



Thursday, September 16th, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.
“The Lone Oak Site 41CD168: A 13,000 Year Occupation
in Northern Colorado County, Texas”
Wilson W. “Dub” Crook

The Annual General Meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held on Thursday, September 16th. This meeting will feature an important presentation by Wilson W. “Dub” Crook on the Lone Oak prehistoric site in Colorado County, one of the most important prehistoric sites that HAS has ever investigated. Due to an abundance of concern over the recent surge in Covid, this meeting will be held virtually only via both Zoom and YouTube. The business meeting will open at 7:00 p.m. (HAS members are invited to tune in 30 minutes early – at 6:30 - to socialize.) HAS members will receive the Zoom link shortly. The YouTube Livestream presentation will begin at approximately 7:15 p.m. and the link to the program is <https://youtu.be/DGMd8A78nmE>



For the past three years, members of the Houston Archeological Society have excavated the Lone Oak site (41CD168) in northern Colorado County. To date, over 350 diagnostic artifacts have been recovered indicating the site was occupied from 13,000 years B.P. (Dalton) through the end of the Late Prehistoric (Toyah) period (400 B.P.). While this represents one of the longest continuous occupations in Colorado County, there is no evidence that the site was ever occupied on a permanent basis. Rather, Lone Oak appears to have been a well-known seasonal camp used by foraging hunter-gatherer peoples. The reason for the repeated occupation over time is the combination of fresh water, high-quality chert toolstone, hard wood, and food resources in the immediate vicinity of the site. The most significant period of habitation occurred during the Late Archaic and the latter part of the Late Prehistoric (Toyah).

Dub Crook will discuss not only the artifacts recovered from the site, but the occupational features discovered including a small Dalton period cluster, a Late Archaic occupation focused on hunting, butchering, and hide processing of whitetail deer, a Toyah occupation focused on hunting bison, a Late Archaic lithics workshop area, and most recently, a small Clovis era occupation. Dub has also authored a report on the Site entitled “The Lone Oak Site 41CD168: A 13,000 year Occupation in Northern Colorado County, Texas” which is available free to HAS members or for purchase on Amazon.

Wilson W. “Dub” Crook is a long-time member of the Dallas, Houston, and Texas Archeological Societies. Mr. Crook has published over 251 professional papers, 183 of them in the field of archeology. While his archeological research has focused primarily on the Upper Trinity River watershed, he has also worked on sites elsewhere in Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, California and Virginia, East Africa and Russia. Mr. Crook received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology (Mineralogy) from Southern Methodist University and conducted his graduate studies in mineralogy and rare-earth crystal chemistry at the University of Michigan. Most recently Dub has analyzed every single flake, core, point, tool, and fire cracked rock from the Lone Oak site in Columbus Texas.

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact HAS President Linda Gorski at president@txhas.org.



President's Message – Linda Gorski

HAS Members,

Last month I announced in my column how excited I was to resume in-person monthly meetings at Trini Mendenhall Community Center. That joy lasted for exactly one meeting – July – and then the dreaded Covid surge hit again. Exercising an abundance of caution and care for our members, the HAS Board agreed that we would go back to holding our meetings virtually via Zoom and livestream YouTube until this pandemic is truly under control. We've all heard the nightmare stories about breakthrough cases even if one has been fully vaccinated. We don't want any of you to become a statistic. Thus, we will

continue our extremely successful virtual meetings until further notice. (FYI – the August meeting featuring Dr. Catherine Jalbert speaking about Archeology at Varner Hogg Plantation drew over 70 attendees via Zoom and YouTube! If you missed her program, you can watch it at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYFIarWE1C0>

Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen (and her brilliant son Julian) have been our technical wizards for making these meetings happen for well over a year now. Liz recently engaged two more HAS members to help her. Thanks to Diana Cooper and Betsy Wittenmyer for joining the tech team. I think all of you realize what an incredibly valuable service these members are providing to HAS. Give them a high five when you see them again!

And, of course, kudos go to our HAS Treasurer Bob Sewell for running the meeting last month while I was on my epic road trip. He has always been a huge part of our monthly meeting agenda with his treasurers report as well as reports on the website and newsletter but this time he took over entirely! Way to go Bob!

Unfortunately, we are also going to curtail our in-person public outreach programs for the next month or so to minimize our members' exposure to the virus. You will be hearing more about future outreach opportunities from our Education Coordinator, Sharon Menegaz. We hope to resume our outreach activities by late fall.

However, one thing Covid will **NOT** stop is our elections for new Board members for 2021-2022. The voting will be conducted by email ballot, and you will be receiving that ballot from the HAS Secretary. The nominating committee consisting of Sharon Menegaz, Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen and Kathleen Kelly did a great job so please, please vote for the excellent folks they have nominated to run this organization for the next year.

Finally, most you know that the Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting will also be held virtually this year. All the information about this meeting including registration and Call for Papers is now available on the TAS website at www.txarch.org. Please have a look and consider attending this meeting virtually on October 22nd and 23rd. If you have any questions, please email me at president@txhas.org.

