



The PROFILE

February 2006

J. Barto Arnold III to Speak on Civil War Blockade Runner *Denbigh*

A San Antonio native, Barto Arnold received his undergraduate and postgraduate education at the University of Texas at Austin. From 1972 until 1997, he worked as the State Marine Archaeologist for Texas. He has been extremely active in several professional societies, including terms as Secretary-Treasurer of the Society of Professional Archaeologists and as President of the Society for Historical Archaeology. Arnold has received wide recognition for his contributions to the passage of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act, which helps protect irreplaceable cultural resources from unscrupulous treasure hunting. Arnold also directed the recent discovery of La Salle's ship *La Belle* in Matagorda Bay, Texas.

In October, 1997, Barto Arnold joined the underwater archaeologists of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology and the Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M University to establish a shipwreck program in Texas and adjoining areas. As Director of Texas Operations for INA, Arnold is planning and directing pre-disturbance surveys of known shipwreck sites, surveys for wrecks yet to be located and major wreck excavations. Recently, his work has resulted in the excavation project of the famous Civil War blockade runner *Denbigh*, sunk off the Bolivar Peninsula in 1865. – *Michael Bailey*

The Month of February

February was the month the ancient Romans honored Februs, god of purification and namesake of February. This was the time to clean and purify one's surrounding and mental outlook. Also, it was a month for family reunions and a time to set things right with family members living and dead. In other words, February is the time for "spring cleaning". - *Fred Kelly*

Detailed information about the *Denbigh* can be found at www.nautarch.tamu.edu/projects/denbigh

As always, the February 10 meeting will be held in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas at 7:30p.m.

For a detailed map, visit the HAS website at www.houstonarcheology.org (Anyone wishing to deliver a presentation at a future meeting should contact Michael Bailey at m Bailey@beamans.com.)



Denbigh at Mobile by Thomas Cantwell Healy, 1864. From a Private Collection. Courtesy TAMU website.

March 10, 2006 PROGRAM: Greg Williams of the Rock Art Foundation will speak.

HAS LIBRARY: Open on Friday, February 10 from 6:30PM to 7:20PM, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: February Labs: February 13 and 27, 7:00 pm., Rice U. Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103. **March Labs:** Mondays, March 13 and 27

Board of Directors Takes Budget Action

Your HAS Board of Directors met on January 26 and finalized the budget for the year 2006, and I'd like to share with you what that budget means in terms of our goals for the Society for this year. First—and I know many of you will cheer about this—our overall philosophy is that it is time to utilize some of our funds to promote archeological knowledge and awareness rather than have the funds pile up in the bank. Second, our decision to do this was considerably helped by two occurrences: 1) we finished the year 2005 with almost \$800 more than we started with, and 2) already this year we have received a generous \$2000 donation from one of our members.

This being the case, we took the following actions:

- Increased our annual donation to the University of St. Thomas archeology program
- Increased our speaker honorarium amounts slightly, to cover increased transportation costs
- Planned a monetary grant to the San Felipe de Austin project
- Voted to purchase a computer and projector for monthly meetings and other events as well as future research projects

Lest anyone think we threw caution to the winds, there were at least two other good proposals that we felt we could not afford: renting a commercial storage space for our spare books and other collections, and publishing the paper copy of the Profile in color for publicity purposes.

I'll go over these actions in a little more detail at the February business meeting. I hope to see all of you there on Friday, February 10.

-- Linda Swift

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2006

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. There were 37 people in attendance.

Announcements:

- Volunteers are needed to work the HAS booth at Texas Heritage Day, February 18th in Humble.
- Volunteers are need to work the HAS booth at the San Jacinto Festival, April 22nd at the San Jacinto Battleground.
- The first session of the TAS Archaeology Academy will be held on February 11-12. It will be hosted by UT @ Tyler at the Tarrant County Community College in Fort Worth.
- The San Felipe de Austin project is ongoing. Contact Marianne (Marianne@nstci.com) for scheduling.
- A proposal to test a prehistoric site will be discussed at the business meeting.
- Lab will be held this month (January) on the 16th and 27th at Rice University.

Program:

Michael Bailey, HAS Vice-President, introduced the guest speaker, Lisa Kalmus, Curator of the Corps Center Museum at Texas A&M University. Her presentation was on "The Guns and Ammo of Texas as Represented in the Corps Center Collection."

Business Meeting:

After the program, there was a refreshment break followed by the business meeting with 18 people in attendance.

