthropologist and James Madison University professor, has been digging into the story of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto with the goal of finding physical proof of Soto's time in present-day Georgia. During a multiyear quest for riches and exploration of the New World, Hernando de Soto marched through the area in 1540 with an entourage of 600 men and 250 horses. A small team of researchers has uncovered what Blanton is calling "the find of a lifetime—these are some of the rarest artifacts, not only in the country but in the whole hemisphere." In late October, the team unearthed the pommel of a sixteenth-century Spanish sword, rare evidence that Soto's small army not only traveled through southwestern Georgia but also set up camp there. The pommel (the end portion of a sword handle crucial for counterbalance) is "one of those artifacts we only dreamed of finding," Blanton said. "It's absolutely electrifying." For years, Blanton has been researching the path of Hernando de Soto as well as the Native American cultural geography the entrada encountered. Although written accounts of the explorers documented the journey, until these recent discoveries of sixteenth-century Spanish artifacts, there was little material evidence of Hernando de Soto's passage between Florida and the Appalachian foothills of North Carolina. This site signifies the first Soto encampment outside of Florida.

In 2007, when Blanton served as curator of Native American archaeology at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, former Coca-Cola CEO Doug Ivester contacted the museum for assistance in examining an array of artifacts unearthed on his country estate, including not only Native American items, but Spanish pottery sherds. At the time, Blanton was in the process of documenting some Soto-era artifacts, such as a multilayered glass bead, from Georgia's Glass Site (WGC1583), located a good eighty miles from where most scholars believed the entrada passed.

Blanton knew that Ivester's property, Deer Run, in Dougherty County near Albany, Georgia, lay along the purported Spanish route, and he welcomed the opportunity to investigate. For a while, they weren't sure exactly where to look. That all changed when Blanton realized the critical connection between Soto and the Native American villages of Capachequi, a Native American territory described by the expedition in March 1540. "I had heard a rumor of some sites that have these peculiar features on the landscape," Blanton recalled. "They look like giant, earthen bird nests. Sometimes I call them bagels or doughnuts, because that's what they look like. I wanted to go map these things. They were on a plantation that's near

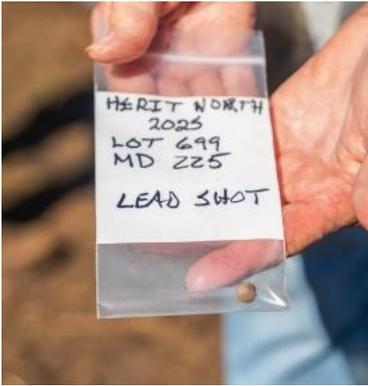


Left: An earthen "doughnut" is all that remains from a collapsed Capachequi dwelling. Right: A borrow pit, where Capachequi residents excavated soil to use in building their village. Photographs by Steve Aderton, courtesy of James Madison University.

Deer Run . . . I thought they were important.” The features, former Capachequi houses, once looked like giant anthills, but have since collapsed. “The ring is a vestige of a Native American dwelling,” Blanton noted. “That’s the key point.” After Blanton documented these distinctive features, the land manager suggested looking through the woodlands at Deer Run. “He gave me an approximate location,” Blanton recounted. “I thrashed around in the woods with a machete, and lo and behold, I found ‘doughnuts.’ And I’ll tell you what, it was the most exciting thing. It was like walking into a Native American ghost town.” Once he knew what to look for, Blanton spotted the features everywhere. He remembered how Spanish expedition survivors had written about the Capachequi houses looking different from the Native American houses they had encountered in Florida. “They were used to seeing all these Native American dwellings down there that were lightly built,” Blanton stressed. “They were like Florida verandas, with thatch roofs and more open to the air.” Instead, Soto’s men likened the Capachequi houses to “caves under the ground,” Blanton explained. “And that’s what we’re finding. These doughnuts are the surviving vestiges of the earth-covered Indian houses: the caves under the ground.” In 2021, two students found a Spanish-made iron tool that Blanton first mistook for a piece of pottery. “It was right where the Indians left it inside one of these doughnuts,” Blanton pointed out. The discovery provided a compelling indication of Spanish interaction with the native population. Blanton and his students, colleagues, and various volunteers have returned to Deer Run several times a year, finding hundreds of sixteenth-century Native American and Spanish artifacts.

Chet Walker and Aundrea Thompson, archaeological geophysicists from Archaeo-Geophysical Associates based in Austin, Texas, conducted magnetometer and ground-penetrating radar surveys. “The archaeology kind of tells you the date of things,” Walker noted, “and geophysics allows you to see bigger patterns across the landscape.” While in the field, their work mainly involves walking back and forth to collect data before taking it back to their lab. The ground-penetrating radar is a cart with a transmitter and receiver, which then records signals onto a computer. The fluxgate gradiometer is more of a passive instrument that captures ambient magnetic fields in order to map the subsurface of the land. Eventually, the data can be uploaded to a geographic information system so that future researchers will know where to access the Soto encampment, also allowing application of the information towards a greater understanding of the cultural landscape. As to the results, “we’ll find out in a couple of weeks when we’re processing the data and writing the reports for Dennis,” Walker stated. “It’s a great honor to be involved with a project like this. Regardless of whether or not it turns out to be a big find, the process of doing archaeology is kind of the same—what drives me, personally. The big finds are great, but it’s more the process of looking that I enjoy.”

