



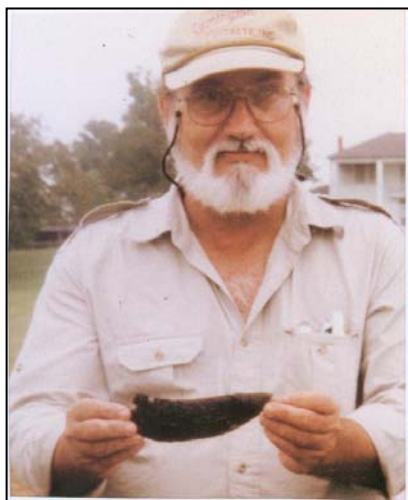
The PROFILE

April, 2008

April Program: Robert T. Shelby on the Elizabeth Powell Site

In 1936 for the 100th anniversary of Texas Independence, the State of Texas placed an historical marker at an old farmstead and tavern located on Turkey Creek in Fort Bend County. It was at this site, the home place of Elizabeth Powell, that the Mexican army gathered to await the return of Santa Anna who, leaving the main army behind, went off with a select group of soldiers to capture the rebel Texian government.

Beginning in 1999 and for the next few years, the Houston Archeological Society conducted archaeological investigations at the Powell site to find



the exact location of the historic Powell house and develop more information about the people who lived there. In the course of the research, many half-truths and misconceptions were encountered about the people and events connected with this spot of land. The focus of the presentation is to correct some of these myths and amplify the recent HAS report published about the site.

Robert Shelby was born and educated in Houston, Texas. He says he has always been interested in his-

tory, and when an archaeologist gave a talk at his junior high school about the finding of King Tut's Tomb, he became enamored with archaeology. From then on, he read all he could on the subject and began putting together a personal library on anthropology and archaeology. The old Houston Museum of Natural History was a haunt of his during his youth.

After attending the University of Houston, he worked in the construction trade for many years, retiring from the City of Houston after 22 years as a building inspector. In 1989 he delighted in discovering the Houston Archeological Society, which he joined, and membership in the Texas Archeological Society soon followed. As an avocational archaeologist, Bob went to numerous field schools and worked on many local archaeology sites. He has served as secretary and president of the Houston society and a regional director of the state society. He was awarded the Southeast Texas Archaeological Research Award in 2007 for his work on 41FB269, the Powell Site.

The April meeting is at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. Parking: Use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of W. Alabama and Graustark (\$2 fee), or park in Faculty Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 pm (no charge). For a detailed map, visit our website at www.houstonarcheology.org, or e-mail HASEvents@aol.com.

May 9th Meeting: Douglas K. Boyd of Prewitt and Associates, Inc. will present archeological and historical investigations on the site of the first capitol of the Republic of Texas in West Columbia, Texas.

Lab Schedule: Monday, April 14th and 28th and May 12th only (no lab on Memorial Day), 7:00-9:00 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Check www.houstonarcheology.org for a map.

The Prez Sez

This has been a busy month. Communication with UST is a real challenge. I finally found out that we will have until the end of April to pack up and move the library. Beth Aucoin, Kathleen Barry and I are working on the inventory.

We plan to use **copier paper boxes with separate lids**. Please let me know if you can bring boxes to the April meeting. We will need lots of them. Give me a call (713-895-9682) to let me know how many you can bring. I'm in the process of finding a place to keep them until packing starts. **Also let me know if you can help box and move books**. There is not a firm date at this time. Leave me your phone # so I can get back with you on the date and time.

We have had one meeting of the search committee. We will find out in mid-May if we will be able to use UST for our meetings the rest of 2008 into 2009. We will continue looking for a meeting place in case this falls through at any time. We will continue to have our meetings at UST as long as possible. The library search is for real. We will not be disposing of our library. We have many reports that are not to be accessed by the general public; we have books that are first edition or are out of print.

The list of people who want to tour the Yates project will be passed around again at the April meeting. I need to let Bob Marcom know how many people will be there by next weekend. The tour will be on Saturday, May 3. We will discuss details at this meeting.

We will have a Board Meeting at 6:15 pm in the library on April 11th.

REMEMBER: BRING BOXES!!!!

See you at the meeting!

-- Diane Baird

Minutes of the March 2008 HAS Meeting

- 28 people were in attendance.
- 4 new members were also present.
- Has President Diane Baird introduced the search committee members who are looking for a library location and potentially a meeting location.
- Beth Aucoin talked about the upcoming San Jacinto Festival on April 26 and she introduced new member Laura Witzel from the University of Houston, who will be providing leadership for our booth at San Jacinto.
- Beth Aucoin reported that Lab will be held Monday night at Rice University, with artifacts from several different sites. She needs assistance with identifying faunal materials.
- Bob Marcom, HAS member and archeologist at the Yates site, is going to provide a tour for HAS members at the Yates site on May 3rd at 10 a.m. Richard Carter will provide directions to the Yates site on our Internet page.
- Ed Masten gave a financial report: \$804.73 received from membership dues, ending balance \$3,370.02 in the operating account.
- HAS Vice-President Michael Bailey introduced the speaker, Steve Hoyt, from the Texas Historical Commission. His lecture was on the Port of Indianola. Texas.
- Refreshments were provided by Muriel and Joe Mueller.

