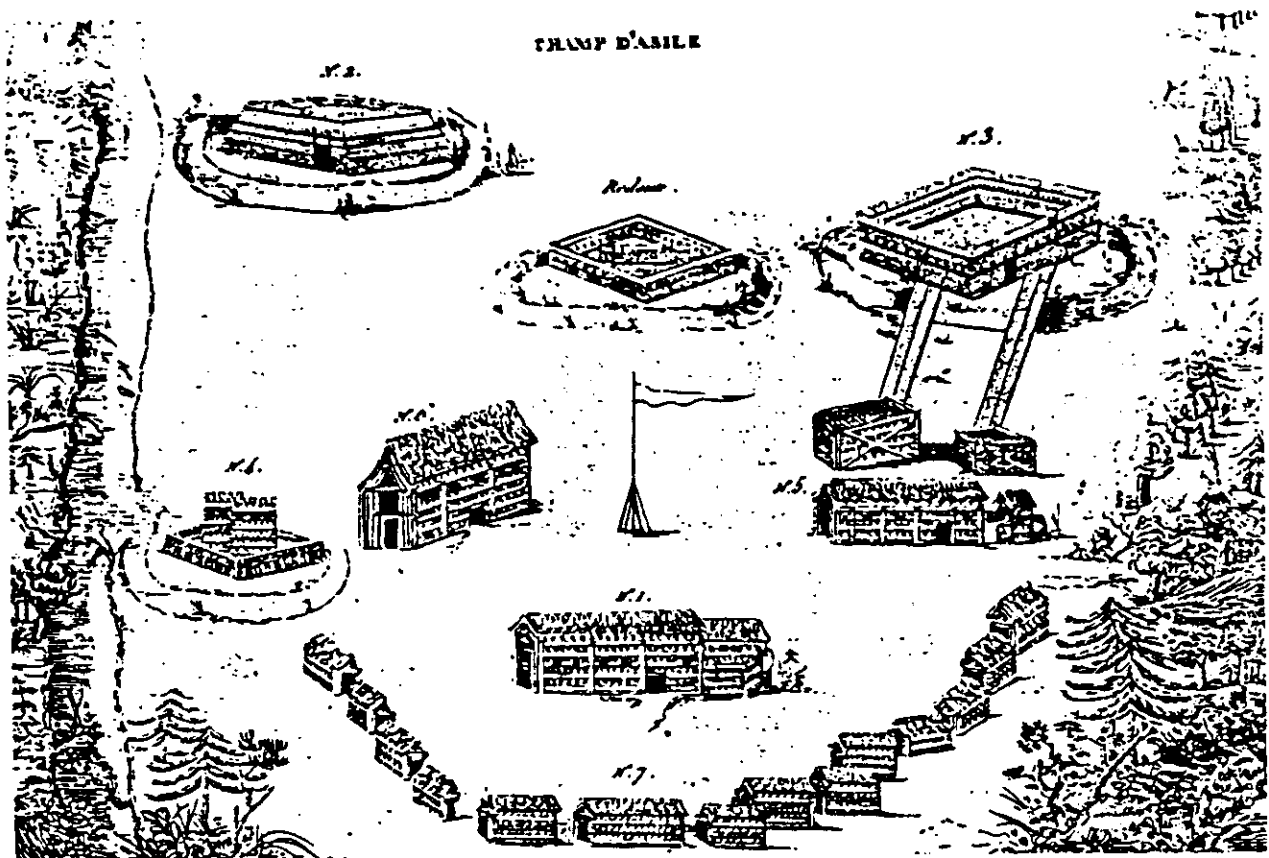




# JOURNAL HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Champ d'Asile

# Houston Archeological Society Journal

## Number 118, August 1997

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### Houston Archeological Society

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## Alan Duke — A Tribute

Alan R. Duke, one of the 36 Charter Members of the Houston Archeological Society in 1959, and an active member ever since, died March 19, 1998. He is survived by his wife Ruth, sons Bruce and Gary, and two grandchildren.

Alan served the Society in many capacities, including Chairman (now called President) in 1963-4 and Editor of the HAS Newsletter/Journal from 1965 to 1986.

In earlier years as Editor, Alan transformed the Newsletter from an admixture of short articles and news items into a more scholarly archeological publication. In 1980, with Board approval for additional funding, he expanded and improved the Newsletter in size and format. In 1982, the name was changed to Journal to better reflect its purpose. Alan also authored over 40 Journal articles.

In 1986, Alan stepped down after 21 years as Editor of the HAS Journal, but remained active in the Society. He authored or coauthored 11 installments of *HAS Historic Notes* for the Journal, and wrote several articles on a favorite subject, bannerstones in Texas.

Alan was active in field work with the Society, as well as in archeological research on several subjects. Among the important sites he investigated was 41AU1, the Goebel site, in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He later reanalyzed the notes and artifacts and wrote a comprehensive series of four reports on the site. In 1980-1 he led HAS field work at the Muller site, 41HR74, a very large shell midden on San Jacinto Bay.

In 1975 Alan was named a Life Member of HAS for his service to the Society as Editor. He was honored with a special HAS award in 1986 for his long service as Journal Editor, and received the Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award in 1991 for regional archeological research on several topics, including pottery and bannerstones.