Thanks again for your terrific support of the Houston Archeological Society!!! Hope to see you soon!

Linda Gorski, President
Houston Archeological Society

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021

WELCOME to our HAS Monthly Meeting! Due to an upsurge in the pandemic, we are once again holding our meeting via Zoom! We are so glad everyone can join us tonight. **(Bob Sewell, Treasurer, for Linda Gorski).**

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): Our membership currently stands at 239! In 2019, membership rose to 250; in 2020, it dropped to 195, so we are doing very well with our total number for this year!

Website and Newsletter (Bob Sewell): **Website:** Our website is going great with no outages. **Newsletter:** Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles to the Newsletter; Bob suggested that although we have a core group of contributors it would be nice to have contributions beyond that group, both from professional and avocational archeologists. Articles should be short, entertaining, and of interest to members. So, if you are interested in submitting an article, Bob can help if needed. **Hats:** The company that manufactures the hats has had trouble getting supplies, although they have now found a new supplier. If you want to get on the list, email Bob at treasurer@txhas.org. Hat color choices are blue, khaki, and green and require a \$10.00 donation to HAS.

New Business:

Publications (Dub Crook): HAS Report #36 (Lone Oak Site Phases I and II) came out in April and has been given out. The next Lone Oak Report (#37) on Phase III of the site (a lithics workshop) will be out in October. In December, our next journal will be published, which will include two large papers on the Cotton Field site. If anyone has an article to submit, we can try to squeeze it into this publication.

Changes to HAS Constitution: Voting on the proposed amendments to the Constitution is now closed. The total number of member votes cast was 48, with 47 "for" the proposed changes. An email notice of the results will go out to members; the amendments will be added to the Constitution.

Announcement of Nominating Committee (Sharon Menegaz, Kathleen Kelly, Liz Coon-Nguyen): Sharon read the names of the proposed slate of officers to be voted on at next month's meeting: Linda Gorski (President); Larry Golden (Vice-President); Bob Sewell (Treasurer); Diana Cooper (Secretary); Directors at Large: Leonie Waithman (new three-year term), Frank Kozar (2 years remaining); Dub Crook (one year remaining). Since next month's meeting is likely to be virtual then voting will need to take place via email.

Other (Sarah Chesney): San Felipe de Austin: Sarah is now back at the museum and is in the process of readying the Josey Store for move-in. Lab and field work will be upcoming this fall.

Tonight's Program: Dr. Catherine Jalbert, archeologist with the Historic Sites Division of the Texas Historical Commission, presented a talk entitled "Archeology at Varner-Hogg Plantation: Past, Present, and Future." The talk focused on the history and development of the land on which the plantation stands, including the diverse groups of people who inhabited the land over the years, and the artifacts they left behind.

Next Month's Speaker: Dub Crook will present on the Lone Oak Prehistoric Site in Colorado County. The presentation will include a summary of work conducted during Phases 1, 2, and 3, including a discussion of the numerous lithics produced during excavations at the site.

Beth Kennedy, Secretary

Voting for HAS Officers and Board of Directors

Sharon Menegaz, speaking for the HAS Nominating Committee, announced the nominees for the 2021-2022 HAS Officers and Board of Directors at the August 2021 monthly meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. Since the September 16th meeting will likely be virtual, voting will need to take place via email.

Nominees for offices are:

Linda Gorski, President

Larry Golden, Vice President

Diana Cooper, Secretary

Bob Sewell, Treasurer

Leonie Waithman, Director at Large

Two members of the HAS Board are remaining in terms as Directors at Large including Dub Crook (1 year) and Frank Kozar (2 years)

All HAS members should soon receive an email ballot requesting a return response. If you do not receive the email within the next few days, please contact the HAS Secretary at secretary@txhas.net and you will be sent one.

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We need a few more “Virtual Volunteers” for the HAS and the TAS!

No particular skills are required other than the basic ability to get online and use your computer - we can train you on the rest! It also helps if you have a computer or laptop that has a camera/microphone and can run Zoom. HAS needs volunteers for the monthly meeting set up and moderating duties, and the TAS needs folks with similar skills to help moderate the all-virtual 92nd Annual Meeting in October. Please email Liz Coon-Nguyen at Elizabeth.coonnguyenmd@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for this - we will set up a training session for the near future!

Thanks!

HAS members Recipients of Texas Archeological Stewardship Network 2021 Norman Flaigg Award

Four Houston Archeological Society members who are also members of the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Archeological Stewards Network received the coveted Norman Flaigg Award during the TASN annual meeting in August 2021. Jeff Durst, THC Region 5 Archeologist, presented the awards during the meeting which was held virtually. The Norman Flaigg Certificate of Outstanding Performance honors stewards' exemplary contribution to archeology and the TASN program for the previous year. Region 5 winners this year include Wilson W. "Dub" Crook, Linda Gorski, Beth Kennedy and Bob Sewell. Durst made the following remarks in presenting the certificates:

Dub Crook, Harris County – Dub is fairly new to the Stewards Network but is no newcomer when it comes to Texas Archeology. Working with the Houston Archeological Society, Dub has assisted in several field excavations but is most recognized for his outstanding lithic and ceramic analysis skills. While these skills are well honed, his most impressive contributions come in the form of the numerous publications he continuously cranks out. With no less than 20 articles published in the past 12 months on a diverse array of topics from lithic analysis to the Peopling of the Americas, Dub has proven to be an amazing addition to the Stewards Network. His expert writing skills have proven to be an excellent accompaniment to the busy agenda of the Houston Archeological Society, but beyond that his personal archeological research interests have also resulted in an impressive list of publications. It is with great pleasure that we recognize Dub today for his outstanding contribution to the Stewards Network.

