



The PROFILE

September 2004

Texas Archeological Society-www.txarch.org

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Friday, September 10, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Nancy Kenmotsu, PhD., Director Cultural Resource Management TXDOT, "Caddoan Salt Making."

Anyone wishing to present should contact Muriel Walker at 281-392-7504.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE:

Mondays, September 13 & 27, 7:00 p.m., Rice University Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103.

HAS LIBRARY: Library hours are 6:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m., Friday, September 10.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

Each year at our September meeting, the election of new officers takes place. In addition to those individuals selected by the Nominating Committee, nominations are accepted from the floor. A big "thank you" to Mary Barbara Gold, Wanda Carter, and Leland Patterson for serving on the nominating committee.

Due to the death of our librarian and archivist, David Pettus, the book sale has been postponed until the October meeting. David died in August and will be missed by all who knew him and visited with him in the library. Michael Bailey has graciously offered to act as interim librarian. Thank you, Michael. Thanks to Karen Acker and Diane Baird for their recent help in the library. I couldn't have done it without you.

In July, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department approved the Houston Archeological Society as a Nonprofit Partner of the TPWD. Our society has hosted events on several occasions at the San Jacinto State Historic Park and members have assisted for two seasons of work at the San Jacinto Battlefield and its environs.

Sheldon Kindall has received permission from the owners of the Maison Rouge site and the adjacent property for archeological excavations on those two properties. It is anticipated that work will begin the latter part of September; work will generally be scheduled on Saturdays, but it is possible some work will also be done during the week. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the HAS website.

The Houston and Texas Archeological Societies will host an Archeology Event at the San Jacinto Fall Festival

scheduled for November 6 from 10-5. The festival will take place on the grounds of the San Jacinto State Historic Park. A number of volunteers will be needed to staff the display and help with the mock dig. Please plan to volunteer; additional information in next month's newsletter and sign-up sheets will be available at the October meeting.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to each of you for your support and hard work during the past year. Thank you for bringing refreshment, for attending the wonderful programs scheduled for your enjoyment and enlightenment, for volunteering for various events and activities, for submitting articles to the Journal (thanks Dick for seeing that they get printed) and the newsletter, for helping with field and lab work, and for supporting the society in so many ways. Keep up the good work! There's a lot more archeology on the horizon.

Beth Aucoin, President

Ekpi.aucoin@prodigy.net or 281-480-6151

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Illustrated Lecture "Records Before Writing", Dr. Sarah Kielt Costello, U of H, Sunday, September 12, 5 p.m., Jones Auditorium, 3900 Yoakum Blvd.
- "The Greek Expedition", Jeri Kinnear, Sunday, September 26, 5:00 p.m., Jones Auditorium, 3900 Yoakum Blvd.,
- 5th Annual Piney Woods Archeology Fair, Saturday, October 9, 2004, Jasper TX.
- "Made of Metal" Ancient Technologies from Ores to Artifacts, opening Sunday, October 10 5-6:30 p.m. Little Archaeology Gallery, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.
- 9th Annual Roman Lecture, "Pirates in Roman Cilicia" Dr. Cheryl Ward, Florida State University, October 24, 7:00 p.m., Jones Auditorium, 3900 Yoakum Blvd.
- TAS Annual Meeting October 29-30, 2004, Hilton Hotel, College Station, TX.

Houston Museum of Natural Science will host a 9-Lecture Series on the **Dead Sea Scrolls** beginning Thursday, September 30. Check the Museum website for more information.

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES, July 9, 2004

Beth Aucoin, HAS President, called the August meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., welcomed the guests and new members, then detailed the meeting's agenda.

Announcements:

- David Pettus passed away this week. Services will be August 17.
- Jim Wells, Dudgeon Walker, and Mary Lou Patterson, have recently been ill.
- Due to numerous illnesses, the Nominating Committee has been unable to develop the officer slate. Elections will still be held at the September meeting.
- Thanks to Diane Baird and Diane Berry for providing refreshments.
- The Book Sale has been postponed until the September meeting.
- The Journal is ready for printing and will be mailed in 10 to 14 days.
- The Board of Directors approved sending a letter of recommendation and a one-year society membership to Joanna Mundy for her work on the McClure collection. The Board also approved donating the old slide projector to Marianne Marek.
- The August meeting will have a ½ off sale of overstocked reports.
- Diane Baird agreed to provide refreshment at the August meeting.
- Volunteers are needed to help fold the newsletter.
- Beth Aucoin is trying to get something going on the Texas City skeleton.