In the [JMU Archaeology Research Lab](#), the team examines the many significant artifacts, including metal objects that Soto and his men might have fashioned from old barrel hoops for the purpose of trading with the Capachequi. An iron tool, one of only a few known in the U.S., might have been used as a hatchet or adze blade or made for trade with the indigenous peoples. The majority of the Spanish artifacts appeared in close proximity to the Capachequi dwellings. Lead bullets, fragments of bladed weapons, and an abundance of chains verify the quasi-military purpose of the Spanish expedition. The chains, especially, point to a grim aspect of American history. “These would have essentially been the first slave chains in the New World,” Blanton emphasized. “When the Spanish came, they were very aggressive—taking captives and taking over houses. It’s a very sobering kind of an artifact.” One big reason Blanton and his colleagues have been able to find so much at the Deer Run site is because the land has been largely untouched by development. And unlike many other archaeological sites, this one hasn’t been contested by those who have seen it up close. “There is 100% consensus that we are dealing with Soto,” Blanton confirmed. On a larger and more significant scale, Blanton believes that this work



A volunteer holds a bag containing an artifact that Blanton has identified as Spanish lead shot, found at Deer Run Plantation. Photograph by Steve Aderton, courtesy of James Madison University.

“improv[es] our understanding of modern world history, which began with Europe’s expansion into far-flung corners of the globe. The legacy of the associated events shaped the history that defines much about our world today. Written records about those events that we have inherited are often so vague, it is left to archaeology to fill out the story. All to say, it’s about far more than the evocative artifacts themselves and, in the end, about the humans who participated in those events.”

Article adapted from [JMU professor leads discovery of Hernando de Soto’s first campsite](#) by Josette Keelor with permission from James Madison University. Listen to a podcast on this topic at [Being the Change](#). Follow Dr. Blanton’s progress and read more about this site and other archaeology department news at [JMU Archaeology News and Media Coverage](#); [Madison magazine: Winter 2026](#). Read more at [Hernando de Soto Archaeologists - Archaeological Conservancy](#); [Archaeological Evidence of Hernando de Soto in the Southeast - Fernbank Museum of Natural History](#); [Points of Contact: The Archaeological Landscape of Hernando de Soto in Georgia | UGA Archaeology](#); [Redrawing Soto's map? - JMU](#).



*Happy April ~
Can You Solve
these Clever
Rhymes Staged
in Pastoral
Settings, or Will
They Fool You?*

*From English
Heritage*



(Answers on the last page.)





*Breezy Spring Weather Begg the Question ~
How Windy Were the Middle Ages?*

Despite the humorous illustrations, in fact, a description of the Great Wind of 1362 as recorded at Canterbury Cathedral reports, “dreadful storms and whirlwinds such as never been seen or heard before occurred in England, causing houses and buildings for the most part to come crashing to the ground, while some others, having had their roofs blown off by the force of the winds, were left in the ruined state; and fruit trees in gardens and other places, along with other trees standing in the woods and elsewhere, were wrenched from the earth by their roots with a great crash, as if the Day of Judgement were at hand, and fear and trembling gripped the people of England.”



HAS Reference Desk



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

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) connects people to places: [What's Out There | TCLF](#); [Mary Queen of Scots' last letter transcription | National Library of Scotland](#); [Ancient 'alien-like' skulls have been found on every continent but Antarctica. Anthropologists are starting to figure out why | Live Science](#); [Stone Age art may reveal 40,000-year-old precursor to writing](#); [Sophienburg: Lost map becomes found treasure in New Braunfels | herald-zeitung.com](#); [Archaeologists Found a 1,000-Year-Old Tomb](#)

[in Panama Overflowing With Gold and Sacrificial Victims](#); [Human remains found at OU could be century-old cadavers](#); [The lost languages of ancient humans - The Australian Museum](#); [BBC Radio Lincolnshire – historic boat mystery](#); [Unknown Medieval Ruin Discovered at Selja Monastery](#); [Large-scale processing of within-bone nutrients by Neanderthals | Science Advances](#); [Dog walkers discovered 2,000-year-old Lunan Bay footprints](#); [Lite Geology 32: The Evolution of the Rio Grande](#); [The Coronado Expedition 1540–1542, by George Parker Winship, excerpted from the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1892–1893](#); [Maya wetland settlement shows the civilization's adaptation to changing climate](#); [Cultural Resource Publications and Reports | Texas Historical Commission](#); <https://www.bbc.com/17c Swash Dorset>; [7,000-Year-Old Spanish Stonehenge: Dolmen of Guadalperal Re-emerges Amidst Spain's Drought - Archaeology Worlds](#); [Titanic Artifacts Auction](#); [Decade of digs reveals Lindisfarne secrets](#); [Gorham's Cave, Neanderthal Behavior](#); <https://archaeology.org/an-enduring-chiefdom>; [University of Alicante completes excavation of the Eastern Baths at La Alcudia after eight years of work. University News](#); [Cultural Resource Management legal reference: https://thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/ArchLaw.xls](#); [Equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius: The only surviving larger-than-life-size statue of a pagan Roman emperor — a rarity that Michelangelo refurbished | Live Science](#); [Pilot Believes He Found Amelia Earhart's Long-Lost Airplane Through Google Earth](#); [Lockheed Electra 10E NR16020 – aircrashsites.co.uk](#).





