



November 20th 2014 Meeting Program

SURRENDER OF ALMONTE AT SAN JACINTO

Dr. Gregg Dimmick

HAS member Dr. Gregg J. Dimmick, MD, will be the speaker at the Thursday, November 20, meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. The meeting will be held at MD Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas at 7:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Dimmick's topic will be "The Surrender of Almonte at the Battle of San Jacinto." He will discuss the discovery of a Mexican army site 1 1/2 miles SE of the San Jacinto Battleground. He will show the artifacts and the facts that eventually led the archeological team headed up by Dr. Roger Moore and project director Douglas Mangum, to conclude that this was likely the site of the surrender of approximately 300 Mexican soldiers who had fled the battleground. He will explain how, as in this case, the archeological and the historical accounts seem to fit together smoothly.



Dr. Gregg Dimmick



Dr. Gregg Dimmick and HAS President Linda Gorski recover an artifact during a survey at the San Jacinto Battleground.

Dr. Dimmick is a pediatrician by profession but is also a published author, historian and avocational archeologist. His first writings were published field reports of the Houston Archeological Society dealing with the Mexican Army's retreat through Wharton County after their defeat at San Jacinto. Dimmick's first book, *Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto, An Archeological Investigation* was published by the Texas State Historical Association in 2004. In 2007, TSHA published *General Vicente Filisola's Analysis of Jose Urrea's Military Diary: A Forgotten 1838 Publication by an Eyewitness (of the) Texas Revolution*, edited by Dimmick and translated by John Wheat. Dr. Dimmick continues to participate in archeological and historical investigations at San Jacinto.

For a campus map, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20, Anderson Hall. Street parking is available as well as paid parking (\$2) Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program, contact lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message

Texas Archeology Month (October) is finally over and I'm hoping life will slow down a bit until the end of the year! Huge thanks to HAS members who made TAS Month activities such a huge success! See reports on the International Archeology Day and the TAS Annual Meeting in San Marcos in other parts of this newsletter.

I was so proud to have been asked to present a paper at the 85th Annual TAS meeting in San Marcos, October 23 – 25, on the success of our Dimond Knoll Screening Project. I used many many photos of you – the wonderful volunteers who made the project so terrific -- in my presentation. I will present this program again at our December 11th meeting at the University of St. Thomas (a week earlier than usual) so you can see yourselves in action ☺ Thanks once again for helping make this project so successful that it won the E. Mott Davis Award for Public Archeology in 2014! And, by the way, Dr.

Jason and I will be presenting a paper about the Dimond Knoll Screening Project at the next SAA (Society for American Archeology) meeting in San Francisco next April! Your photos will be seen by literally thousands of professional archeologists from around the country!!! Ooo-rah!

One of the other great successes of the Dimond Knoll project was a huge spike in HAS memberships proving to us that avocational archeologists like to be in the field working. As of today we are 165 strong – nearly quadrupling our membership from two years ago! Today we start our membership drive for 2015 and I hope all of you will renew for another year. Our Profile editor Bob Sewell has included a membership form in this newsletter but you can also find one on our website at <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>

This month we are also starting a new column in the Profile thanks to a submission by HAS Board member Tom Nuckols. Tom submitted a story describing how he first got interested in archeology and we think you'll thoroughly enjoy it! And we hope you will submit your story about how you got interested in archeology. We hope to make this a regular column in the Profile but we need YOU to make that happen! Send us your stories!

As for me, I think I've always been interested in archeology but never really had the chance to pursue that interest as a military brat who was constantly on the move (over 17 different houses by the time I was 17). In 1975 my husband, then Major Rick Gorski, was assigned to a posting with the British Army on the Royal Engineers Camp at Chattenden just south of London in Kent. I noted in the local newspaper that the University of Kent, Canterbury, was sponsoring a class in Roman-British Archeology and I jumped at the chance to take it! Thus ensued the most exciting year-long adventure studying Roman-British history and taking field trips to Roman archeological sites and taking advantage of the incredible opportunity to excavate a portion of the spectacular Roman villa at Lullingstone which is now under roof and a major archeological attraction with some of the most amazing mosaic floors I've seen anywhere. That was nearly 40 years ago and I'm still at it – only this time I'm digging up the history of Texas, one trowel full at a time!

So come on folks – share your stories of your first archeological adventures with us! Bob's Profile deadline is the last week of the month. I think this column will help all of us get to know each other better!