Linda Gorski, Harris County – It is extremely difficult to put into words all of the things that Linda accomplishes in a year's time. Every time I talk to her, she has a new and exciting project underway or waiting in the wings. While Linda volunteers hundreds of hours and travels literally thousands of miles each year, beyond a doubt, her greatest contribution is her innate ability to excite other folks about the archeology in and around the Houston area and to bring them into the fold. Any time Linda shows up on location she will bring a passel of eager hands ready to get to work. And the folks that run with Linda are all just as excited about Archeology as Linda herself, and these folks are serious about getting things done. Several of these folks have themselves been recruited into the Stewards Network, three of whom are being recognized today for their outstanding contributions to our organization. Linda is truly a rare jewel and just brings so much to the table. I am extremely pleased to, once again, present Linda with the Norman Flaigg award this year for her magnificent contributions to the Stewards Network.

Beth Kennedy, Harris County – Speaking of Houston Archeological Society members recruited to the Stewards Network, Beth Kennedy is the most recent new addition. Like so many of this group Beth projects the exuberance necessary to keep up with her peers. Always a willing participant in field projects Beth has been honing her excavation skills at the Lone Oak site which is an incredibly rich Native American occupation site in Colorado County where the Houston Archeological Society has been working weekly now for several years and is now moving into the fourth phase of exploration. Other projects that Beth has been involved in include the Houston Arboretum Salvage Project and work in and around the site of San Felipe de Austin among others. Beyond field activities Beth has also shared her expert editorial skills as the editor for the HAS publications, and, considering how many publications that HAS has been producing lately, that's no small task. Quickly becoming an integral part of the Houston Archeological Society gang who always shows up with trowel in hand and eager to work, Beth has proven to be yet another solid addition to the Stewards Network and I am indeed pleased to recognize her this year with her first Norman Flaigg award. First of many more to come, I'm sure!

Bob Sewell, Harris County – Bob is another of our Stewards Network who is a constant participant in pretty much everything that the HAS group is involved in. Traveling thousands of miles and volunteering countless untold hours in his pursuit of his passion for archeology Bob is best known for his willingness to get down and dirty with trowel and shovel in hand and at the end of the day few people work any harder than Bob. Always among the first to come and the last to leave, Bob is that dream crew member who is always giving 100% no matter what the job entails. Some of the recent projects Bob has been involved with include the Houston Arboretum Salvage project, the Lone Oak Site project and the Frost Town Brewery Site Project. It is truly a privilege to recognize Bob with this award. Thanks, Bob, for your amazing dedication and hard work.

Notes on Munitions
A British Minié Ball from Buffalo Bayou
Part 2 of 2
By Tom Nuckols

Introduction

At the end of the American Civil War (1861-1865) two events occurred in Buffalo Bayou at Milam Street in downtown Houston that were part of a broader effort to deprive the approaching Union forces of equipment and supplies of the Confederacy. The two events subsequently caused the muddy bottom of the Bayou at Milam Street to be designated as an archaeological site in 2016, with the trinomial of 41HR1190.

Event #1

John Kennedy (1819-78) was an Irish immigrant and entrepreneur who came to Houston in 1842. In 1862, Kennedy leased his three-story building located at 220 Travis Street at Congress Avenue to the Confederacy for an arsenal.

After the surrender of the Confederacy in 1865, Kennedy disposed of what ordinance remained in the building by taking it to the low-water iron bridge (c. 1850-1924) at Milam Street and dumping it into Buffalo Bayou (Figure 1).