Spring Journal Issues

Journal of Texas History



The Alliance for Texas History is pleased to publish the Journal of Texas History, chronicling the history of Texas and the greater Southwest, including the many histories of its people and culture. Rebecca Sharpless, professor of history at Texas Christian University, and Benjamin H. Johnson, professor of history at Loyola University Chicago, serve as co-editors, assisted by Felipe Hinojosa from Baylor University, book review editor, and Justin Randolph from Texas A&M University, public history editor. An additional group of scholars with diverse expertise has been appointed to the Editorial Board. The Alliance showcases the best work on Texas history in all aspects. The editorial board ensures that the *Journal of Texas*

History fosters inclusivity and excellence in ideas and methodology. The journal is an open-access publication, made publicly available through Digital Commons and supported by the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. If you are interested in submitting an article for the journal, please review the Call for Manuscripts and send an email query to submissions@jtxh.org. Volumes 1 and 2 are now available for review and download.

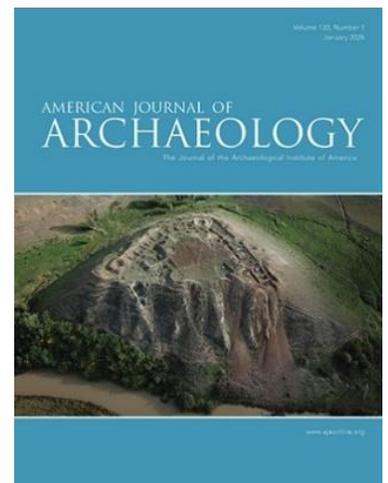
Old Pueblo Archaeology Bulletin Number 91



In this issue, archaeologist Allen Dart introduces and summarizes the bulletin's two lead articles by Deni Seymour and Sharonah Fredrick, noting some things that early Colonial period Indigenous revolts did and didn't have in common. The 1540s revolt at a southern Arizona Spanish village established during the Coronado Expedition is now recognized as the first successful Indigenous revolt against colonial powers in what is now the continental U.S. In "A Great Time of Troubles: O'odham Opposition to the Coronado Expedition," Dr. Demi Seymour describes and discusses two mid-1500s Sobaipuri O'odham battles against Spanish explorers and colonizers in what is now southern Arizona: the first at the Native village of Chichilticale (probably early in 1540) and a second, decisive one in 1541 that wiped out San Geronimo III, the first Spanish *villa* (townsite) that had been established at an O'odham village in the Suya Valley. She concludes that these rebellions were largely in response to oppression, outright cruelty, and murders of Indigenous peoples by colonials. "The Pueblo Rebellion in the Southwest (1680) and the Taki Onqoy Uprising in Peru (1565): Ancestral Religion as a Political Force Against Empire" by historian-anthropologist Sharonah Esther Fredrick compares these widely separated Native social disturbances, suggesting that a main reason for both was the power of underlying Indigenous belief systems that stimulated political resilience. To download the pdf file, click here. You also can find and download all previous issues at <http://www.oldpueblo.org/about-us/publications>.

The American Journal Of Archaeology

The January 2026 issue of the journal is available at journals.uchicago.edu/aja. The *AJA* is offered in a wide range of digital formats thanks to a publishing partnership with the University of Chicago Press. The journal is available by subscription or purchase, and selected content in each issue is Open Access. American Journal of Archaeology is the Journal of the Archaeological Institute of America. This information and more may be found here. Open Access content includes The Archaeology of Olive Oil Production in Roman and Pre-Roman Italy; AlUla: Wonder of Arabia at the Palace Museum, Beijing: Bridging Global Cultural and Archaeological Engagement Between China and the Arab World; and book reviews including Human Dispersal, Human Evolution, and the Sea: The Palaeolithic Seafaring Debate; Lycian Families in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods: A Regional Study of Inscriptions, Towards a Social and Legal Framework; Sacred Landscapes, Connecting Routes: Religious Topographies in the Graeco-Roman World; and Colour Schemes in Roman Architecture: Aesthetics, Semantics, and Regional Appropriation.





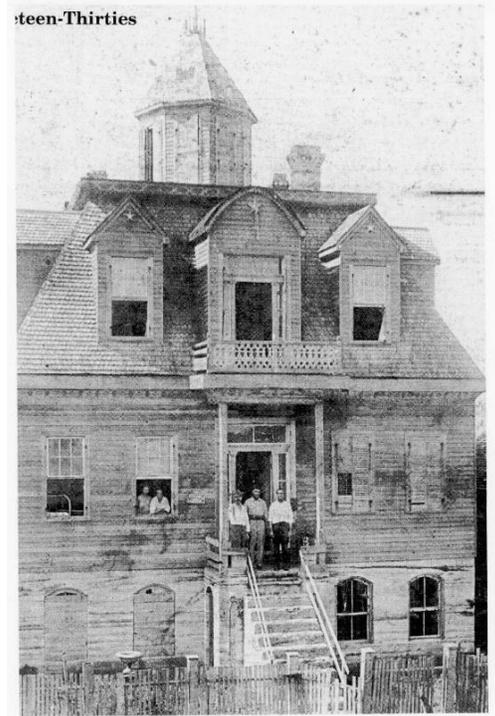
From the HAS Archives – Excavating the Alleged Site of Lafitte’s Maison Rouge in Galveston