See you at the next meeting on November 20th. Bring your membership renewals!!! We're in for another great year in 2015!

And I hope all of you have a very happy Thanksgiving with family and friends!



Linda Gorski, President Houston Archeological Society

Minutes

Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting

October 16th, 2014

- Introduction (Linda Gorski)
 - President Linda Gorski called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests. There were a total of 43 attendees, including 14 guests signed in.
 - Linda Gorski gave an overview of the International Archeology Day activities coming up on October 18th, 2014 at the HMNS, and introduced Dr. August Costa of Rice University who has been influential in setting up the activities.
- Treasurers Report (Tom Nuckols)
 - Checking account: \$7,216.74
 - Savings account: \$11,965.17
- Audit Report (Tom Nuckols)
 - The Audit Committee (Tom Nuckols, Tracy Connell, and Charlie Aulbach) met on 4/3/2014 to review the 2013 accounts. Tom Nuckols declared that the accounts were acceptable as presented.
- Membership (Bob Sewell)
 - Current HAS membership is 159. This is an increase of 10 members since the last meeting. The 2015 membership drive begins on November 1, 2014. Applications are online or in the lobby. If you joined after September 1, 2014 then your membership is good thru 2015.
- Upcoming Projects (Linda Gorski)
 - **International Archeology Day**, Oct 18th 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Glassell and Great Halls at HMNS. HAS will be part of a large group of archeological entities participating, including colleges and CRM firms. We already have positive comments from several local colleges, CRM firms, TPWD etc., who would like to have a booth to share their projects. We need lots of volunteers for this event.
 - **Kleb Woods – Archeology 101**, November 1, 2014. A basic archeology class will be offered for beginners. Learn how to set up a unit, dig a unit, screen dirt, recover artifacts, and clean, analyze, and collect artifacts.
 - **Elysian Viaduct / Frost Town Project**. The project is still in the permit phase. Work has started on the north side of Buffalo Bayou. HAS will be helping with work on the south side of the Bayou.
 - **San Jacinto Screening Project** – On September 27, 2014, several members of the HAS Board met with representatives of San Jacinto Conservancy to discuss getting the screening project underway. The last time the dirt piles were viewed they were still very wet and the area was full of mosquitos. Hopefully, the environment will become better in November. A collection of artifacts that were discovered in the area during the 1960s and 1970s were viewed to give us some idea of what we might find.
- Next month's program (Linda Gorski)
 - A reminder that next month's program will be by HAS Member Dr. Gregg Dimmick. His topic will be 'The Surrender of Almonte at the Battle of San Jacinto'.

The evening's program was presented by Dr. Jeff Fleisher, Professor of Anthropology at Rice University. His topic was 'The Archaeology of the Ancient Swahili: Trade, Islam, and the Indian Ocean World'.

Following the presentation, attendees enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski and Beth Aucoin.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014.

Bob Sewell, Secretary Houston Archeological Society

International Archeology Day a Huge Success

The first annual International Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Saturday, October 18, 2014 was declared a huge success! And a lot of that success is thanks to members of the Houston Archeological Society who volunteered on the day including Bob Sewell, Tom Nuckols, Elizabeth Coon-Nguyen and her kiddos, Diane Baird, Kathleen Hughes, Sharon Menegaz, Beth and Pat Aucoin, Kevin Rambo and his nephews, Mike Woods, Carlos Rendon, Tracy Connell, Dr. Jason W. Barrett, Dr. August Costa, Dr. Roger Moore, Sandy Rogers, Douglas Mangu, Tom Williams and Angela Rippley. Thanks to all of you for a job well done!

This event was sponsored by the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Houston Archeological Society, Rice University Archaeology, the Texas Department of Transportation and several other local groups. We had some great participants and each one of them said they would be delighted to come back next year! Here are a few photos from the day showing HAS members welcoming visitors to the exhibits. For more photos of the event check out the HAS website at http://www.txhas.org/PDF/iad_photo_album.pdf



HAS member Angela Rippley discusses skulls from the Sam Houston State University forensics lab. Thanks to Dr. Joan Bytheway for bringing such an outstanding display!



Lots of terrific HAS members volunteered for the day including Sharon Menegaz, Diane Baird and my buddies the Coon-Nguyen kiddos and their mom Elizabeth!!!!



