



**Thursday, October 17th, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.**  
**“Hunting Bison While Fleeing Sea-Level Rise:  
A Map-Based Synthesis of Southeast Texas Prehistory”**  
**Dr. Dan Worrall**

The October meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center located at 1414 Wirt Road in West Houston. HAS member, Rice University graduate, author, and fifth generation Texan, Dr. Dan Worrall, will give a presentation entitled Hunting Bison While Fleeing Sea-Level Rise: A Map-Based Synthesis of Southeast Texas Prehistory. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public.

Working with co-authors Dr. John Anderson of Rice University as well as Don Dobesh and Rosemary Neyin at CGG Geophysical, they produced a set of digital paleogeographic maps of the dramatically changing Texas coastline during the time since the Late Pleistocene, when early Native Americans arrived on the scene. Then, working with two other co-authors, HAS’s own Linda Gorski and GIS mapping expert Cary Burnley, they took the long-forgotten HAS archeological database created by Leland Patterson in 1989-1996, updated it to 2019, and tied it via GIS mapping software to the paleogeographic maps. The result is an unparalleled look at the lifeways of early Native Americans in our area, putting 60 years of HAS studies into time-map view.



An astonishing finding coming out of the mapping has been the emerging picture of a well-defined zone of annual bison and deer hunting in western Harris, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties, where animals were driven into carefully chosen funnel-shaped wooded stream forks, to be harvested in the stream bottoms. These are ancient sites, and the benefits of geography resulted in over 13,000 years of repeated, seasonal late Autumn use – an amazing record of 600 generations of sustainable bison and deer harvesting. Late Spring through Summer found many of these same people living on the coast, where life presented unique challenges. Archeological sites on the modern coast data back only to the Late Archaic, but the coastline in Clovis time was 120 miles farther out, when sea level was 65m lower than today. People in the Paleoindian period contended with repeated coastal flooding; sea level rose as much as 40mm per year, and the coastline moved rapidly landward. It puts today’s mild sea level rise of 3mm/yr in perspective!

Dr. Worrall received a BA from Rice University in 1972 and a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in 1978, both in geology. Following a career in exploration geology research and basin studies at Shell Oil Company, he has been a member of the Harris County Historical Commission since 2014, working on a project to bring historical markers to significant sites in western Harris County. In 2016, he published a book on the history of the west Houston area entitled *Pleasant Bend: Upper Buffalo Bayou and the San Felipe Trail in the Nineteenth Century*. Also, in 2016, he joined the Houston Archeological Society and began to study the prehistory of Southeast Texas from the combined viewpoint of archeology, history, and geology. He is among a fifth generation of his family to live in the Houston area.

Our monthly “Show and Tell” display will begin at 6:30 and will include a very large display of Pleistocene era fossils and prehistoric artifacts recovered from McFaddin Beach that were likely washed up from archeological sites that are now offshore due to sea level rise, as Dr. Worrall will discuss in his talk. Please join us! If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact HAS Vice President, Larry Golden, at [goldenlarry58@gmail.com](mailto:goldenlarry58@gmail.com).



## President’s Message – Linda Gorski

Our 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Houston Archeological Society, delayed a week by Tropical Storm Imelda’s flooding rains, was held on Thursday, September 26th. The AGM is traditionally when HAS votes on new Board members and this year was no exception as the following members were voted into office: Linda Gorski, President; Larry Golden, Vice President; Bob Sewell, Treasurer; Beth Kennedy, secretary; and Dub Crook as a Director at Large. Ashley Jones and Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen still have 1 year and 2 years to go on the Directors at Large positions. Please give each of these folks a high five when you see them at future events and thanks for your confidence in electing us again! If you’d like contact any of your new board members, check the HAS website at <http://www.txhas.org/contact-us.html>.