A repository of past publications are available on the HAS website, including this remarkable article from the August 1984 [HAS Journal No 79.pdf](#). Around this time of year, Houstonians start spending more time in Galveston, whether for Spring Break, working remotely, attending conventions, or planning summer vacations—perhaps upon occasion stopping by the historical marker at 1417 Harborside Drive that denotes the site associated with pirate Jean Lafitte. Long-time HAS members remember working at the storied Maison Rouge site, as reported in 1984 by HAS members Randolph J. Widmer and Anne Sullivan, slightly abbreviated here, but available in full at the link above.

The archaeology laboratory of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Houston, with the assistance of the Houston Archeological Society, has been conducting archaeological excavations in Galveston at the supposed location of Maison Rouge, the former residence of Jean Lafitte. Our research interest was to try and archaeologically uncover the early European settlement of Galveston, which dates to the Aury, Mina, Lafitte era (approximately 1816-1821). Not only were we trying to determine if the early settlement of Galveston occurred in this area, but also to show what kind of lifeways were characteristic of this early occupation of Galveston. Archaeological investigations are essential for understanding this early era of Galveston since the documentary sources are vague regarding this period. This has resulted in much folklore and speculation regarding the location of Jean Lafitte's Maison Rouge and many of the events concerning his stay on the island.

Prior to our excavations, the site contained the remains of a foundation dating to the late 19th century. This foundation is what remains of the House of the Twelve Gables, built by sea captain J. W. Hendricks. (Note: Also possibly named Frederick William Hendricks). Several situations existed which could interfere with our ability to achieve our goals. Most prominent was the fact the island had been filled after the 1900 Hurricane. We were sensitive to how this would impact our ability to get at the early occupational horizon. Also, historical records suggested that the early 19th century settlement of Jean Lafitte was burned, obscuring if not obliterating this early occupation. Initially, we mapped the exposed architectural features onto a grid system. This grid system was oriented perpendicular to the east wall foundation of the house. After establishing the grid, a series of subsurface posthole probes were excavated to determine the stratigraphy of the site. From these tests we could discern four cultural horizons which seem to be uniform across the site. These strata were confirmed by our more extensive 5x5 foot excavation units. Five distinct stratigraphic zones have been observed in our excavations.



ZONE I - This zone consists of a 12-inch layer of grey loose humic-stained sand. The upper six inches of this deposit consists almost exclusively of modern trash, primarily liquor, wine, and beer bottles. After recognizing the contemporary nature of this material in the first few pits, the upper 6-inch level was not saved. The lower 6 inches of this zone were void of such contamination and contained staggering quantities of historical artifacts; including bottle glass, pane glass, nails, brick fragments, ceramics, and buttons. This material seems to date to the late 19th through the first half of the 20th century.

ZONE II- Consists of a distinct cultural strata approximately 6 inches in thickness. The upper 3 inches consist primarily of crushed oyster shells which were intentionally deposited on top of a 3-inch layer of brick and oyster which functioned as a macadam surface for the upper crushed shell layer. The density of brick and shell varies throughout the site with the greatest density being observed in the area adjacent to the southwest wall, or rear, of the house. It is clear that this zone served as a pavement, or prepared yard, for the last house built in 1885 on this property.

ZONE III- This is a variable zone both in terms of thickness, and composition. It extends from a depth of 18 inches to 25-30 inches below the surface and represents a fill episode to raise the level of the ground for the construction of the 1885 house and the oyster and brick yard. This zone is composed of sand which has numerous pockets and lenses of clay in it

and is tan to reddish brown in color. It is mixed and contorted and is clearly fill. This zone was the first to be subdivided into the arbitrary 3-inch levels with the fill being screened to determine if there were any temporal differences.

ZONE IV- At a depth between 25 and 29 inches below the surface, a distinct color and texture change is observed across the site. The tan to reddish brown mixed clay/sand fill is replaced by a greyish white sand void of clay. In many areas, this soil is extremely hard packed, surely forming a yard or surface. Toward the eastern margin of the site, this soil is yellower in color, but still sand. It appears that the top of this zone is elevated in the central portion of the site and clearly represents a prepared surface. Originally it was felt that this horizon represented the original intact island surface, and therefore, hopefully dated to the Jean Lafitte era. This proved not to be the case. Instead, this zone also represented a fill episode for an occupation dating before the 1885 house, but after the Jean Lafitte era.



ZONE V - This zone consists of a dense grey, muddy sand, encountered at a depth of 39 to 42 inches below the ground surface. In the central part of the back yard, the surface is very hard packed, but east and west of this area, it is much looser. This grey, muddy sand extended as deep as our excavations could take us. This depth was determined to a large part by the water table which continually dropped as our excavation proceeded. We know that this grey, muddy sand horizon extends to a depth of at least 60 inches below the ground surface.