HAS members Beth and Pat Aucoin teaching kids about artifacts recovered from sites in southeast Texas.



HAS member and Rice University professor, Dr. August Costa, teaches kids how to throw the atlatl.

TAS Annual Meeting – San Marcos – October 23 – 25, 2014

The 85th Annual Texas Archeological Society meeting in San Marcos was a huge success and I'm proud to announce that the Houston Archeological Society was incredibly well represented!!! According to registrar, Leslie Bush, 359 TAS members attended the meeting. If you've never been to an annual meeting, it's like a big family reunion only everyone is an archeologist! The weekend includes academic papers, a silent auction, drinks, prominent speakers (this year's speakers included Amy Borgens who gave a presentation on Deep Water Shipwrecks and Doug Owsley Division Head of Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institute who gave a wonderful program on Kennewick Man), great food, drinks, book fairs, poster sessions, artifact identification by Elton Prewitt and his team ... and more! Check out the photo album at http://www.txhas.org/PDF/tam_2014_photo_album.pdf.

Thanks to all HAS members who helped make the 2014 meeting so successful. Kathleen Hughes brought in \$2200 selling TAS merchandise!!! Sharon Menegaz helped with registration. Sandy Rogers filled in selling t-shirts and hoodies. Gregg Dimmick, Louis Aulbach and I signed books at the authors table. Several HAS members including Dr. Jason Barrett, Dr. Roger Moore, Dick Gregg, Louis Aulbach, and Sandy Rogers gave presentations. Carlos Rendon, Carlos Soto and Mike Woods helped us haul books and posters and other HAS displays. Beth Aucoin had the foresight to bring a portion of our Marshall Black lithics collection for Elton Prewitt to identify. Among the points Elton identified is one that he termed "the most pristine Refugio point" he's ever seen!

We were delighted to see HAS members Sheldon Kindall, Jean Epperson, Merle and Joe Hudgins, Suzanne and Charles Patrick and former members Pam Wheat Stranahan and Kerza Prewitt at the meeting. (Kerza joined HAS when she was a teenager and had to be driven to meetings by her mother!)

Two of our HAS members won special TAS awards. Joe Hudgins was the recipient of the President's Award for Exemplary Service to the Texas Archeological Society, recognizing his 36 years of service to Texas archeology. Hudgins is the Texas Historical Commission archeological steward for Wharton County, past president of HAS, a member of Ft Bend County Archeological Society and the author of numerous papers. Hudgins has also received the TAS Golden Pen Award in 1993, TAS Distinguished Service Award 2007, THC Jim Word Award for outstanding archeological stewardship 2010; and numerous other awards. His work on prehistoric and historic sites in Wharton County including the ancient burial site known as Crestmost Site, the Post West Bernard site near Egypt, and the extended site in east Wharton County known as the Retreating Mexican Army site highlighted the archeological importance of the area. Joe is also a part of the research teams that are currently reviewing sections of the San Jacinto battleground and the Fannin battleground for evidence that may still remain from these important 1836 sites.



Pam Wheat Stranahan, Merle Hudgins and Suzanne Patrick congratulate Joe Hudgins on receiving the TAS President's Award for Exemplary Service.

The Francis Stickney Field School award was presented to HAS member Sue Gross for the untold amount of time that she spent in facilitating the start of and the daily activities of the 2014 TAS Field School in Columbus. To quote from one of several letters in support of her nomination, "Sue was everywhere doing everything that was necessary for the 2014 Field School to be the success that it was". She was the glue that held everything together, from the beginning to the end. Congratulations Joe and Sue on your well-deserved awards!

I hope the Houston Archeological Society can put on as successful an event next year when HAS hosts the 86th annual meeting here in Houston October 23 – 25, 2015 at the Omni Hotel and Resort in West Houston (Eldridge exit off I-10). Mark your calendars now!!! We'll need lots of volunteers to put on a great meeting - and YOU will enjoy getting to know 300++ other professional and avocational archeologists from across the State of Texas.

Linda Gorski – President Houston Archeological Society

Beginnings

By

Tom Nuckols

For quite a while now, I've been telling people that I joined the Houston Archaeological Society (HAS) in 1974. However, a recent perusing through back issues of the Newsletter, via the HAS website (Historical Newsletters and Journals) has caused me to amend that date.