We also celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our Society at the AGM with a big cake. Did you know that HAS was formed in 1959 by a small group of individuals with a shared interest in archeology and of the history of the early inhabitants and settlers of Texas, especially those occupying the Upper Texas Gulf Coast and adjoining states! Thanks to our member Tom Williams for the terrific 60<sup>th</sup> birthday bumper stickers! If you didn’t receive yours at the meeting in September, Bob Sewell will have a stack to give away to HAS members only at the meeting in October.

I’m not sure if I’ve ever properly introduced you to our talented advisory board which consists of Sharon Menegaz, our Education coordinator, Dr. Jason Barrett, our field advisor, Dr. Erin Phillips our Lab Advisor and Louis Aulbach, our publications guru. These four folks bring so much professional experience to the table and we are so very lucky to have them on our advisory Board!

Thanks for your confidence in voting me in again as president of this wonderful organization! I promise you that I will do my level best to lead this organization into its 61<sup>st</sup> year!!!



Linda Gorski, President



Beth Kennedy, Secretary



Ashley Jones,  
Director at Large



Larry Golden, Vice President



Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen, Director at Large



Dub Crook,  
Director at Large



Bob Sewell, Treasurer



# Houston Archeological Society

## Monthly Meeting

### September 26, 2019

**Welcome New Members and Guests to our meeting location at Trini Mendenhall Community Center (Linda Gorski, President).** Linda also announced a “Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday HAS”!

**Treasurer’s Report (Bob Sewell):** Bob reported amounts in the HAS checking and savings accounts. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob.

**Membership (Bob Sewell):** We have 237 members; five new members joined tonight, for a total of 242 so far in 2019. Also, Bob still has HAS hats for a \$10.00 donation. Only green and blue hats are left.

#### **New Business:**

**Nominations (Bob Sewell):** A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of officers for next year: Linda Gorski, President; Larry Golden, Vice President; Bob Sewell, Treasurer; Beth Kennedy, Secretary. Dub Crook, Director at Large; Board Director Liz Coon-Nguyen has 1 year left, and Board Director Ashley Jones has two years remaining.

**Awards for Year (Linda Gorski):** The Merit Award was presented to HAS Secretary Beth Kennedy for her participation in field and lab work. The Southeast Texas Research Award was presented to Sarah Chesney, archeologist with the San Felipe de Austin Museum and future TAS president, for her field work and research conducted at San Felipe and her contribution to Texas archeology.

**Publications (Dub Crook):** The new Journal #141 is available for pick-up tonight to all members. The journal contains 11 papers on Texas archeology, and one paper on Roman archeology. One or two special reports are forthcoming this year.

**Monthly Show and Tell** tonight was presented by HAS member John Lumb, who displayed his Powerpoint on his “Travels In the Southwest.”

#### **Projects and Events**

**New Emergency Salvage Archeology Project at The Arboretum (Linda Gorski and Bob Sewell):** We now have the permit to begin work on this project. We will be working through 21 dirt piles containing Camp Logan artifacts!

**San Felipe de Austin (Bob Sewell and Sarah Chesney):** Shovel testing and labs to start up again in October. Watch for emails.

**Lone Oak Site in Frelsburg, Texas (Linda Gorski):** Shovel testing has ended for the time being, and the site has been assigned a trinomial. We have begun analyzing artifacts recovered at the site and writing the preliminary report. Further excavations depend on what information is contained in the report.

**Kleb Woods Nature Center (Ashley Jones):** We will again participate in Diggin Old Stuff Day on Saturday, November 2. Both adults and children will be digging with us.

**Sunday, September 29:** Houston Maritime Museum: Amy Borgens, State of Texas Marine Archeologist, will lead a workshop on Houston in WWI. Louis and Linda will participate with presentation on Camp Logan.

**Tuesday, October 1: HMNS** Dr. Leslie Bush, paleoethnobiologist, will give a presentation on Native Texas plants.

**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>,** is International Archeology Day at HMNS. Please volunteer to help that day! Set up is at 8:00 a.m.