One of the interesting findings of our excavations is the fact that, unlike many parts of the island, this property was not raised or filled after the 1900 Hurricane. This is not all that surprising since two fill episodes approximately 2 feet thick were added to the site prior to 1885. A retaining wall built of brick encircles the property and served to retain the fill used to raise the level of the 1885 house. The interior foundation of the 1885 house had a concrete floor with two drains that connect to a subfloor pipe which was uncovered during excavation. We wanted to excavate under the "basement" floor of the 1885 house to see if the stratigraphic relationships outlined above still applied. To our surprise, we found

a concrete floor located under the 1885 house floor. This is not simply an earlier floor of the 1885 house since a foundation pillar of the 1885 house clearly cuts into the earlier floor. This means that the lower floor goes with a previously unrecognized house; at least not one recorded in the title and deed abstracts of Galveston County. Ule Haller, archivist of the Rosenberg Library, obtained a bird's eye view map of the waterfront for three different periods; one in 1865, one in 1871, and one in 1885. On the 1865 map there is no house or structure at the location of the property; on the 1871 map there is a structure on that property, as there is on the 1885 map. The house on the 1871 map, however, is clearly different from that on the 1885 map, indicating that they are different houses! The insurance survey done to provide a map of Galveston in 1886 states the property was owned by Capt. Hendricks with a house built in 1885. Therefore, not only is an earlier house documented historically, but also archaeologically, and appears to have been built around 1870. Our task, then, became to link the various architectural features and out buildings to their respective houses. A large rectangular cistern found on the west side of the back yard was first built during the earlier house phase but later added on to during the later 1885 house phase. This cistern was not excavated, because its bottom was well below the water table and the owner had informed us that he had it filled. Perhaps the most exciting feature associated with this property was a well. This structure was oval in shape and was constructed of bricks which were plastered with cement on both the outer and inner surfaces. The opening of the well was just visible on the surface. The well was excavated in arbitrary 3-inch levels by Sheldon Kindall to a depth of approximately 11 feet, and a staggering amount of cultural material was recovered. In fact, most of the fill was cultural refuse rather than soil. In the lower levels of the well, water was encountered. For a while, this could be bucketed out, but the water inflow became too rapid, so a pump was used. Eventually, even the pump could not keep up with the insurging water and the excavation was terminated. We have been able to demonstrate stratigraphically that the well was originally built during the occupation of the earlier circa 1870 house. Thus far in our excavations we have not found Maison Rouge, nor are we likely to find this residence. There are several reasons for this. First of all, the house may have originally been constructed of building materials which perished during the historically recorded burning of the Lafitte settlement. If the building was made of more durable material such as brick or stone, these might have been scavenged by later occupants of Galveston. What this means is that we cannot conclusively determine that Jean Lafitte's residence was not on this property, only that we found no residence or structure dating to that era. We have, however, found and isolated the early Mina/Awry/Jean Lafitte occupational horizon; this being Zone V. Furthermore, we have noted that in the area under the

central portion of the house interior, and extending south into the backyard, is a very hard packed surface overlaid by a thin crushed shell lens. The cultural material associated with this level dates to the 1818 period. In the area under the house interior, west of this central area, this hard packed surface drops off into a broad shallow trough which extends at least 15 inches to the west. This trough contains quite a bit of cultural material, some of which dates to the Lafitte era, but some of it dating to a later period. Since this material is on top of, and not in the grey matrix, it can actually belong to a later fill episode that became associated with earlier era material as it became incorporated into the fill placed over it. In the backyard portion of the site, we do not see this trough-like area. Instead, we see distinctive trash and refuse areas, one located to the east, and one to the west of this central area, with virtually no cultural material found in the central area in Zone V. This material all seems to date to the early 19th century, making it contemporary with the earliest known European settlement on the island. It is tempting to suggest that the hard packed grey sand with the thin shell layer on top represents the front yard of a Lafitte era residence, with the trash areas in the backyard representing disposal areas behind the house. At present, we can only say that there are distinct differences in the density and location of artifacts found from the Zone V strata; and that these artifacts as well as this Zone are not attributable to fill because the artifacts were deposited in situ in this soil horizon. We have, therefore, conclusively determined that a Lafitte era occupation of Galveston occurred on or near this property.

SUMMARY: We can summarize our findings to date as having uncovered three chronologically distinct occupational levels.

1815-1821 description: This occupation consists of an extremely hard packed, prepared, mud-sand strata at a depth of about 40 inches below the present ground surface. The central portion of this horizon seems to be somewhat elevated. This surface has cultural material extending to a depth of 60 inches. This surface appears to be at least 311 sq. feet as determined through our excavation. The trash deposits are located to the south of the 1885 house, on the east and west portions of the property. No architectural remnants other than a single posthole filled with charred material was associated with this horizon. Archaeologically, this occupational horizon was designated Zone V. Characteristic of this horizon is a large amount of charcoal, perhaps accounting for the dark grey sand. This might indicate the burning of the Lafitte settlement upon its abandonment in 1821.

