



“Warrior Queen Boudicca and Iron Age Swords” is April Topic

David A. Furlow is our speaker for the April meeting, with a presentation on “Warrior Queen Boudicca and Iron Age Swords.”

Boudicca was Queen of the Iceni people of Eastern England and led a major uprising against occupying Roman forces. Her history in the first century AD has been featured on the History Channel and the BBC, with David Furlow appearing as one of the experts. At our meeting, he will cover the technology of weaponry at the time of the revolt: the swords, spears, shields, armor, and other weaponry of the Romans and the Celtic Britons. Iron Age technology in Celtic Britain is commonly



David A. Furlow

considered to begin around 1000 BC and lasting through AD 100 with the arrival of the Romans.

David notes that many of his slides come from the Kelvedon excavations, and the rest from the British Museum and several Scottish museums. The Kelvedon excavation is one in which a sword and other implements buried ca. AD 43 were recovered. Colchester Museum archaeologist Paul Sealey published an excavation paper that includes images of an Iron Age iron sword, the woven fabric that cloaked it, the bronze scabbard that protected it, a spearhead, a shield umbo, a tankard, and other metal gear.

“I’ve woven those Kelvedon artifact images into a presentation that retells the story of Boudicca’s rebellion against Rome in AD 60/61. I’ll retell Boudicca’s story, then analyze the golden neckring she would have worn, the bronze brooches of her war-

riors, and the swords, shields, and chariots they would have used, based on the excavated swords, brooches, snaffle-bits, horse-rein terrets, and other artifacts that came out of the ground.

“The presentation will include a few slides that show re-enactors engaging in Iron Age smithing of swords, spears, shield-bosses (umbos) and tankards, and related forms of metallurgy, e.g., the smithing of a bronze scabbard and the crafting of the golden torcs (neck-rings) worn by Boudicca and other members of her Iceni tribe of Late Iron Age/Early Roman Empire Britain.”

David is an attorney with the Houston firm of Thompson & Knight. He has been practicing trial law since 1983 and is Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law. Much of David’s work focuses on First Amendment, media issues, and commercial speech. He actively participates in civic affairs, heritage organizations, and historical research, writing, and publication. In addition to law-related works, he has published articles such as: “How to Find Needles in a Haystack - Contemporary Accounts of 17th Century Goods Traded on the Delaware,” “Through a Pilgrim’s Eyes: Isaac Allerton and New Sweden,” “Pilgrims, the *Mayflower* and American Law,” “Ten Myths and Legends of Texas Law.” (Ask him if it’s legal to pick roadside bluebonnets in Texas!)

Our meeting is at 7:00 pm April 21, in room 009 of the Doherty Library, University of St. Thomas.

April Lab Nights

The first lab night in April was cancelled due to illness in the families of both the Lab Director and Assistant Lab Director. For information on the April 25th lab night, contact Beth Aucoin at ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net. Lab is held in Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University, 7-9 p.m. For a map, check www.houstonarcheology.org.



President's Message

MEETING NOTICE: This month's meeting will be Thursday, April 21, 2011; 7:00 to 9:30 pm. We will be meeting back at the UST Doherty Library (Bldg. 22); room 009 (basement)

It's appropriate that the Bernardo Plantation is abuzz with archeological activity during April. It was just 175 years ago that the plantation was abuzz for another reason. Bernardo was being invaded by Texas families scrambling to escape the advancing Mexican Army in what we know as the Runaway Scrape. General Sam Houston and his Texas army crossed the Brazos and mustered his troops at Bernardo. This is where he took charge of the Twin Sister Cannons prior to leading the Texas army towards San Jacinto to meet and defeat General Santa Anna. All that took place at Bernardo during those times was part of major events that shaped Texas history and which we are privileged and honored to take part in today as avocational archeologists. I know by now some of you may be tired of me speaking about the Bernardo Plantation. But it's just that there are some smaller interesting stories that are worth mentioning. The project historian, Jim Woodrick, is uncovering more history centered around Bernardo on a regular basis and has documented the following account in much more detail than I have space to tell here. But I think you will find the following interesting:

Captain Benjamin Franklin Bryant recruited a company of volunteers in East Texas around Nacogdoches and rode down the La Bahia road toward Washington on the Brazos. From the Trinity River onward, the company encountered hundreds of people fleeing east in the Runaway Scrape. Upon reaching the east side of the Brazos across from Washington, it was clear he could not cross due to the congestion caused by the fleeing refugees. His objective for crossing to the west bank was to turn south and join General Houston's army which was camped across the Brazos from Bernardo. However, unable to cross, Captain Bryant and his men continued down the east bank of the river amidst a miserable and continuous rain. Wet, tired, and hungry, they arrived at Bernardo late Monday evening, March 30, 1836. Upon reaching Bernardo, Jared Groce offered Capt. Bryant the shelter of his slave quarters, as they were unoccupied due to his evacuating his slaves in fear of the advancing Mexican army. This offer was gladly accepted by Captain Bryant, and he and his men camped in the slave quarters until they could join General Sam Houston's camp on the west side of the Brazos on April 1.

You might say this is just some small historical fact involving Bernardo. And you would be right. But here is what makes this interesting. One of Captain Benjamin Franklin Bryant's descendents, Denton Bryant, participated in our archeological work recently. Although we have not discovered the house slave quarters to date, it is just a matter of time when Denton may possibly be able to touch the floor upon which his ancestor, Captain Bryant, rested 175 years ago on his way to the battle of San Jacinto. Now that's archeology with a personal touch! By-the-way, "Remember the Alamo," and have a great San Jacinto Day April 21st.