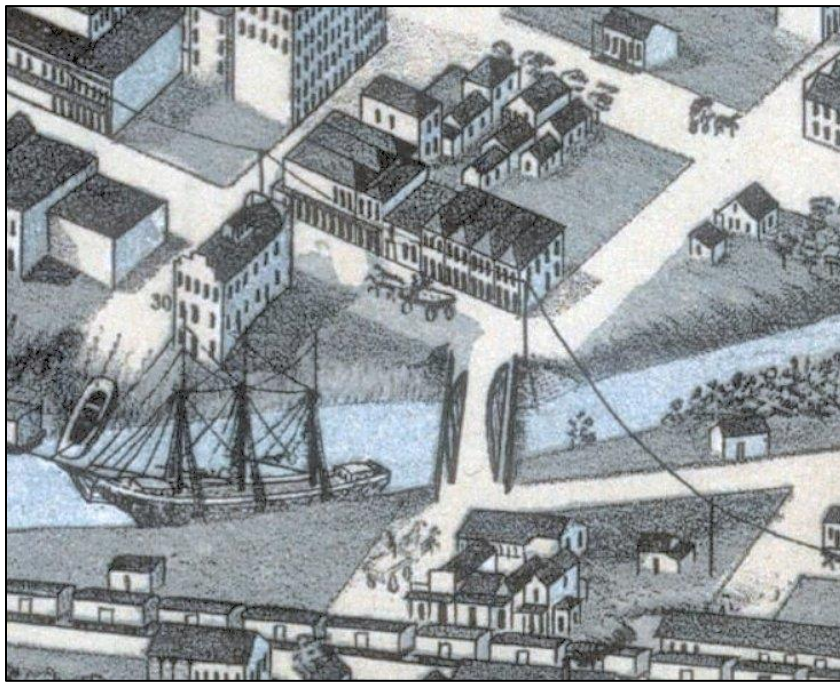


Figure 1. The Milam Street iron bridge over Buffalo Bayou, from Koch's Bird's Eye Map, 1873. The three masted ship is sitting downstream of the bridge. Picture courtesy of Louis Aulbach

Event #2

During the war, blockade runners and ammunition barges operated between Houston and Galveston. In June of 1865, an unknown number and type of vessels, either ammunition barges or blockade runners, or both, were docked in Buffalo Bayou. These vessels were taken upstream until blocked by the bridge at Milam Street, where they were then scuttled.

1968

In July of 1968, with financing provided by the Houston Antique Gun Collectors Association, the Southwestern Historical Exploration Society (SHES) along with co-member Carroll A. Lewis Jr¹, acting as supervisor, used a thirty-ton dragline crane placed on the Milam Street concrete bridge (built 1947) to dig in the mud of Buffalo Bayou to recover Civil War era artifacts.

This recovery effort yielded approximately 1000 artifacts, the majority of them were munitions. A subsequent project report written by SHES included a list of the recovered artifacts, one of which was “1 Wood-based minie ball”.

Disposition of the Artifacts

The following is a list of the disposition of the artifacts following their recovery by SHES in 1968:

- Displayed at the Houston Antique Gun Collectors annual meeting on August 4, 1968.
- Displayed at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) in 1974. After the exhibit some of the artifacts were possibly retained in personal collections.
- After the HMNS exhibit, the whereabouts of the artifacts is unknown.
- Only approximately 650 of the original 1000 artifacts are found stored in about 15 cardboard boxes at the Harris County Heritage Society since 1986.
- In 2016, the Houston Archaeological Society (HAS) is asked by the Texas Historical Commission and the Heritage Society (the former Harris County Heritage Society) to analyze the artifacts.
- In late 2016 and early 2017, the HAS and members of Houston’s professional archaeological community, identified, researched and documented the artifacts. The HAS devised a catalog numbering system for these artifacts using the sites trinomial as a prefix.
For example, the artifact recovered by SHES in 1968, and listed as “1 Wood-based minie ball” is probably the same one that HAS designated as Catalog #41HR1190-0165 (Figure 2)².



Figure 2. The .577 caliber lead, British Enfield Minié ball with its boxwood plug. Photo courtesy of Linda Gorski.

¹ Lewis is the author of the 1966 book *Treasures of Galveston Bay*. Texian Press, Waco, TX.

² Catalog #41HR1190-0162 was one of four balls analyzed by the HAS. The other three Catalog #s are 41HR1190-0163, 0164 and 0165. For a discussion of 0163, see Nuckols (2020).

●In the spring of 2017, HAS member and Texas A&M University PhD student Joshua R. Farrar gained approval for a dissertation proposal involving conservation on some of the artifacts.

Catalog #41HR1190-0165 Analysis Results

Catalog #41HR1190-0165 (0165) is an unfired, .577 caliber, lead, British Enfield Minié ball with a boxwood plug³.

The weight of 0165 is 522.2 grains, it has a mean diameter of 0.562 inches and a length of 1.069 inches. Its cavity is a truncated cone, with a depth of 0.392 inches. The boxwood plug⁴ has a weight of 0.0080 ounces. It has a base mean diameter of 0.365 inches, a top mean diameter of 0.310 inches and a length of 0.229 inches. Originally, 0165 was probably contained within a paper cartridge. However, once submerged in the waters of Buffalo Bayou, the paper would have disintegrated, and the black gunpowder would have dissolved.

A Book

Brett Andrew Gibbons is a U.S. Army Ordinance Officer and is both a collector and shooter of 19th century rifle muskets, particularly the 1853 Enfield.

In 2020, Gibbons wrote the book *The English Cartridge: Pattern 1853 Rifle-Musket Ammunition*⁵. The book begins with a discussion of the infantry weapons and ammunition used by European armies starting c. 1750, and then concentrates on the developmental history of the .577 caliber paper cartridge used in the Pattern 1853 Enfield muzzle-loading rifle musket.