Muriel Walker introduced the night's speaker, Robert P. d'Aingle for his presentation "BZT-1 (Paleoamerican Woman)" The business meeting began after the break. The minutes of the July meeting were approved; the Treasurer's report shows a June ending balance for all accounts at \$14, 867.90. The HAS website is maintaining 5-6 hits per day; there were some publication sales. Michael Bailey will man the library next month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Richard Carter, Secretary, richardandwanda@sbcglobalnet.com

New Quartz Artifact Age Dating Method: According to an article in "Geoscientist" magazine, a new quartz hydration method will help date quartz (including flint/chert) artifacts. The method measures the thickness of the hydrated (weathered) layer that forms on chipped, flaked, or polished quartz artifacts, such as arrowheads and hand axes, using a nitrogen particle beam. The method will be especially useful on objects between 50,000 to 100,000 years old, but has worked on objects 2,000 years old and possibly younger.

Fred Kelly, fwkelly@aol.com.

Elizabeth Powell: I recently found more information on Elizabeth Powell (Powell Site, 41FB269). Elizabeth Powell with her family, two boys and two girls, arrived from Louisiana in 1828, so she said in her application for land. She also said she was thirty and a farmer.¹

In 1831, when her headright league on the Bernard at the mouth of Turkey Creek was granted her, she stated she had three children so the record shows. Seventy five years later (1915) Major W. L. Davidson, who came to Richmond in 1837 (so he said) and was a lawyer there until his death in 1920, made an affidavit as to the family of Mrs. Powell as he knew it when he first came, and said she had three daughters, Elizabeth, Julia, and Ellen, and a son, Samuel G. Major Davidson also said that her house was known in the days of the Republic as the half-way house between Columbia and San Felipe.²

The widow Powell's place was the gateway through which the invading armies* came and went into and from Fort Bend. They must have burned her house, for Amon Underwood who journeyed from Columbia to San Felipe in the following October, wrote in his diary: "Left Columbia on the 26th with Cochran, arrived at Mrs. Powell's old place where we found the whole family crowded into a small tent, cold and rainy. Got some beef cooked and ate it and lay down on our blankets in the rain. At daylight left and rode to Northington's ten miles for breakfast."³

* Santa Anna's Mexican Army, spring 1836.

¹ Wharton, C. R., History of Fort Bend County. San Antonio: The Naylor Co., 1939. p. 67

² Id.

³ Id. at 82.

Tom Nuckols, tholnuc@evl.net

Background on the September Lecture: From our speaker, Nancy Kenmotsu, "Salt making sites have been investigated around the world, notably in the Mayan region and along the Mississippi. Whole historic documents tell us that the Caddo made and traded salt, few of their salt making sites have been recorded or investigated. The TAS field school in 1991 investigated one of those few. My talk will focus on that site and the evidence that it is indeed a place where salt was made." A summary of the findings was printed in the Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, Volume 72/2001. The Bulletin is available in the HAS library.

HAS NOMINEES FOR 2004-2005: The nominating committee, consisting of Mary Barbara Gold, Wanda Carter, and Leland Patterson are pleased to present the following names for the 2004-2005 slate of HAS officers. Names will also be taken from the floor at the September meeting. Please plan to attend this important meeting and vote.

President	Linda Swift
Vice President	Muriel Walker
Secretary	Tom Nuckols
Treasurer	Karen Acker
Director at Large	Beth Aucoin
Director at Large	OPEN

To submit articles to The Profile, contact Mary Barbara Gold, 3303 Big Spruce, Kingwood, TX 77339, 281-360-5226, or mary.gold@humble.k12.tx.us.

Submit articles no later than September 28, 2004, for the October edition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON H.A.S., CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

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The Profile

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