**October program:** Dr. Dan Worrall will present a program entitled **Hunting Bison While Fleeing Sea-Level Rise: A Map Based Synthesis of Southeast Texas Prehistory**

Tonight, Dub Crook presented an important program on **The Early Archeology and Paleoanthropology of China**. Dub is well known to all of us and is hands down our most popular speaker. He has presented our September and January programs for the past several years and each one was enormously well received. He says he’s running out of topics, but I don’t believe it for a minute! Dub is responsible for our Journals and Reports which are the envy of every other archeological society in the State!

- Beth Kennedy, Secretary

**Notes on Munitions**  
**The Nuckols Genealogy in Texas and a Toy Cap Pistol**  
**By Tom Nuckols**

*Note: Originally, this article was going to be solely about a toy cap pistol that I found on the Nuckols Ranch. However, with this year being the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Houston Archaeological Society, maybe you my readers would like to know something about me, a member of the Society since the 1970s; why I'm a Texan and when my family became owners of a ranch in South Texas. My attempt here is not to brag. I consider my family history to be about average with everyone else's<sup>1</sup>.*

My great-great grandfather, Alpheus Burl Nuckols (1840-1907) and his brother, Samuel Reuben (1831-1903) were Virginians from Hanover County and fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Alpheus survived the war unscathed. Samuel however was wounded by a Union Minié ball during a skirmish. At the time he was shot, he was leaning over to assist a fallen comrade. The Minié ball tore the buttons from his uniform, grazed his chest and came to rest in his right elbow. After the war, his wife Mildred extracted the Minié ball and a piece of bone with a knitting needle.

In 1873, after his wife's death, Samuel came to Texas with his three children and lived in various places in Central Texas. In 1893, he moved to Whitney, Texas and bought the Whitney Hotel. He operated the hotel until his death. Samuel possibly owned a mercantile store in Whitney too, but so far this remains unsubstantiated.

About 1890, Alpheus, his wife Victoria and their nine children moved to Austin, Texas. Their 5<sup>th</sup> child was my great grandfather Claude Abner Nuckols (1873-1914). Alpheus purchased a lot at 1115 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin, located mid-way between the French Legation<sup>2</sup> and the Texas State Cemetery. In 1892, he built a single-story residence (extant and remodeled) on the lot for his family.

Alpheus had been a farmer in Virginia, but he became a professional photographer after moving to Austin. His photography studio was located at 608 Neches Street. Numerous cabinet card photographs taken by Alpheus and owned by this author (a few purchased on eBAY) have the caption "A.B. Nuckols, Austin, Texas" at the bottom.

After the death of his wife in 1905, Alpheus moved from the family home on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and moved to a retirement home called the Austin House.

Claude, his wife Margaret and their three children, who were living with Alpheus, remained in the family home. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> child was my grandfather Thomas Latin Nuckols Sr.<sup>3</sup> (1905-1986). Shortly after Claude's death, Margaret and her children moved to San Antonio, Texas to be near her family, the Millers.

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1  
One of Empresario Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred colonists was Milton B. Nuckols (?-1830), a physician from Kentucky. Unfortunately, genealogical research on my part has failed to find a link between the two of us.

2  
The French Legation is a historic legation building in eastern Austin, Texas, built in 1841 to represent the French government in the new Republic of Texas. It is among the oldest extant frame structures in Austin. The building and its surroundings were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1969.

3  
He was named after his maternal grandfather, Thomas Latin Miller.

As a child in San Antonio, my grandfather became best friends with Lawrence Henrichson (1905-1994). Eventually, Lawrence moved to Valley Wells, Texas to live on the ranch (Henrichson Ranch) that his father had purchased in 1909. My grandfather remained friends with Lawrence and often traveled from San Antonio to Valley Wells to visit. During these visits, my grandfather occupied his time with deer hunting, running trotlines in the Nueces River to catch catfish, and drinking Jax Beer.