In the HAS Newsletter #54, dated December 1976, and listed under "Activities" is this:

Activities

• Liberty County Sites

Margie Lohse is planning test excavations of sites in Liberty County during the first part of January, weather permitting. Volunteers from HAS are invited to participate. Proposed dates for this project are January 5-14, including the weekend of January 8-9. The area where this work will be done is in the Trinity River Valley approximately 12 miles east of Cleveland, Texas. Participants are asked to bring their personal excavation equipment and food and water. Group housing is not available at this time, although Cleveland has four motels and a trailer park (all on Hwy. 59).

Remembering having joined the HAS shortly before the above mentioned Liberty County test excavations, I looked at the Newsletters previous to #54, hoping to find some mention of my name. This endeavor was successful. Attached to the September, 1976 Newsletter, #53, is a typed two page list of HAS members along with their addresses and telephone numbers. The names Mike Johnson and Tom Nuchols [sic] appear handwritten at the bottom of page one. So, if asked, now I can state unequivocally that I joined the society in 1976.

My First Dig

On a cold Saturday morning on January 8th, 1977, I left my single bedroom apartment in Channelview and drove (in my circa 1975 lime green/white vinyl top, Ford Mustang Ghia II) to Liberty, to participate in the Liberty County test excavations. I previously obtained directions that led me to an oil field equipment shack just north of Liberty on the east side of State highway 146. The shack was temporary housing for the test excavation crew. The crew consisted of HAS members Margie Lohse, Barbara Burger and local college students majoring in anthropology. When I arrived at the shack it was still dark outside. Knocking at the door, I was met by Barbara. She and Margie had been up for a while and had coffee brewing. The students were asleep. We three sat down to a cup of coffee and conversed. Eventually, the students got up and began to stir. I don't recall being introduced to any of the students. And the only one that I remember is HAS member Roger Moore. One of the female students was holding a book entitled *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, by Pirsig. Owning a motorcycle and being very naïve at the time I asked the student: "Oh, do you own a motorcycle?" The response to my query was a blank stare followed by the comment: "It isn't that kind of book". Her response left me mystified. Later, and much to my chagrin, I learned that *Zen* is philosophical fiction in which the author explores his metaphysics of quality. I never read *Zen*. However, a few years ago, I purchased the 2007 book *Legendary Motorcycles, The Stories and Bikes Made Famous by Elvis, Peter Fonda, Kenny Roberts, and Other*

Motorcycling Greats by Wasef. The author devotes a chapter to Pirsig, who in the summer of 1968, accompanied by his twelve year old son Chris, traveled the northwest United States on a 1964 Honda CB77 Superhawk. This trip was Pirsig's inspiration for his book.

Back to the story. Everyone assembled; we left the shack, caravanning in a northerly direction, arriving at a location that to this day remains elusive in my memory. However, I vaguely remember being on high ground above the Trinity River valley. I was assigned to excavate a one meter square test unit. I was given some digging equipment and a screen and left to my own devices without any instructions what so ever. I was terrified! I didn't have any archaeological experience! Nor, was there anybody nearby to assist me. All the test units were spread far apart, causing me to lose sight of everyone else. Fortunately, I had enough sense not to dig a hole, but to keep the floor of my unit level. I uncovered a few shards of undecorated prehistoric ceramics (Goose Creek Plain?). After quite a while of digging and having reached a depth that I later learned enabled an experienced person to "read" the wall profiles, Barbara appeared to check on my progress. She looked down at my excavation; a frown developed on her face and she began shaking her head back and forth as if silently saying "No, no, no!" She turned around, walked off and began muttering something under her breath. I was devastated! What was I doing wrong? I don't remember much after that, but I was glad when the day ended and I could go home. Driving home, I was in a fog of depression, thinking that the chances of ever being asked to participate in another archaeological project were doomed. However, I didn't give up and worked with the HAS on projects, and in the process learned proper archaeological techniques.

A few years later, I got up the courage to ask Barbara what I had done wrong that had caused her to get so upset. "Wrong?" she asked. "You didn't do anything wrong". "I was upset because your wall profiles weren't revealing any stratigraphy".

One of the students participating in the Liberty County test excavations was Anne Sullivan (University of Houston). We got acquainted in the spring of 1984, during archaeological investigation of the Lafitte Site (41GV140) on Galveston Island. We began dating that fall and married, January 1986. I eventually found out that Anne had been at Liberty. It occurred to me that she might have been the female student that was reading *Zen*. I never talked to her about it because I didn't want her to think that she had married a dummy. Finally, one night while Anne was cooking dinner and I was working on this article I asked her: "Anne, have you ever read *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*?" "No, why do you ask?" "Never mind, I'll explain later".