I read the book and thoroughly enjoyed it. It reads like a historical novel. Two things that I read in the book and stick out in my mind are: 1) In December of 1855, Queen Victoria accompanied by her husband Prince Albert and a massive entourage, visited the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich. The Queen was amused by the machine that made wooden plugs that fit into the cavity of a Minié ball. 2) the Enfield .577 caliber paper cartridge was probably a contributing cause for the 1857-58 Indian Rebellion, an uprising against the rule of the British East India Company in India.

The book is available on Amazon for \$12.99 paperback.

Addendum

One of the artifacts recovered by SHES in 1968, was listed as a “William’s wiper Minie ball” (cleaner bullet). I do not recall seeing this bullet at the time HAS processed the artifacts in 2016 and 2017. Was this one of the artifacts possibly retained in a personal collection after being displayed at the HMNS in 1974? In 1984, during the University of Houston’s excavations at the Lafitte Site (41GV140) on Galveston Island, a Williams Patent Type 3 cleaner bullet was unearthed. For a discussion of Williams cleaner bullets, see A “Cleaner” Bullet from Site 41GV140 by Tom Nuckols @ <http://txhas.org/PDF/journals/1999/HAS%20Journal%20No%20125.pdf>, Page 11.

³ At the beginning of analysis of 0165, the boxwood plug was in the cavity. It eventually fell out.

⁴ Boxwood was used due to its lack of expansion or shrinkage in various climates. It was also expensive, as it was imported to England from the Ottoman Empire. Ceramic clay plugs officially replaced boxwood plugs on February 2, 1864.

⁵ This is Gibbon’s 2nd book. In 1990, he wrote *The Destroying Angel: The Rifle-Musket as the First Modern Infantry Weapon*. In Chapter 19, he discusses the rifle-muskets use in the American Civil War. This book is available on Amazon for \$11.95 paperback.

References

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2012 *Buffalo Bayou. An echo of Houston's wilderness beginnings.* Louis F. Aulbach, Publisher, Houston, TX.

Farrar, Joshua R.

2017 The Milam Street Bridge Artifact Assemblage. Houston Archaeological Society newsletter, The Profile, September, 2017 @ <http://txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2017/2017%20September%20Profile.pdf>, Page 6.

2020 THE MILAM STREET BRIDGE ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE HOUSTONIANS JOINED BY THE COMMON THREAD OF ARTIFACTS – A STORY SPANNING FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO MODERN DAY. PhD dissertation @ <file:///C:/Users/Tlnuc/Downloads/FARRAR-DISSERTATION-2020.pdf>.

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2017 President's Message. Houston Archaeological Society newsletter. The Profile, March, 2017 @ <http://txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2017/2017%20March%20Profile.pdf>, Page 2.

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2020 Notes on Munitions: Gardner-like Minié Balls from the Houston Area. Houston Archaeological newsletter, The Profile, December, 2020 @ <http://txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2020/2020%20December%20Profile.pdf>, Page 4-7.

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HAS Members Help Make TAS Archeology 101 Academy A HUGE Success! **By Sarah Chesney**

In March 2021 with the help of the Houston Archeological Society the Texas Archeological Society held their Archeology 101 Academy over two successive weekends. Unlike 101 Academies in past years, the 2021 Academy was a hybrid of online classroom instruction led by Dr. Jon Lohse over Saturday and Sunday March 13-14, 2021, followed by a weekend of in-person field excavation on March 20-21, 2021, led by myself at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. Months of planning and practice sessions resulted in a hugely successful Archeology 101 Academy with over 40 participants of all ages and backgrounds coming together over two consecutive weekends in March.

Our hybrid 101 Academy began with two days of Zoom lectures and discussion focusing on the basic tenets of archeology and the importance of archeological research for understanding the past. Led by Dr. Jon Lohse, 101 participants explored how and why archeologists do what they do in both the field and the lab, what artifacts, features, and sites can tell us about the past, and how that data is interpreted and shared with a wider audience. It was a challenge to adapt the usual interactive classroom sections of hands-on activities and discussions to an online format, but the Archeology 101 Academy team rose to the occasion with guest talks from Houston Archeological Society members and Stewards, interactive polls, adapted activities and discussions. Feedback from the 101 participants was very positive, and everyone ended the Sunday afternoon session looking forward to the following weekend of actual field archeology.

As in 2018 the field methods portion of the Archeology 101 Academy took place at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, with which many HAS members are familiar. Founded in 1823 and burned to the ground in March 1836, the town of San Felipe de Austin was the capital of the Austin Colony, the first American colony in Mexican Texas. This year the field excavation focused on two town lots owned by the Calvitt family, relatives of Jane Long, who lived in San Felipe during the 1820s. Commerce Street, which was one of the main roads through town, bordered the Calvitt lots to the south and connected this section of the town with commercial properties to the west and the neighborhood known as "Spanish town"

to the east. Previous testing and mitigation in this area revealed artifacts from several eras of occupation and suggested that there was likely to be significant preservation of archeological remains that can shed light on multiple periods of Texas frontier history. This is the same area where pre-construction testing resulted in the discovery of the famous “donkey sherd” of transfer printed ceramic, which is currently on display at the San Felipe Museum along with a sister plate showing the entire design.



The whole crew. Sunday March 21, 2021.