Alan served on the HAS Awards Committee from its inception in 1989. Even after his health began to decline, he made a concerted effort to attend the annual awards presentation meetings.

Perhaps Alan's contributions to archeology were best summarized by fellow Charter and Life Member Donald R. Lewis, who passed away in 1997, "Above all, Alan Duke has been dedicated to the task of the documentation and communication of information which he and other members of the Society have garnered." Alan will be very much missed.

Richard L. Gregg

# Folsom and Midland Points in Southeast Texas

Leland W. Patterson

## Introduction

Folsom and Midland points occur in the latter part of the Early Paleo-Indian period. These point types have distinctive attributes that facilitate identification. The Folsom point has been described by Suhm and Jelks (1962:193) and Turner and Hester (1993:120). The Midland point has been described by Turner and Hester (1993:155). Folsom points have distinctive long flute scars on both faces. Midland points resemble Folsom points in shape and size, but are not fluted. Both of these point types usually have fine parallel pressure flaking scars, and both types are thin. Midland points from site 41FB249 in Fort Bend County (Patterson 1997) have maximum thicknesses of 5.7-6.0 mm. Folsom points are generally thinner than Midland points because the removal of channel flakes for fluting reduces the maximum thickness. A group of Folsom points from New Mexico have a mean maximum thickness of 3.8 mm (Judge 1973: Table 16). A Folsom point from site 41WH19 in Wharton County has a maximum thickness of 4.0 mm (Patterson et al. 1987: Table 5). Both Folsom and Midland points have lanceolate shapes.

Folsom and Midland points have related technologies, and have been found in close association at some sites (Amick et al. 1989). The Midland point is often referred to as "unfluted Folsom."

This article discusses the chronologies of Folsom and Midland points, and gives data on the geographic distributions of these point types in Southeast Texas.

## Chronologies

The Folsom point occurs in Texas in a time period of 9000-8000 BC (Largent et al. 1991), which is the last half of the Early Paleo-Indian period (10,000-8000 BC). It is presumed that Midland points have the same time range as Folsom, because of the close relationship of these two point types. There is a radiocarbon date of  $9920 \pm 530$  (7970 BC) for a Folsom point at the same excavation level as an Early Side-Notched point at site 41WH19 in Wharton County, Southeast Texas (Patterson et al. 1987:8). No radiocarbon dates are available for the Midland point in Southeast Texas.

## Geographic Distributions in Southeast Texas

There have been 5 Folsom points (Table 1) and 12 Midland points (Table 2) found in Southeast Texas. The occurrence of Folsom and Midland points is centered in the Great Plains (Justice 1987: Map 7), with Southeast Texas being on the southeastern fringe of this area. The few Folsom and Midland points found in Southeast Texas can be considered as outliers from the Plains. Southeast Texas is an interface between the Southern Plains and the Southeast Woodlands. The rarity of Folsom and Midland points in Southeast Texas may be due to the limited availability of bison in this region during this time period. The lack of bison in Southeast Texas in the late Pleistocene/early Holocene postulated by Munson (1990: Figure 3) fits well with the scarcity of Folsom points in this region noted by Story (1990:189).

The presence of Midland points in Southeast Texas is a recent discovery. Three Midland points were found at site 41HR571 in Harris County (Patterson 1986: Figure 2), but were classified as Plainview-like because no Midland points had been previously reported in this region. Midland points at other sites in Southeast Texas now leave little doubt that Midland points are present in this region as a rare type.

Folsom and Midland points found in Southeast Texas are usually made of exotic chert types from Central Texas. For example, the Folsom specimen from site 41WH19 (Patterson et al. 1987) is made of Georgetown type chert that can be found north of Austin. The use of exotic cherts for Folsom and Midland points in Southeast Texas implies a wide-ranging settlement pattern which would be consistent with bison hunting.

## Summary

The chronologies and geographic distributions of Folsom and Midland points in Southeast Texas have been summarized here. Both of these point types are rare in this region, because use of these point types is centered in the Great Plains. Other points types were being used in Southeast Texas in the same time period as Folsom (9000-8000 BC), including Early Side-Notched, San Patrice, and a few Big Sandy (Patterson 1989, 1996: Table 4). Folsom and Midland points in Southeast Texas are of interest for the study of cultural interactions between this region and the Southern Plains.

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Table 1. Folsom Points in Southeast Texas

site	county	no. of points	reference
41FB249	Fort Bend	1	Patterson 1997: Table 1
41HR343	Harris	1	Patterson et al. 1992a
41HR624	Harris	1	Patterson et al. 1990
41JF50	Jefferson	1	Turner and Tanner 1994
41WH19	Wharton	1	Patterson et al. 1987
total		5	

Table 2. Midland Points in Southeast Texas

site	county	no. of points	reference
41FB249	Fort Bend	4	Patterson 1997: Table 1
41HR184	Harris	1	Patterson 1994
41HR343	Harris	3	Patterson et al. 1992a
41HR571	Harris	3	Patterson 1986: Figure 2
41HR732	Harris	1	Patterson et al. 1992b
total		12	