Reference Cited

Wasef, Basem

2007 *Legendary Motorcycles: The Stories and Bikes Made Famous by Elvis, Peter Fonda, Kenny Roberts, and Other Motorcycling Greats*. Motorbooks, China.

Lab Dates for November and December 2014

There will be one lab in November on the 17th, with the last for 2014 on December 15th. We will continue measuring, drawing to scale, labeling and documenting the Frio County artifacts from the Marshall Black Collection. These are activities in which all HAS members attending lab can participate. In subsequent labs we will document artifacts from the Addick's Midden and Harris County.

The San Patricio County artifact (referenced in the last [Profile](#)) was taken to the UT Austin-Vertebrate Paleontology Lab for further analysis. Visually, due to its thickness and weathered fracturing, it was thought to be made from a proboscidean tusk. However, after micro-analysis by several paleontologists and it reacting to dilute HCL (indicating it was composed of calcium carbonate), the consensus was that the material was from a very large gastropod/marine snail. The thickness and curvature appeared to be from near the operculum opening, and the ridges resembled the kind of ornamentation seen on some gastropods, perhaps akin to a very large whelk.

We meet for lab on the aforementioned Monday evenings, from 7-9 p.m., Room 103 (lower level), Sewall Hall, Rice University. Founders Court/Visitor Parking is directly across from Sewall Hall and requires a credit or debit card for access. (Cost is about \$3.50/hour.) Visit www.rice.edu/maps for a map of the campus and the parking area. Any member wishing to be included on the lab e-mail list should contact Melissa May @ smay10@comcast.net.

Melissa May
Lab Director

***** REMINDER *****

The HAS December Meeting will be held on December 11th, 2014. This is one week earlier than previously announced and has been re-scheduled to accommodate those folks who may be heading out of town for the Christmas Holidays.

Linda Gorski will present a review of the Society's activities during 2014 and provide further information on upcoming projects in 2015. Make sure that you mark your diaries now so as not to miss it!



HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.txhas.org

NAME(s): _____

(Please Print)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE (Home): _____ (Cell) _____

(Home): _____ (Cell) _____

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Renewing Members: If any of the above information has changed in the past year please check here

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (check all that apply)

- New Renewal
- Student \$15.00 Individual \$25.00
- Family \$30.00 Honorary Life Member
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Please make checks payable to *Houston Archeological Society*

Please mail this form to: Houston Archeological Society,
P. O. Box 130631
Houston, TX 77219-0631

ALL MEMBERS MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE AND MAIL IT WITH MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/WE pledge that I/WE will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any present or future federal, state or local historic preservation statutes concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial or personal purposes, or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological sites and historic properties or associated data, or disregard proper archeological field methods.

I/WE have read and agree with the current HAS Waiver of Liability, as downloaded from the HAS Website (www.txhas.org)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Version: 11-1-2013

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Programs for 2014/2015 7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June) M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University

November 20, 2014

Dr. Gregg Dimmick will present a program on archeology at the San Jacinto Battleground including an update on artifacts discovered at the Alamonte surrender site.

December 11, 2014

Linda Gorski, HAS President will present the highlights of the society's archeological activities in 2014.

January 15, 2015

Wilson 'Dub' Crook, will present the 2nd installment of his recent archeological surveys along the Trinity River with a presentation entitled "The East Fork – The Pueblo Connection". Dub will detail the finding of the 86 Puebloan artifacts (to date!) from the Late Prehistoric sites along the East Fork of the Trinity, including puebloan pottery, obsidian artifacts, shell beads, and turquoise artifacts. Dub will also (hopefully by then) have the XRF data which will source the obsidian and possibly the turquoise. Clearly with 86 artifacts from 4 different sites, there was a major trade connection between the Pueblo southwest (mostly north-central New Mexico) and the East Fork. And at the heart of the trade was bois d'arc.

February 19, 2015

HAS member **Gordon Houston** will give a presentation on "The Archeoastronomy at the Paint Rock, Texas Archeological Site".

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS see our website at www.txhas.org or email lindagorski@cs.com. You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

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Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than November 30th for the December 2014 issue.

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

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The Profile

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