Over the course of two days the 101 participants opened six 1x1-meter units in teams of four or five with experienced HAS members and THC archeologists as crew chiefs, screen supervisors, excavators, and floating helpers lending their expertise. HAS President Linda Gorski, Vice President Larry Golden, and Treasurer Bob Sewell were our roaming experts, spreading knowledge, enthusiasm, and humor to each crew. HAS Secretary Beth Kennedy, Members-at-large Frank Kozar and Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen, and Leonie Waithman led individual crews of 101 participants, passing on their techniques and stories to eager students of all ages. Louis Aulbach, Mike Woods, and Geoff Mills served as expert “ringers” in various units and at the screens, leading by example and making sure none of the crew chiefs forgot anything important. Sharon Menegaz served as our Paperwork Guru, keeping us all organized and ensuring that I would be able to reconstruct the weekend’s events when it was

time to write up the excavation narrative and results. By the end of the weekend, the Archeology 101 team had completely excavated and backfilled two units and discovered a wealth of archeological material. Recovered artifacts included transfer-printed ceramics in a variety of colors, mochaware ceramics (my personal favorite!), window and bottle glass of various colors, architectural debris including brick, nails, and mortar remains, numerous iron objects, a ceramic doll’s head, and several buttons. One button was in good enough condition to be identified as an early Texas Republic uniform button, which may have been the find of the weekend for many.

A few weeks after the end of the 101 Academy, several HAS volunteers returned to San Felipe to finish excavating two of the open units and to help shoot in all the unit locations with a total station. This fall we will be processing the excavated material at San Felipe as well as wrapping up the remaining two units, so keep your eyes peeled for announcements about field and lab days at San Felipe in the coming months!

Many long-term HAS members are familiar with the TAS academies and the amount of work that goes into pulling them off. Archeology is the definition of a team sport and running a successful academy in which we teach others how to work collaboratively toward our common goal of understanding the past is the pinnacle of this team approach. I have now been involved with two Archeology 101 Academies, and I can safely say that I have never worked with a more dedicated and delightful group of archeological volunteers than those of the Houston Archeological Society. Make no mistake; HAS’s strong showing of volunteers eager and willing to help in every possible way is what made this 2021 TAS Archeology 101 Academy such a tremendous success. I, certainly, would be lost without HAS, and count myself the luckiest PI in the state to be able to work with such a wonderfully entertaining and knowledgeable group on a regular basis. You guys make my job more fun, and since we all know that archeology is nothing BUT fun (until you get to the report-writing stage) you will understand just how honored I am to be able to work with you all on a regular basis.

Truly, the 2021 Archeology 101 Academy would not have been successful or even possible without the partnership of HAS, and I for one, cannot thank you all – ALL of HAS – for the work you have done and continue to do to investigate, preserve, and publicize archeology in the greater Houston area. You are all rock stars in my book, and I can’t wait to see you all back in the field and lab soon!

Archeo Corner: The Toyah Culture of Texas

Wilson W. “Dub” Crook, III

A distinctive archeological culture emerges around A.D. 1300 throughout the Edwards Plateau and the surrounding area that is known variously as the Toyah phase, horizon, interval, or culture. The Toyah is the last widespread prehistoric culture in Central Texas prior to the arrival of Europeans to Texas. The Toyah interval is well preserved at most sites mainly because of the lack of elapsed time. When the camp sites were eventually abandoned, they were not re-occupied by succeeding generations of native peoples and thus their cultural deposits were left more or less undisturbed.

The Toyah phase appears to represent an abrupt cultural intrusion into the region of artifacts and a technology that seems to have not developed in place but rather developed outside and then moved into the central part of Texas. This culture spanned a vast area over most of Central Texas that had a core homeland of approximately 200 miles or more east-to-west and over 300 miles from north-to-south. In addition, there were areas on the fringes of this territory which have been classified as “shared” lands; areas which were occupied either seasonally by Toyah peoples or other groups which had contact and were heavily influenced by the Toyah culture and technology.

The Toyah people developed a highly specialized toolkit based on a core and blade technology – the first time this type of technology had appeared in Texas since Clovis times 12,000 years previously. Purposefully prepared conical blade cores produced straight, prismatic blades which served as small preforms for a wide range of tools depending on the need at the time. Toyah blade cores are typically conical in shape with a prominent, flat core platform on the upper surface from which a number of prismatic blades are driven off by percussion flaking. Small platform trimming flakes are typically present around the platform surface. The purpose of these flakes was to remove the overhang caused by negative bulbs of percussion from prior flake detachments. Platform angles on Toyah blade cores are typically very steep, usually 60-80° or more. Blade removals were unidirectional initiating from the core platform surface toward the distal end of the core. Once the core reached a point where no further usable blades could be removed, it was discarded.



Toyah blade core recovered by HAS members from the Lone Oak site (41CD168), northern Colorado County. Note the prismatic blade scars, especially on the right side.