In 1929, my grandfather married Anna Bell McPherson. Their first child of three was my father Thomas Latin Nuckols Jr. (1930-2010). When my father was old enough, he often accompanied his father to the Henrichson Ranch.

My grandfather and his family moved to Houston in 1937, and in 1947 he bought a house (extant) at 125 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1950, my father married Beverly Mae Smouse, and I (Thomas Latin Nuckols 3<sup>rd</sup>) was born in Houston in 1952, the first of their three children.

My first trip to the Henrichson Ranch was with my parents in 1957. We stayed in an old two room shack on the ranch called the "Hunting Shack". Over the ensuing years, my family and I frequently vacationed on the Henrichson Ranch, and the Hunting Shack became my home away from home. It was then that I became enamored with the flora and fauna of the South Texas brush country.

In the mid-1960s, my grandfather purchased some property in Valley Wells adjoining the Henrichson Ranch. In the late 1960s, my parents bought a small ranch in Big Wells, Texas, approximately ten miles from Valley Wells. The purchase included a two-bedroom breezeway ranch house dating to about the nineteen teens. The previous owners had raised eight kids in the house. Soon after my parents bought the ranch, my grandparents moved there. The move allowed my grandfather to fulfill his dream of becoming a Texas cattle rancher, albeit the size of the ranch would only support his one bull and about a dozen cows.

After the death of my grandfather in 1986, my grandmother moved back to Houston. Although the ranch has remained unoccupied ever since, my immediate family and I retreat there as often as possible in order to "get out of Houston" for a while.

A few years ago, I was walking around in the pasture near the ranch house and found a rusty and sand encrusted cast iron toy cap pistol. I brought the pistol home and bathed it in hot microcrystalline wax. After the bath, the name "CLIP JR" was visible on either side of the frame between the faux cylinder and the hand grips (Figure 1). Recent research revealed that the cap gun was made by the J. & E. Stevens Co. of Cromwell, Connecticut.

The J. & E. Stevens Company was founded in 1843 by blacksmith John Stevens and his brother Elisha Stevens in Cromwell, Connecticut. The company was established to manufacture cast iron hardware, hammers and simple iron toys. Steven produced "Firecracker" pistols<sup>4</sup> in 1859, cast iron banks in 1869, cast iron cap guns about 1880 and die cast cap guns after World War II.

The J. & E. Stevens Company produced many other types of toys, including toy stoves and cannons. By 1928, it had devoted itself exclusively to the production of cap pistols. The company closed due to material shortages

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4

Unlike most toy cap pistols, the cast iron firecracker pistol had no moving parts. It was cast with the hammer cocked, appearing ready to fire, but it never did. Instead of the hammer striking a cap, a small firecracker would be inserted into the end of the barrel and lit. The firecrackers' own explosion would rebound off the interior walls of the barrel propelling it forward.

during the Second World War. J. & E. Stevens Company was subsequently sold to the Buckley Brothers of New York, and it produced cap guns there until 1959.

For more than 100 years, J. & E. Stevens Co. made cap pistols, and the company was considered the originator of the mechanical toy bank. Early Stevens cast iron cap guns included the Pea Pellet, Buffalo Bill, Bulls Eye, Jumbo, Challenge, Cowboy King, Sheriff, Peacemaker, Stevens Sea Serpent, Stevens 25-50, Stevens 25 Jr., Clip, Clip Jr., Hero, Stevens Hammerless, Spit Fire, Pawnee Bill, Scout, Big Scout, 6 Shot, Texas Ranger, Hi-Ranger, Pinto, Stevens 45 and the 49-ER (Farber and Associates, LLC).



Figure 1. Photo courtesy of Erin Phillips, PhD, Regional Labs Manager, Moore Archeological Consulting, Coastal Environments, Inc.



Figure 2. A pristine J. & E. Stevens Company, CLIP JR cast iron toy cap pistol.

<http://www.nicholscapguns.com/stevens.htm>

## References

Barker, E. C.

