



The PROFILE

January 2005

Texas Archeological Society-www.txarch.org

DECEMBER MEETING: Fred Kelly, HAS, "The Archeology of Greco-Roman Libya."

Friday, January 14, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

February's speaker will be Rebecca Storey, "The Xibun Valley in Belize."

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

LABORATORY SCHEDULE:

Monday, January 17 & 31, 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, January 14.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

Sometimes newcomers to the Houston Archeological Society perceive that we are less friendly than we really are. That was my experience 15 years ago when I first discovered HAS and started attending meetings. I later came to realize there are plenty of friendly, interesting people in the organization who, like me, just have difficulty walking up to strangers and introducing themselves.

I feel that we are getting better at welcoming visitors and new members, but we can improve. Members of the Board have resolved to meet and greet all newcomers at every meeting, and we hope that you will do the same.

The ultimate best way to meet the people in an organization is to volunteer. If you haven't served on a committee or participated in lab or field work lately, then you are missing a rewarding experience as well as the camaraderie of some really fine folks. Now that a new year has come, it's a good time to resolve to be more involved with HAS. Talk with me or any Board member at the January meeting, and we'll be glad to tell you about opportunities available.

Kudos to someone who actually has made a new commitment to HAS: Diane Baird has agreed to serve as our Librarian. She was already on the job on January 4th, learning the ropes and getting things organized in the Library. She plans to open the Library at 6:00 p.m. on meeting night, January 14, which will give us all a chance to go by and congratulate her and offer our support, as well as utilize the library resources. Welcome aboard Diane!

Linda Swift, President

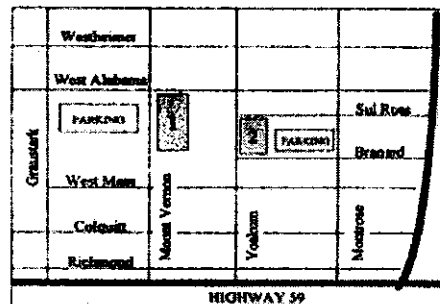
MARK YOUR CALENDER!

- Ft. Bend Archeological Society Meeting, Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Tyree House, 600 Houston, Richmond, TX. Speaker, Tom Nuckols, presents "Civil War Firearms."
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will air a program on the work at San Jacinto Battleground on Channel 8, January 15, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. Members of HAS assisted in metal detecting and shovel testing overseen by Roger Moore and the staff of Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc.
- Friends of Archaeology, "? An All Day Archaeology Mystery Tour," Saturday, February 12, 9:00 a.m. at Archaeology House, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.
- Jesse Jones Heritage Day, Saturday, February 19, 2005, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **We need volunteers!**
- "A Black Sea Shipwreck", Sunday, February 27, 2005, 5:00 p.m. 3900 Yoakum Blvd. Dr. Kroum Batchvaro. Reception follows lecture.
- San Jacinto Day Festival & Battle Reenactment. Saturday, April 23, 2005, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Volunteers needed, contact Beth Aucoin, ekpi.aucoin@prodigy.net, or 281-480-6151.**

NEED TO FIND US? Compliments of Fred Kelly:

LOCATION MAP

1. **M. D. Anderson Hall**
3900 Mount Vernon
University of St. Thomas
2. **McAgy Archaeology Library**
3907 Yoakum
University of St. Thomas



HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES, December 10, 2004

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the December meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. There were 36 people in attendance.

Announcements:

- Lab is postponed for December 27 due to the holidays.
- Volunteers are needed at the San Felipe de Austin excavations.
- Presidio San Saba (TAS Field School Site) article in the winter 2004-05 issue of American Archeology Magazine.
- A meeting was held December 9, 2004, in Austin with Jeff Durst and interested HAS members concerning the future search for Champ d'Asile, an 1818 French settlement on the Trinity River.
- Dick Gregg received an Exemplary Award for his services as a THC Steward.
- THC has nominated HAS for its Award of Excellence in Preserving History.
- Fr. Ed Bader is in Methodist Hospital.

Muriel Walker introduced the night's speaker, Jeff Durst, Region 5 & 6 Archaeologist, Texas Historical Commission, for his presentation, "Fort St. Louis."

The business meeting was dispensed with so that the membership could attend the HAS Christmas Party held in the lobby.

Refreshments were provided by everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by Tom Nuckols

ATTENTION ALL HAS MEMBERS: The annual membership drive is underway. Please fill out the form and send it with your dues.