The purpose of the core was to remove a number of prismatic flake blades. Blades removed from the core were intentionally flat with little degree of curvature. The Toyah blade should more properly be thought of as an all-purpose preform that once removed, could then be modified by pressure flaking to produce a number of tools including Perdiz arrow points, end-scrapers, side-scrapers, graters, or perforators. The blades could also be modified to produce burinated points for engraving.



Toyah blades recovered from the Lone Oak site in Colorado County



Toyah blade that has been preliminarily shaped to produce a Perdiz arrow point.



Perdiz arrow points recovered from the Lone Oak site in Colorado County.



Perforator produced from a Toyah blade, Lone Oak site, Colorado County



*Toyah blades which have been made into burins (potential woodworking tools),
Lone Oak site, Colorado County.*

In addition, the Toyah people also produced beveled (Harahey) knives as well as rudimentary, utilitarian bone-tempered pottery. The Toyah toolkit was well-suited for hunting (arrow points), butchering (beveled knives), hide processing (scrapers, perforators), and wood working (burins, scrapers).

The Toyah culture has been mistakenly exclusively associated with bison hunting as bison bones are common or at least present in most Toyah sites. This simple interpretation of the Toyah people being “bison specialists” is a generalized characterization when in fact, the people continued to focus on whitetail deer and a similar hunting and gathering strategy used by their Archaic predecessors. If bison were available, then obviously the Toyah people would not pass up such an opportunity for large amounts of meat, sinew, fat, and hides (robes).

Recently, HAS member Jon Lohse together with a number of colleagues, directly dated 61 bison bones from sites all across Texas. Their results show a clustering of radiocarbon dates on four general temporal periods that include: (1) a 140 year interval between 5955-5815 B.P. known as the Calf Creek phase, (2) bison are then absent for about 2,000 years making a return for a 165 year interval between 3295-3130 B.P., (3) this was followed by a 400 year hiatus before a 550 year interval of bison in the Late Archaic period between 2700-2150 B.P., and (4) an absence of another 1,500 years with a return for about 120 years during 650-530 B.P. (A.D. 1300-1420). This last interval, the only one that takes place during the Late Prehistoric period, starts immediately after the onset of the so-called Little Ice Age, the beginnings of which corresponds with one of the largest volcanic events of the entire Holocene. In the northern hemisphere, this cool period started about A.D. 1340 and warms again just prior to A.D. 1500. This period corresponds to the emergence of the Toyah culture and the re-emergence of buffalo on the Southern Great Plains.

The Hidden History in the Sabine Street Bridge

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

There are times when one gets the feeling that the clues to the history of a city are waiting to be found in the structural ruins of old buildings and bridges of Houston. One day a couple of years ago, we noticed a peculiar feature at the base of the columns supporting the Sabine Street bridge.

The Sabine Street bridge was built in 1924 as one of three bridges built over Buffalo Bayou on the west side of downtown Houston to provide vehicular access between suburban areas of the growing city on the north and south sides of the bayou (see Figure 1). The design of the bridge was influenced by the City Beautiful Movement, a philosophy of architecture and urban planning that promoted beauty not only for its own sake, but also to create moral and civic virtue among the city's citizens.¹ The neoclassical design of its columns and capitals complement the ornamental railing in a classical urn style to enhance the beauty of a rather utilitarian street bridge.²

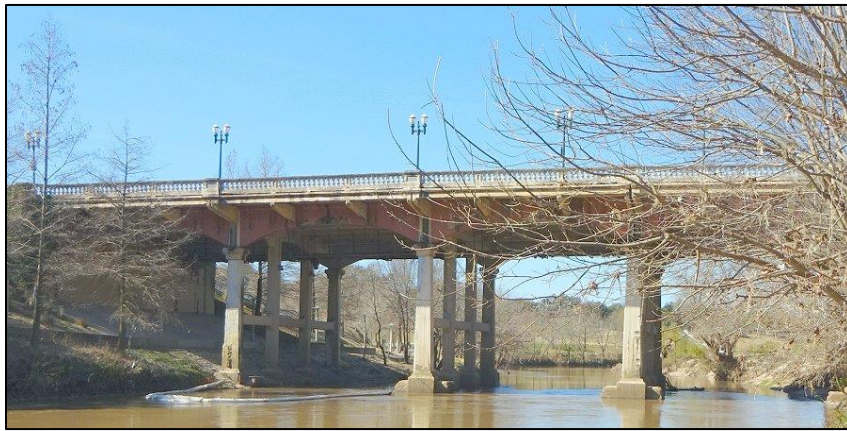


Figure 3: The Sabine Street bridge was built in 1924 with a neoclassical design with columns and capitals, a urn style railing, and arching side panels. (Photo: Louis F. Aulbach)

After a decade or more of passing by this bridge along the walking paths of Buffalo Bayou Park, we noticed an odd feature at the base of each of the downstream columns of the bridge. There is a platform with grooves attached to the column base. It appears that the platform originally extended between each of the columns of the bridge. The concrete structure of the platforms seems to extend as deep into the subsurface as the column bases. The roughly hewn edges of the platforms around each column suggest that the wall of the platforms stretched between each column and extended across the length of the bayou, perhaps forming a dam (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: The downstream columns of the bridge have low platforms attached to the base of each column. (Photo: Louis F. Aulbach)