--Submitted by Kathleen Barry, Secretary

San Jacinto Festival Is Just Around the Corner

The San Jacinto Festival and Battle Reenactment is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the San Jacinto State Historic Park located east of Hwy. 225 in La-Porte. Battle reenactment is at 3 p.m.



HAS will have a booth at the festival featuring educational exhibits about Texas archeology as well as hands-on opportunities for people of all ages. The

most popular aspect of the HAS booth is a mock "dig" for kids.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for 4-hour shifts, 9:00-1:00 and 1:00-5:00. Contact Laura Witzel, Home: 281-428-2819, Dorm: 713-743-7484, or lailoken9@yahoo.com; or contact Beth Aucoin, 281-480-6151, or ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net.

We need your help! There will be a sign-up sheet at the April meeting -- *Beth Aucoin*

Bring Your Boxes to the Next Meeting

HAS is in need of the kind of boxes that come with lids and reams of paper inside, for packing the contents of our library. Our library must be moved from its location in the Little Gallery building by the end of this month, so if you have any such boxes, please bring them to the April meeting

Freedman's Town: Recovering Houston's Multicultural Past

By Robert Marcom, Yates Community Archaeology Program

For more than 150 years the Fourth Ward of Houston has been home to immigrant communities. The area now comprising the National Historic District of Freedman's Town was originally limited to a few city blocks nestled between Buffalo Bayou and West Dallas Street – then known as San Felipe Road. In the months after the end of the American Civil War, emancipated African Americans began to leave the Brazos River plantations and travel toward Houston along the San Felipe Road. As they approached the then-modest community, some would begin to build homes, businesses and churches, and to raise families. This was the beginning of Freedman's Town. The Fourth Ward is identified by the Handbook of Texas Online as a center of black cultural and professional life during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and has been called “the Mother Ward.” In the mid-1980s it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other immigrants had been attracted to the area: the first Jewish congregants founded the earliest Jewish cemetery there. Italian Americans purchased land, opened stores and built rental properties there, even as it developed primarily as an African American neighborhood. Today, redevelopment is recreating a 21st Century version of the multicultural, multi-racial mix that typified early Freedman's Town, but in this case the “new” mix is destroying the historical landscape--the historic structures built by the founders, who ranged from successful middle class merchants and professionals to laborers and artisans. Bungalows, shotgun houses, and larger Victo-

rian houses have been replaced with condominiums and apartment buildings priced beyond the incomes of the 20th century working-class residents. The Yates Community Archaeology Program (YCAP), a project of the Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum, Inc, has undertaken to recover, conserve, and collaboratively interpret the history of Freedman's Town.

YCAP conducts field schools for local colleges and universities. We have five properties under investigation, including the homes of Rutherford B. H. Yates, son of the luminary Jack Yates and one of the first African American printers in Houston. The Reverend Ned Pullum's house is also under archaeological investigation. Rev. Pullum was the second pastor of the historic Bethel Baptist Church and the owner of a brick manufacturing company. The home of J. Vance Lewis will soon be tested and included in our research design. Lewis, enslaved then emancipated, was a prominent African American attorney. Across the street from the Gregory School lies the site of an “Italian” store where cutting-edge micro-topographical studies are under way.

These projects have one thing in common: they are all sites which would have disappeared under redevelopment and renewal projects had they not been purchased by the R. B. H. Yates Museum, Inc. YCAP is happy to host both visitors and volunteers. Be a part of recovering the past of an important historic community in our own back yard. Contact us at <http://www.publicarchaeology.org/yates/> or email us at rtmarcom@mail.uh.edu.

Registration Deadline Approaching for TAS Field School June 14-21

The 2008 Texas Archeological Society Field School will be June 14-21, near Perryton, Ochiltree County, in the northern Texas Panhandle. Fieldwork will include block excavations at three sites, test excavations at several sites, pedestrian survey, and recording of previously identified

sites as well as work at two field labs. Lots of good choices remain for those who haven't yet registered. Registration forms will be available at the April meeting. For more information and to register, go to www.txarch.org, and click on Activities/Field School.

Archeology. . . Life in the Past Lane

The **National Park Service's** 2008 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques, entitled "**Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century**" will be held May 19-23, 2008, at the Kelly Inn, Fargo, North Dakota. The field exercises will take place at the Biesterfeldt Site (a protohistoric village site on the Sheyenne River). Co-sponsors include the Archaeological Conservancy, Minnesota State University-Moorhead, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota. This workshop is dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the

identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. The workshop this year will have a special focus on soil magnetism and the effects of plowing on geophysical signatures and site integrity.

Tuition is \$475.00. Application forms are available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/mwac>. For further information, contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, 402-437-5392, ext. 141; fax 402-437-5098; email: stevedevore@nps.gov.

Please submit articles for publication to Linda Swift, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net
Submit articles no later than April 28 for the May issue.

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

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