--Charlie Gordy

Minutes of March 17, 2011, HAS Meeting, University of St. Thomas

Program opened by Charlie Gordy, welcoming members and visitors. Michael Bailey introduced the speaker, Dan Warren, Marine Archeologist, who spoke on Deepwater Shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico.

Business meeting was held after the presentation. Minutes of last month's meeting distributed via the Profile were approved as printed. Financial report will be presented during April meeting.

Bernardo work to begin April 9-10 and continue April 16-17 and April 30-May 1. The HAS website host has changed rules on paying monthly fee. Charlie will be checking on getting a credit card to make payments. Linda Swift announced that those who are not current on dues will no longer be receiving the Profile. Refreshments provided by Lucia Bonno, Charlie Gordy and Michael Bailey.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Haskell, seconded by Linda Swift. Meeting adjourned.

-- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

Bernardo Work Planned for April 9/10, 16/17, and April 30/May 1, 2011

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS OF THE BERNARDO PLANTATION ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT:

GENERAL INFORMATION: I have received confirmation that work dates on site are planned for week-ends in April-May (Saturdays and Sundays), 2011 as noted above. We will begin work each day at 8:00 am and end at 5:00 pm. Our objective is to continue the search for the outbuildings associated with the main plantation house. The preliminary plan is to begin with four to six shoveled trenches and then place units if/when indicated. Recovered artifacts will be catalogued; however no lab work is planned on site.

We will need 10-15 volunteers for each day. If you desire to participate in this work, please contact me and confirm what day(s) you plan to work ASAP. As a side note, I have really been impressed as to the commitment that our volunteers have made over the past work periods. My records show that volunteers have contributed a total of approximately 2587 work hours in the field to date.

DIRECTIONS: For new participants that have never been to the site before, contact me at chasgordy@yahoo.com for a map and directions.

ADMINISTRATION: If you have not participated during any work periods since August 2010, there are new release forms requiring your signature upon check-in. Just so there is no misunderstanding, if you do not agree to the release terms, you must leave the property.

LOGISTICS: Bring your own lunch. Water will be furnished. You should bring your own work tools and gloves. Another suggestion is to bring a lawn chair, sunscreen, bug spray, hat, and wear normal attire for outside field work. As you know, Texas weather is always a little "iffy."

PARKING: Parking will be along the roadside in the area of the caretaker's house. No parking on the grass. The only vehicles allowed at the dig site are vehicles carrying our supplies and equipment. It is an easy walk (150-200 yards) from the parking area to the dig site.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

--Charlie Gordy, volunteer work coordinator

News on Champ d'Asile

Meanwhile, work is still going forward on the Champ d'Asile site near Liberty. Sheldon Kindall reported that the Texas Historical Commission was at the site April 9 with their magnetometer, along with a work party of THC stewards and others.

According to Sheldon, "Juan Castaneda, who was sent to destroy the fort, makes it clear in his report [to Gov. Martinez] that one of his scouts and two soldiers spent the night in the abandoned fort, got up the next morning and met him at Atascosito at 8:00 am. The fort was on the Trinity River bank and Atascosito. Assuming that his scout would travel through tall grassland only during daylight, this fixes two possible locations for Champ d'Asile. We searched the more southern of these two possible locations."

More field work is scheduled for April 16. We look forward to more developments from the elusive Champ d'Asile!

"The Road to San Jacinto 1836: History, Events, Archeology"

A new exhibit entitled "The Road to San Jacinto 1836: History, Events, Archeology," opens April 14 at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville (at 1402 19th St). The exhibit features four sections: artifacts from **Bernardo Plantation**, artifacts from **San Jacinto**, including cannon casing from **Twin Sisters**, unique artifacts found in a linear formation at the Almonte surrender site, and facial reconstructions from the Mexican skulls by Amanda Danning. The SH Museum is open Tues - Sat 9:00 to 4:30 and Sunday noon to 4:30. For additional information contact Sandra Rogers at 936-294-1832.

Friends of Archaeology Annual Dinner on April 30

Renowned Art Historian David E. Brauer of the Glassell School, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of Archaeology's Annual Dinner April 30 at the University of St. Thomas, starting with a reception at 5:30 pm. Reservations are \$35 per person, with a reservation deadline of April 17. For more information, call 713-681-2852 or 713-266-9516.

Update on the Texas Historical Commission Budget

We had a big surprise and made progress in the House of Representatives [the last weekend of March]. *It is now very clear that your letters, emails and phone calls have been remarkably successful.* As reported in previous Updates, we knew, direct from the Legislators themselves, that they have received “*more letters on this THC thing than any other subject.*” They now know that Texans take their History seriously and consider it to be essential. As reported previously, the House spent [that weekend] in a marathon debate, review and approval of House Bill 1-Appropriations. During that debate, 331 amendments were submitted on the floor and many of them were approved and incorporated into the Bill that has passed. One of those was an amendment to ADD \$4,310,000 back into the THC from the Preservation Trust Fund (at no cost to the General Revenue) and ADDED 26.5 FTE (full time employees) back into their ranks!!

This is a welcomed improvement to the THC funding situation. However, it requires additional separate legislation be passed in order to legally transfer these funds. This surprise amendment was submitted by Rep. Ryan Guillen of Rio Grande City, District 31. If you would like to drop him an email to say “thanks” for supporting the THC, follow this link: Ryan.Guillen@house.state.tx.us. –Steve Black

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than May 5 for the May 2011 issue.

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

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