2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Houston Archeological Society, P O Box 6751, Houston, TX 77265-6751

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail _____

Type of Membership (please circle one)	Individual - \$20.00	Contributing - \$30.00 +
	Family - \$25.00	Student - \$10.00

ALL MEMBERS MUST SIGN THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE:

I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any present or future federal, state, or local statute concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques.

Signature _____ Date _____

HELP WANTED:

- ❖ HAS also needs a Hospitality Chairman for our monthly meetings.
- ❖ The Boy Scouts have an Archeology Badge, and needs someone to help with field work in Ft. Bend.

Outreach Items Needed: Obsolete coins (Mexican pesos and French francs,) plus marbles. Beth Aucoin uses these for mock digs at Jones Nature Center and at San Jacinto State Park. Please bring them to the January or February meetings.

Publication Notice: Bibliography of the Prehistory of the Upper Texas Coast, No. 13, 2005, by Leland W. Patterson, Houston Archeological Society, Special Publication

The thirteenth edition of this bibliography is now available, covering a 21 county area of Southeast Texas. There are 78 pages of references, cross indices of site numbers for the inland and coastal margin areas, and a list of selected references for various subjects. Both the inland and coastal margin sub-regions are well documented and synthesized. The price of this publication is \$10.00, including mailing cost. It can be obtained from the Houston Archeological Society, c/o Leland Patterson, 418 Wycliffe, Houston, Texas, 77079-7133.

NOTEWORTHY:

- Dr. Robson Bonnischen, Director for the Texas A & M Center for the Study of the First Americans, passed away on December 25, 2004.
 - Gregg Dimmick's book Sea of Mud has been nominated for the Texas Historical Commission's Fehrenbach Award. Winners to be announced in April, 2005.
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SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Do you ever have those nights when you can't sleep, and you just lay there in bed thinking about things? Do your thoughts ever have a particular theme, such as contemplating the vastness of the universe; why is one door always locked on the double doors of a convenience store; what was the siege and battle of the Alamo really like?

I have something that I think about on sleepless nights, something that I've been wondering about for years. The story that I am about to tell comes strictly from memory, so some of the details may be inaccurate. To me, this only adds a little more mystery to the tale.

In the late 1980's on a cool, sunny Saturday in early spring, a group of HAS members met at the Hill Top Café in Kendleton, Texas. Joe Hudgins was going to meet us there and then lead us to an area he wanted to test in the hope that it would yield a prehistoric site. Joe showed up around 9:00, and we formed a caravan with our vehicles. We drove off into the countryside, traveling several miles in a northeasterly direction.

When we arrived at the location, I was overwhelmed with the beauty of the site Joe had selected. It sat on a high bluff overlooking the cypress tree-lined bank of the San Bernard River. The surrounding prairie seemed limitless. No man-made structures marred the landscape; I had the feeling that I was in a vast pristine wilderness.

Under the direction of Leland Patterson, we laid out four one-meter square pits on an east-west baseline near, and parallel to, the edge of the bluff. There was a separation of several meters between each test pit.

We began excavating. The soil was relatively sandy and easily screened. We had dug fairly deep in the pit that I was assigned to when a group of articulated bones were encountered lying near one wall of the pit floor. Closer examination revealed that the bones were that of a human foot. The ends of the tibia and fibula were slightly visible in the pit wall. Little rusty shoe nails were scattered amongst the bones. We were not equipped to deal with a human burial, nor did we want to. We stopped digging and backfilled the pit. The other pits failed to yield any artifacts, prehistoric or otherwise, so they were backfilled also. We closed the site down around 3:00 that afternoon.

It was on the drive home that I began to contemplate the burial we had encountered. Who was this guy (I have always referred to the burial as a "guy") and how was it that we could go out into the countryside, pick an arbitrary location, dig a hole in the ground and find a historic burial? The odds must have been astronomical!

I tried to reason the problem out. Maybe we had dug in an old forgotten cemetery, I dismissed this idea though. At lunch, some of us had conducted a surface survey without finding anything indicating a cemetery. Joe said that the land owner hadn't mentioned anything about a cemetery to him; besides none of the other pits had yielded human bones. It must have been an isolated burial.

Over the years, I have often made this comment to Joe, "We should go dig that guy up and see if we can figure out who he was", and Joe always replies "Yup, we need to do that someday." Of course I would never want to dig up a burial just to satisfy my curiosity as to its identity. I like to think that the guy was an early 19th century explorer. He was with a group of men when he died and his companions buried him in an unmarked grave.

Tom Nuckols

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 January 31, 2005, for the February edition.

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

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