1870 - House and Yard: Subsequent to the abandonment of the early settlement, a house was built on the property sometime between 1865 and 1871. The foundation was set directly into the Zone V surface. The dimensions of this building as determined by its foundation are 36 feet by 34 feet, for an area of 1224 sq. feet. The interior of this house and the areas around it were then filled. Zone IV is the archaeological strata for this occupation.

1885 - House and Yard: This is the best known of the three occupational phases. This house was built by Capt. J. W. Hendricks in 1885. It was a two-story frame house built on top of 10-foot-high walls made of crushed oyster shell, mud, and brick fragments. In the insurance records for 1885 to 1937, this ground floor interior was called the basement. The house was popularly known as the House of Twelve Gables because of the three second-story gabled windows protruding from each side of the house. Another name given to the house was Hendrick's Castle. By 1894, the house had been divided into three apartments and these rooms rented out. Although the house weathered the 1900 storm, in 1937 it was considered to be "a very poor windstorm risk" (insurance records of 1937). Through lack of repairs and general neglect, the frame structure of the house finally collapsed in the 1950s. Of considerable interest is that the foundations of the house were built on top of the earlier 1870 house foundation, as was an addition to the large rectangular cistern in the western backyard area. In addition, another cistern measuring 6 by 6 feet was built on the east side of the property. A low brick retaining wall was built to enclose the property. This brick wall has post holes placed approximately every 8 feet, indicating a wooden fence existed on top of this low footing wall. A kitchen area was built at the extreme south end of the property, consisting of an L-shaped concrete wall with a concrete floor at or close to the contemporary ground level, with an earlier floor having existed at the lower level. This area enclosed by the retaining wall, together with the area inside the house, was filled with a sand/clay deposit some 8-12 inches in thickness. In the interior of the house, a concrete drain pipe and a series of pier supports made of brick were set into Zone III, actually cutting into the earlier house floor in a few examples. A crushed brick and oyster shell substrate was then put down, and a smooth concrete floor laid in rectangular sections was poured on top of this substrate. In the backyard area, a smaller oyster and brick surface was laid over much, but not all, of the Zone III horizon. This surface is 6 inches in thickness and was designated Zone II. In the center of the yard running perpendicular to, and intersecting with, the south wall of the house, a formal walkway was uncovered. This walkway was approximately 5 feet wide and consisted of a crushed oyster shell bed filled between two narrow low concrete retaining walls. Down the center of this sidewalk runs an iron pipe, possibly connecting to the drain system inside the house.

Images of [Capt. J. W. Hendricks House \(1885\)](#) from the Rosenberg Library archives, Galveston, and [Houston Chronicle](#).





The Rise and Fall of the Galveston–Houston Electric Railway, Houston's Forgotten High-Speed Link

Galveston's balmy setting has enticed pirates as well as Houstonians for centuries. The Profile is pleased to reprint this article with permission of the author, Jhair Romero, reporter for the Houston Chronicle.



An interurban coach passes by the newly built Union Station, now part of the Daikin Park facade, in downtown Houston, as pictured in a December 1911 edition of *The Tangent*, a monthly magazine published by the Galveston-Houston Electric Railway Co. Courtesy of University of Houston Libraries Special Collections.

Before Houston had freeways and before Galveston became a weekend day-trip destination by car, the two cities were linked by a sleek electric rail that promised the kind of mobility that would leave the anti-car activists and urbanists of today's Houston salivating. The Galveston-Houston Electric Railway, launched in 1911 as a way to connect the two jewels of the Texas Gulf Coast, was once one of Texas' most advanced transit systems. In its prime, it offered a fast and frequent alternative to the steam-powered trains operated by companies like the Galveston, Houston & Henderson Railroad, the muddy roads between Houston and Galveston, and the long ferry rides down the Ship Channel. To understand its rise and fall, it helps to start with a few basic questions.

Why was the Galveston-Houston Electric Railway built?

In the early 1900s, Houston was expanding rapidly, and streetcars were cropping up around the city. This led to the development of areas like the Heights and everything between that neighborhood and what is today downtown Houston. As streetcars became more popular, the idea of connecting the region's two largest economies, booming Houston and Galveston, which was still recovering from the devastating hurricane of 1900, suddenly became feasible. So, in 1905, the companies Houston Electric, Galveston Electric, and Boston-based firm Stone & Webster Engineering Corp. planned and funded a 50-mile electric railway that would do exactly that. By 1911, the Galveston-Houston Electric Railway was in operation and marketed as the modern way to get around, promising a cheap and reliable connection to the island and back.

How fast was the ride, and how much did it cost?

The railway offered a surprisingly comfortable and swift ride for its era. The Interurban, as it came to be known colloquially, traveled roughly 60 miles per hour at top speed, with the full Houston-to-Galveston trip clocking in at about an hour and a half. The cars were quite elegant, with leather upholstery and brass detailing throughout. Tickets were affordable enough (often less than 50 cents, or a little over \$17 in today's dollars) to attract a mix of passengers: daily commuters working in either city, Galveston residents heading inland for shopping or business, and day-trippers escaping to the beach.

How did the railway shape development between the two cities?