1952 Nuckols, Milton B. *The Handbook of Texas, Volume II. L-Z*. Edwards Brothers Incorporated, Ann Arbor, MI.

Cooper, C. M. (née Nuckols)

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Historic Landmark Commission

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Texas Historical Commission

2019 French Legation State Historic Site. <https://www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/french-legation-state-historic-site>. Accessed September, 2019.

# OCTOBER Texas Archeology Month



Sam Houston Memorial Museum presents

## *"The Discovery & Recovery of a 14th Century Dugout Canoe on the Red River"*

Jeffrey S. Girard

**Thursday, October 10**

**Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for exhibits & reception**

**Presentation 7:00 p.m.**

**FREE**

**Auditorium**

**Katy & E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center**

**at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum**

**~ 1402 19th Street, Huntsville, Texas 77340 ~**



[samhoustonmemorialmuseum.com](http://samhoustonmemorialmuseum.com)

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## ARCHEO CORNER: Heat Treating of Lithic Materials

### Wilson W. “Dub” Crook, III

If you ever make a trip over to Liberty to see the Southeast Texas prehistory exhibit at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, one of the most obvious features of the lithic (stone) artifacts is the wide-spread occurrence of red, yellow, and orange colors. While most toolstone rocks have some natural coloration, the colors are usually subdued matte tones of gray, brown, or ivory. The bright colors seen on many of the artifacts from our area of Southeast Texas are due to the prehistoric inhabitants heat-treating the raw toolstone material before it was flaked into a tool.



Brilliant red and orange colors on chert (top row), quartzite (bottom row, second and third artifacts), and silicified wood (bottom row, far right) artifacts from sites in Liberty County.

To produce a stone artifact, a piece of raw material must be “knapped” or flaked into the desired shape. This was done by a combination of hard and soft hammer percussion (usually a hard stone hammerstone and/or a soft hammer (billet or baton) made from bone or antler). The key to this process is being able to control the way the raw toolstone is flaked. This requires both skill on the part of the knapper and a high-quality tool stone that will flake in the way the knapper wants it to break.

The raw material used by the prehistoric Indians of Texas was typically rich in silica which helps facilitate controlled fracturing of the rock. This includes rocks such as chert, quartzite, novaculite, jasper, chalcedony, and silicified (petrified) wood. In some areas, such as in and around the Edwards Plateau of Central Texas, the natural cherts are of such a high quality that they require little to no additional preparation prior to knapping. However, for many regions in Texas, the materials available to the aboriginal inhabitants was of a much lower quality. Therefore, in order to enhance the toolstone quality, the prehistoric Indians would subject the material to a process we call “heat treating”. This consisted of placing raw stone material, usually found as cobbles in stream

beds, in the coals of a campfire for up to 48 hours. The heat from the fire drives water out of the stone and changes the microcrystalline structure of the rock making it easier to flake. The high temperatures in the fire oxidize any iron present in the rock which then produces the reddish, yellow, and orange colors seen today on the artifacts. Heat treating also tends to produce a dull and waxy luster to the surface of the stone which also helps archeologists determine if the lithic material has been subjected to heat treating even if bright colors are not readily apparent.



Highly worn Clovis point from the Wood Springs (41LB15) site in Liberty County. Notice the prominent reddish coloration on the yellow-brown chert.



Calf Creek Horizon type points from the Wood Springs site in Liberty County. Note how the far right Bell point shows reddish coloration on the cream-colored chert whereas the left hand two Andisce points show no indication of having been heat-treated. All are constructed from Edwards chert



## HAS EMBROIDERED HATS

The fourth shipment of HAS embroidered hats has arrived and will be available to HAS members for a small donation of \$10 at the next monthly meeting. If you are interested in obtaining one of them then please contact Bob Sewell [robert-sewell@att.net](mailto:robert-sewell@att.net).