The purpose of this platform feature was unknown, however, after a search of the publications of the 1920's, an article in construction and manufacturer's magazine provided a clue. This short article provided notice that the City of Houston had opened bids on the construction of the Sabine Street bridge. As a part of the contract, the bridge was to include a dam that was to be some of the first of the improvements for the "permanent fair and exposition grounds" of the city. The bayou was also to be straightened and deepened so that it would provide a course for water sports at the fairgrounds.³

In 1917, Mayor Ben Campbell promoted the development of the Permanent Exposition project in his Annual Message of 1917:

*Our Permanent Exposition is, in my opinion, next in importance to our Ship Channel. If this project is developed in a prudent manner, nothing we can do will prove of more value to the city. ... We have secured for this enterprise about 120 acres of land, beginning at the Capitol Avenue Bridge, lying on both sides of Buffalo Bayou, up to the crossing of the Bayou by the Galveston, Houston & Henderson Railroad. ... It is capable of being transformed into the most attractive spot in all Texas.*⁴

The location of the Permanent Exposition site appears on the *1920 Street Map of the City of Houston* published by the Texas Map and Blue Printing Company (see Figure 3). The plan of the Exposition was drawn by George E. Kessler, a prominent landscape architect from St. Louis. The exposition grounds were part of the planned system of public parks along Buffalo Bayou in which the bayou was to be channelized, and the amenities were to include a landscaped mall, a circuit track around the former golf links of the Houston Country Club, pavilions for the exposition space, and a pedestrian promenade along the south bank of the bayou. None of those features were ever built, but they were most likely included in the 1920 street map from the plans submitted to the city. The project was delayed by the entry of the United States into World War I in 1917, and after the war, the funding for the project never materialized.⁵

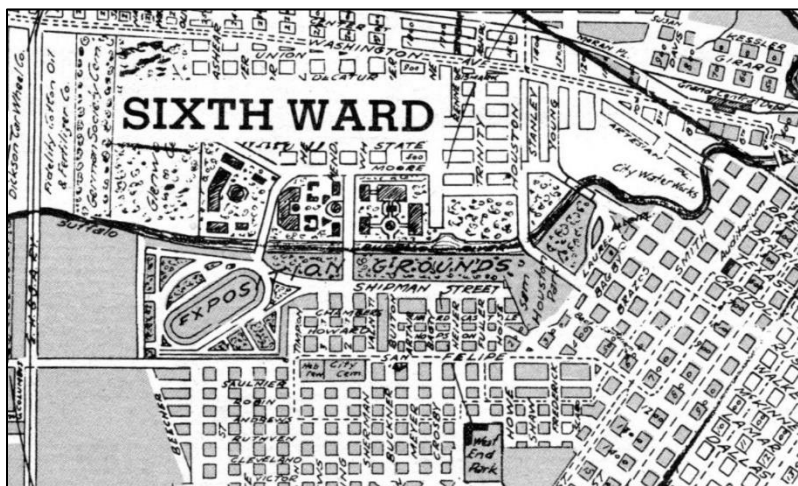


Figure 3: This segment of the 1920 Street Map of the City of Houston illustrates the proposed Permanent Exposition that was planned for the west side of Houston along Buffalo Bayou. (Public domain)

The exposition project was abandoned, and the park land on the south side of Buffalo Bayou was redesigned to allow for easy transit by automobiles as Buffalo Drive. In 1926, Buffalo Drive (renamed as Allen Parkway in 1961) was constructed from downtown to Kirby Drive in the River Oaks subdivision developed by Will Hogg.⁶

The only surviving reminders of Houston's Permanent Exposition are the fragments of the weir dam on the beautiful Sabine Street bridge.

Footnotes

1. "City Beautiful Movement." *Wikipedia*, accessed August 20, 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Beautiful_movement.
2. Aulbach, Louis F. *Buffalo Bayou, An Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings* (Houston: Aulbach Publishing Co., 2012), 210-211.
3. *Manufacturer's Record*, Volume 82 (September 21, 1922), p85.
4. "Houston's Permanent Exposition." *Illustrated City Book of Houston* (Houston: Chamber of Commerce, 1917), p77-78.
5. "Buffalo Bayou Park." *Houston Parks and Recreation Department*, accessed August 20, 2021, <https://www.houstontx.gov/parks/parksites/buffalobayoupark.html>.
Strom, Steven R. *Houston Lost and Unbuilt* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2010), 155.
6. "Buffalo Bayou Park."

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Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Programs for 2021

6:30pm Third Thursday of every month

(Until further notice meetings are virtual for members only)

October 15, 2021 — **Jim Woodrick** - The Cannons of San Jacinto

November 18, 2021 — **Dan Worrall** - The Lower Brazos Culture and Late Archaic long distance trading networks

December 16, 2021 – **Linda Gorski** - Wrap Up of 2021 Activities

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are normally free and open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 situation they are currently being conducted virtually for members only. For more information about HAS then visit 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/>

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Please submit articles for the June issue no later than 24th September, 2021.

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