Although it operated for only a few decades, the Interurban influenced growth patterns along its corridor. Stops in communities like La Marque, Dickinson, and League City boosted their populations and economies, and development companies like the Interurban Land Corp. or the Texas Land Improvement Co. offered cheap land along the railway in thriving neighborhoods. (If you're a history buff, check out the University of Houston's digitized editions of The Tangent, the Galveston-Houston Electric Railway Co. magazine, where these developers posted their ads.) Businesses near the stations, like bakeries or oyster farms, also benefited from steady foot traffic, and developers marketed land with the promise of quick access to Houston or the coast.

Why did it shut down?

The railway's decline mirrored a national trend. By the 1930s, the city was changing, and its streetcar infrastructure was aging. Automobiles and buses were simply cheaper (and weren't tied to railway tracks that were costly to maintain) and slowly began replacing the city's streetcars. Interurban service officially ended in 1936, and in 1940, Mayor Oscar Holcombe announced that the city would end streetcar service and buy the Interurban's right-of-way, which later became the Gulf Freeway. Though the Galveston–Houston Electric Railway ran for only 25 years, its legacy lingers in how the region thinks about mobility. The Interurban proved that fast, reliable mass transit between the two cities was not only possible but popular, decades before highways stitched the corridor together.

Reprinted with permission of Jhair Romero, The rise and fall of the Galveston–Houston Electric Railway, Houston's forgotten high-speed link.



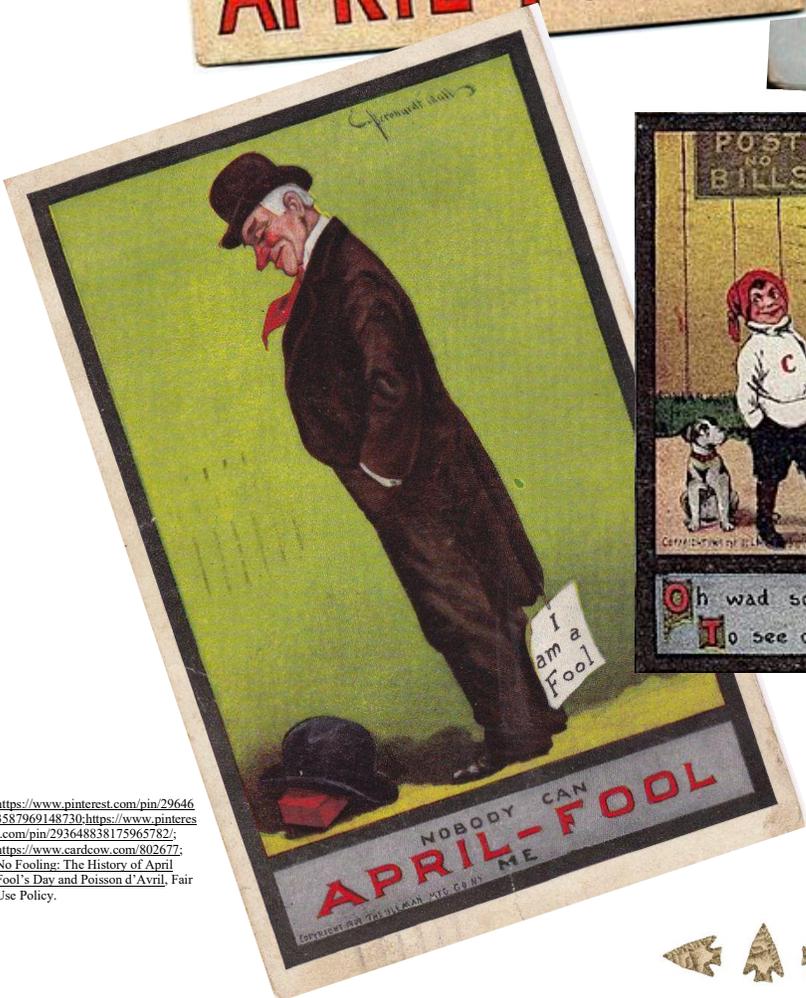
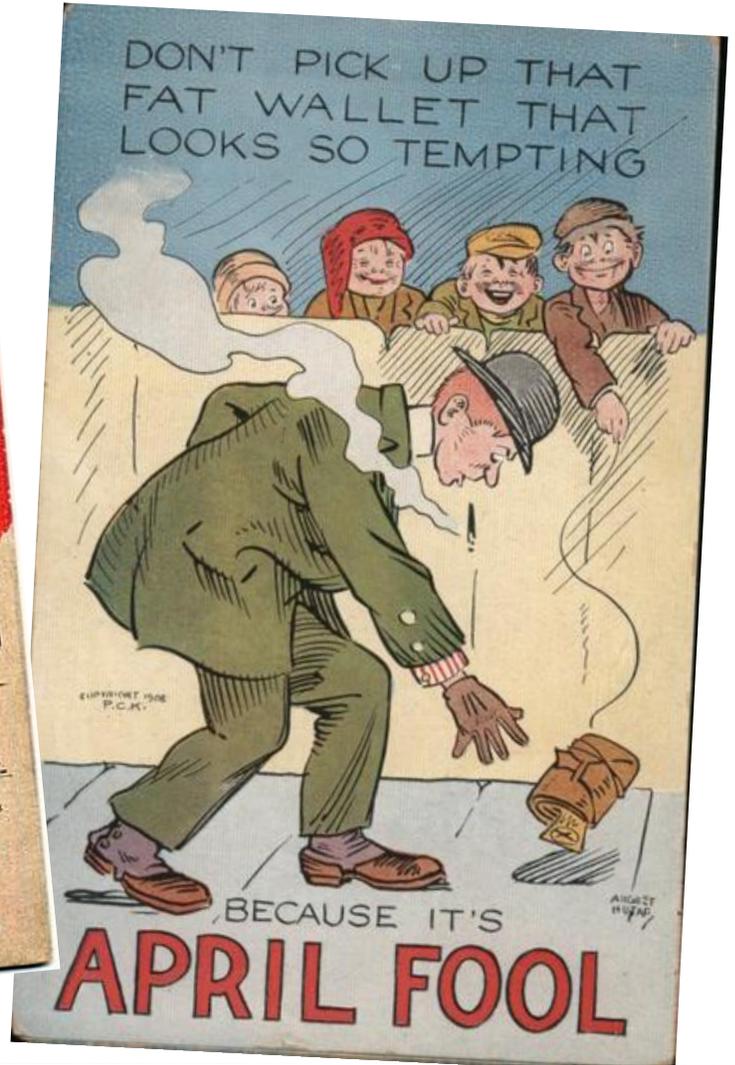
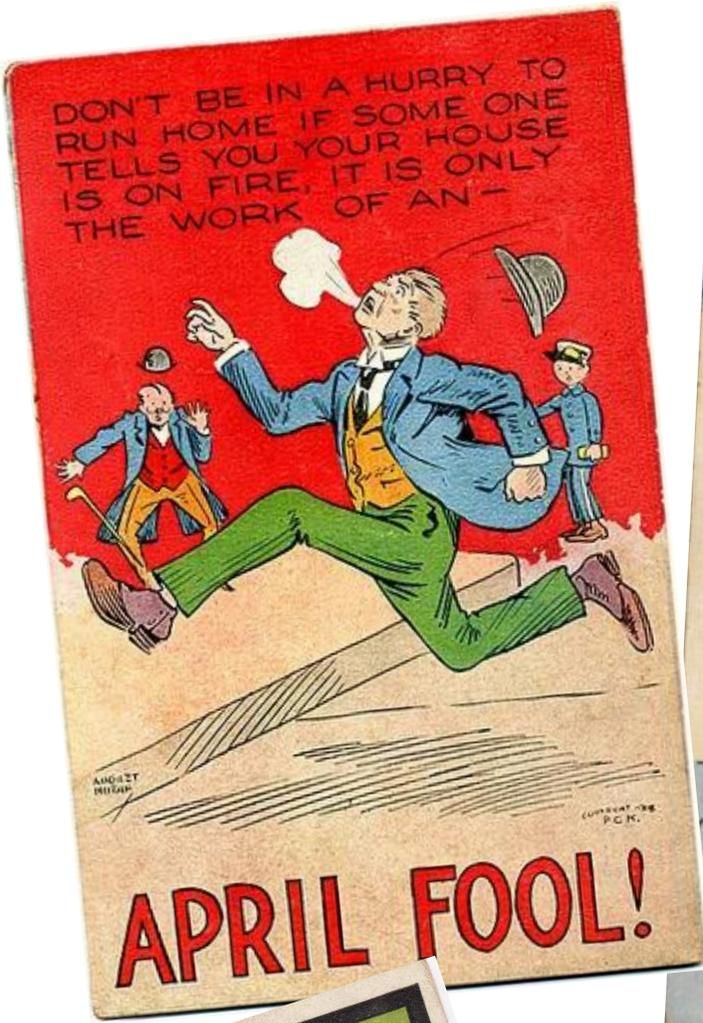
Calling All HAS Members - Send Us Your Photographs of Bluebonnets!