# The Houston Museum of Natural Science

5555 Hermann Park Drive

Houston, TX 77030-1799



## Celebrate International Archeology Day with HAS at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, October 19, 2019

Members of the Houston Archeological Society will be among many avocational and professional archeologists participating in the Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, International Archeology Day from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. This will be the fifth year that we have taken part in this fantastic public event. **WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER WITH US FOR THIS EVENT!** [We have reserved at least five tables for our HAS displays and hands on activities. Come join us as we tell visitors what it's like to Dig Up Texas History, One Trowel full at a Time](#)

IAD is great opportunity to showcase archeology and research—and to engage, inform, and educate the general public about archeology and related disciplines. The event was well attended over the past years, and visitors left excited about the many facets of archeology—both local and farther afield. A few popular activities in the past years included artifact identification, mapping, flintknapping, drone demonstrations, underwater archaeology, forensic anthropology, artifact displays, and museum touch carts and hall tours. [Here are some photos of our previous activities at International Archeology Day.](#)



The person in charge of the 2019 event for HAS will be Bob Sewell. Please email him [robert-sewell@att.net](mailto:robert-sewell@att.net) to volunteer to help or for more information.



Commissioner Steve Radack  
invites you to  
**Diggin' Old Stuff  
Heritage Festival**

Discover "The Way We Was."

Celebrate early Texas culture at Kleb Woods Nature Center.  
**Saturday, November 2, 2019 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**



**Cypress Historical  
Society**

Join members on a tour  
of the 1896 Kleb home site.

**Dulcimers & Bluegrass**

Enjoy music from 9 a.m. to noon with  
the Northwest Harris County Dulcimer  
Society, the Lone Star Strummers, and  
the Cy-Fair Jammers. Then, from noon  
to 3 p.m., jam with Bluegrass Rising.

**Texas Water History Lab**

Visit the mobile water lab to learn  
about the importance of water in  
early Texas history and see how an  
aquifer works.

**Houston Archeological  
Society**

Society members will supervise  
an authentic archeology dig. Kids  
7 years and up may participate.  
Bring gardening gloves.



**The Kleb Woods  
Blacksmiths**

Forge a keepsake  
with the blacksmiths.

**WHAT:** Celebrate early Texas culture with historians, blacksmiths, and more. Visitors can also comb cotton, use natural plant dyes to make your own bandana, make candles as an early Texan did, watch a woodworker use human-powered equipment, and test your early Texas knowledge to identify hand tools and archeological finds.

**WHERE:** Kleb Woods Nature Center, 20303 Draper Rd. at Mueschke Rd., Tomball 77377  
<http://www.pct3.com/Parks/Kleb-Woods-Nature-Preserve-Center>

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**FREE** admission. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own refreshments. Drinks and snacks will not be sold.  
We recommend you wear closed-toe shoes, comfortable clothing, and apply bug spray and sunscreen.

For additional information, call Kleb Woods Nature Center at (281) 357-5324.

**Archeological Society**  
**Monthly Meeting Programs for 2019**  
**6:30pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)**  
**Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road**

**November 21, 2019** – Joshua Farrar – **Dumped and Forgotten – Civil War Artifacts recovered from Buffalo Bayou at Milam Street Bridge**

**December 2019** – Linda Gorski - **Overview of HAS Activities for the year 2019**

**January 16, 2020** – Dub Crook – **Update on Peopling of the Americas**

**February 20, 2020** – Dr. Sarah Chesney – **Update on the San Felipe archeological survey**

**March 19, 2020** – Gary Pinkerton – **Trammels Trace**

**April 16, 2020** – Jeff Girard – **The Caddos and Their Ancestors**

**May 21, 2020** – Amy Borgens – **Boca Chica shipwreck**

**June** – Normally no meeting. If members want a meeting and our June date does not conflict with field school week, Louis and Linda will give a program on **Constantine's Rome**

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

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org). Please submit articles for the November issue no later than 26<sup>th</sup> October.

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

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