- The HAS Board of Directors will meet January 27th at 7:10 pm
- Refreshments for tonight's meeting were provided by Bob Selby and the Carters.
- Secretary Report – There were no December meeting minutes.
- Journal Editor Report – Dick Greg is working on the next issue of The Journal.
- Librarian Report (Diane Baird) – The Library has acquired several new books for the HAS Library.
- Sheldon Kindall announced that a prehistoric site will be tested on January 21st in the Clear Lake area. He talked about the history of the site and will pass out maps and give additional information after the meeting. Sheldon also reported that long-time HAS member Richie Ebersole is in the hospital.
- Treasurer Report – Karen Acker gave the financial report for the fourth quarter of 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

--Submitted by Tom Nuckols, Secretary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

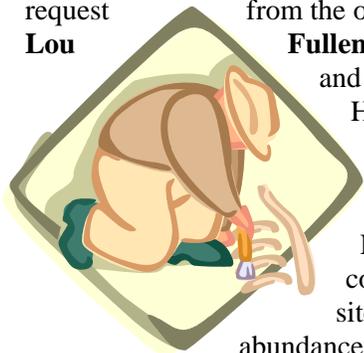
- **“Paths of Glory: Roman Mapping and Worldview”** lecture by Dr. Richard Talbert of the University of North Carolina, on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00PM. Archeological Institute of America, Italian Cultural Center, 1101 Milford, Houston.
- **Texas Heritage Day**, Saturday, February 18, 10 AM – 4 PM, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Keswick Dr., Humble, 281-446-8588, www.hcp4.net/jones.
- **San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment**, Saturday, April 22, 10 AM – 5 PM, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park, Houston/LaPorte, 281-479-2421. www.sanjacinto-museum.org. Flintknappers, display, and kid’s dig volunteers will be needed for both events.
- The **Louisiana Archaeological Society Annual Meeting** will be held at the Atrium Hotel in Monroe, LA, March 3-5. The theme is “Mounds”, and there will be two tours of the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails on Friday, March 3. For registration and speaker information see www.laarchaeology.org/annual
- **Lords of Creation: The Origins of Sacred Maya Kingship** opens at the **Dallas Museum of Art** February 12. Curator Dr. Ginny Fields will give a presentation on the exhibit to the Dallas Archeology Society Friday, February 10. **TAS** members in town for the Lithics academy are invited to attend. For information see www.dallasarchaeology.org
- The second session of the **Texas Archeology Academy** will be held March 4-5 in Midland, TX. **Ceramics: The Stories Found in Pottery** will be led by Dr. Harry Shafer and will focus on how pottery is made and used, how pottery reflects cultural traditions, and how archeologists use the ceramic data to understand the people and their past life-ways. For registration and information see www.txarch.org. –Texas Archeology Academy

Fieldwork: Shell Midden Test Pit Strikes Out

On Saturday, January 21, HAS members tested a possible prehistoric site on the edge of Clear Lake. This work was in response to a request from the owner of the property.

Lou

Fullen, a former member and past president of HAS, had told the owner several years ago that his property on Clear Lake probably contained a prehistoric site because of the



abundance of rangia shell that was visible in his yard. At one time, the whole southeastern edge of Clear Lake was a large shell midden. Now, this one lot is the only place left; private homes have been built along the full extent of the shore, and this lot is up for sale.

Several members of HAS took part in examining this lot. We put a test pit in where the shell was most abundant. It soon became clear that the shell in this lot had been brought in – probably for a walkway or driveway. The shell was only a few inches deep and clean fill dirt was below.

But it was fun. This type of thing keeps HAS members off the streets on weekends; and we had a good lunch at Tookies in Seabrook. –*Sheldon Kindall*

San Felipe de Austin

Marianne Marek is updating her volunteer list. To remain on her list or be added to it, please contact Marianne Marek, principal investigator, at marianne@nstci.com by February 15.

Black History in Texas

Want to learn more about what African Americans have done in Texas? Here's how to find information.

The **George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center** in Austin: 512/974-4926, www.ciaustin.tx.us/carver.

The **African American Museum** in Dallas. 214/565-9026, www.aamdallas.org.

The **Buffalo Soldiers National Museum and Heritage Center** in Houston: 713/942-8920, www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com.

Excerpted from the Texas Historical Commission publication, *The Medallion*, January/February 2006.

HAS Book Sale

HAS Librarian Diane Baird will be holding a book sale at the March meeting. Details will be available in the March Profile.

Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than February 27, for the March issue.

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Swift, President, linda.swift@sbcglobal.net
Michael Bailey, Vice President, mibailey@beamans.com
Karen Acker, Treasurer, tkacker@aol.com
Tom Nuckols, Secretary, annesullivan@andrewskurth.com

Fred Kelly, Director-at-Large, fwkelly@aol.com
Diane Baird, Director-at-Large, diba@houston.rr.com
Richard Carter, Director-at-Large, richardandwanda@sbcglobal.net

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net
Frank Binetti, fkbinetti@houston.rr.com
Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com
R. L. Gregg, rlgregg@worldnet.att.net
Marilyn & Walter Horton, wmhorton@ev1.net
Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com
Sheldon Kindall, kindall@mcleoudusa.net
J. D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com
Sandra & Johnny Pollan, jpollan@brazosport.cc.tx.us
Sandra Rogers, sojourne@consolidated.net

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Pat Mercado-Allinger, pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Beth Aucoin, Region V Director, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net Glynn Osburn, President, gosburn@comcast.net
Pam Wheat, Executive Director, pwheat@vplus.com Web Site: www.txarch.org

The Profile

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

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