Send in your wildflower photos, perhaps with an archeological or historical backdrop! We know you are out in the field all the time, so we invite you to submit your photos of spring blooms with a location tagline or descriptive line or two, whether taken this spring or in previous seasons. And, as always, we welcome **all HAS members and friends** to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. 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. Please send submissions for upcoming issues to newsletter@txhas.org no later than the fifteenth of each month.

Above: Vintage Texas - Picking Bluebonnets, c. 1940. Left: Vintage Postcard Bluebonnets The State Flower of Texas, c. 1940. Fair Use Policy.



April Fool's Day – Be Wary!

A history of the tradition: [No Fooling: The History of April Fool's Day and Poisson d'Avril.](#)



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Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Schedule

Please note that meetings will vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.

April 7 – HAS Board Meeting

April 16 - 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Bethany Miller, New Mexico State University, via Zoom only.

May 21- 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Kelly Jenks, Professor at New Mexico State University, via Zoom only.

June – No Meeting. See you at TAS Field School.

July 16 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting with a TAS Field School recap. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, with a Zoom link available to members.

August 20 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Heather Para, via Zoom only.

September 17 - 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Gus Costa. Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, with a Zoom link available to members.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are ordinarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived on our YouTube Site, where they are available for public viewing. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our Facebook Page.

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English Heritage
Rhymes:

Goat in a moat.
Flower on tower.
Ball on a wall.
Hound on a mound.

[English Heritage](#)
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