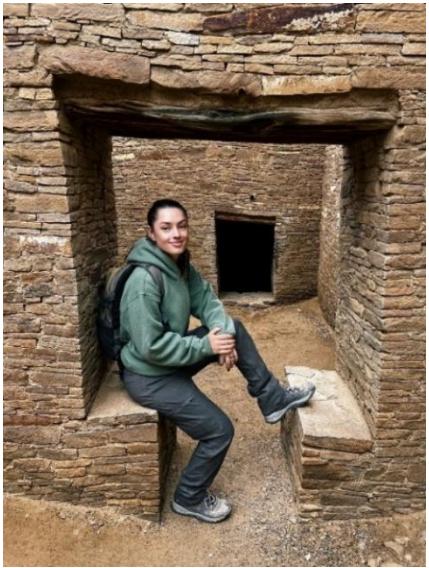




**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, February 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m.  
Featuring Sammi Burke, New Mexico State University**

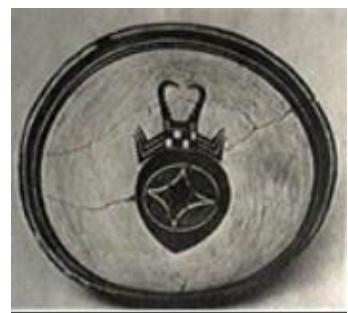


Hello HAS members,

The February meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held virtually only via Zoom on Thursday, February 19th, at 6:00 p.m. Please note that there will be no in-person gathering. The Zoom link will be emailed to members the week of the meeting. We will welcome Sammi Burke, a graduate assistant in the Anthropology Department of New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Burke will discuss the cultural significance of insect imagery within the Mimbres Mogollon culture of southwest New Mexico (AD 1000-1150). Stylized depictions frequently appear on Classic Mimbres pottery, and the creatures played important roles in Pueblo oral traditions, ceremonies, and architecture. Pueblo belief systems incorporated parts of insects and imitated insect behavior as vehicles to mystical power. Burke is particularly interested in the magic ascribed to antlions: their various life phases (larva/doodlebug, pupa, adult) created opportunities for Pueblo rituals. Burke holds a BA degree in Anthropology with a minor in Archeology (2025) and is currently pursuing her MA in Anthropology, focusing in Archeology and Entomology. She is applying her background to conduct interdisciplinary research on arthropod imagery, symbolism, and ritualistic utilization within prehistoric American Southwestern cultures. Her experience includes volunteering as a research

assistant with the La Frontera Project, field work and field school at Cottonwood Spring Pueblo (LA 175), and past employment as a research assistant at the New Mexico State University Arthropod Museum. Burke has received scholarship awards from the Archaeological Research Lab/Cultural Management Endowed Fund, Friends of Anthropology, and the HED Graduate Scholarship. We hope you will all join us virtually for this fascinating presentation on Thursday, February 19. Be looking for your meeting reminder with the Zoom link. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org).

*See you in the field! Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President*



Above left: Photograph courtesy of Sammi Burke. Left: Antlion Larvae Ants Invasion. Right: Antlion Pit: Mimbres Pottery, photograph by Fred Stimson; Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Albuquerque

**HAS Memberships for 2026 Are Due**



Please take a moment to renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society—and maybe even give a membership as a gift to someone you know who might enjoy digging up Texas history with us, one trowelful at a time. You may pay your dues online using a credit card. Or, if you prefer to submit your payment by mail, then please print and include this completed Membership Form along with your check made payable to Houston Archeological Society. Our memberships are the best deal in town, available at \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), \$15 (Student), and \$35+ at the Contributing Membership level. Remember that benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area, work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites, and receive our newsletter and our academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please renew today, we want you out there with us! Note: If you joined HAS after September 1, 2025, then your membership is already good for 2026.



## President's Message – Bob Sewell



Greetings to all, and we hope that everyone is staying warm during these wintery days.

We continued investigations at the Goloby Site near Pattison in Waller County earlier in January. It was a rather windy day that brought the cold air with it. Due to the units being somewhat muddy because of the recent rain, we decided to explore an area that was about 30 meters just to the west. The group included our newest member, Michael Pinchen, joining us for his first time out in the field with HAS. About thirty minutes into excavating the initial shovel tests (STPs), Michael discovered a nice Perdiz projectile point in the screen. The point has some slight damage at the tip, but it is a great artifact, nonetheless.

Several HAS members have continued to work with teams from the First Lego League by meeting with and participating in interviews with students upon request. I am delighted to announce that at least two teams we have been supporting have progressed to the next stage of the competition. We are arranging for one of the groups to visit a project site in order for them to demonstrate their prototype. Congratulations to the teams from the Village School and from Cy-Fair ISD Smith Middle School!

And finally, HAS members approved the 2026 HAS Budget with forty-four responses, all in favor. Many thanks to everyone involved in developing the budget and taking time to register their vote. There will soon be a lot going on and we look forward to a busy and productive year. I look forward to seeing everyone out in the field and at our monthly meetings. If you have any questions about the Houston Archeological Society, please email me at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org).



Michael Pinchen with the Perdiz point.  
Photograph by Bob Sewell.

*Bob Sewell, HAS President*



### Feedback, News, and Articles Requested! We want to hear from YOU! Call for March Map Madness Articles!



Sources: [Pointing Hand](#)  
[Free Download: Free](#)  
[Clipart.](#)

As always, we welcome your comments and contributions via email to [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org). Let us know about topics you'd like to see in the future and offer suggestions about how we can improve. We invite and encourage all HAS members and friends to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. Report on academies, field school, site work, lectures, cultural heritage, accomplishments, favorite podcasts, reading links, recommended books, academic endeavors, or public outreach! Send photos from an HAS or TAS adventure! What archeological artifact or historical event have you been researching? What interesting trips or explorations have you experienced recently? We hope that you will add your voice to our community's conversation, because a variety of articles help to make our newsletter more interesting. Your contributions may be any length: long, brief, a couple of paragraphs, or photographs with text. We can help with editing. Submissions for upcoming issues are requested by the fifteenth of each month.

### Coming Next Month: March Map Madness

In the spirit of March Madness, the HAS team hits the court with Map Madness, thinking about archeology and history as communicated through maps. Maps are frequently referenced in archeological work, such as the review of historic maps, topographic maps, and LIDAR when interpreting the context of a proposed dig site. We invite all HAS members and friends to submit an article discussing an interesting map. You may also simply send us a digital copy or link to some of your favorite maps, whether they are hanging on your wall, or sourced from a museum collection, research, or archeological site. If you are able to submit an article or even just a map image with an explanatory paragraph, your contribution is welcomed. Remember that we will post this in our newsletter online, so please do not include location information that should remain confidential, and please provide the source for your map. Please send submissions by February 15 to [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org).





## Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026

**Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.** – Bob Sewell, President. Welcome to all attendees, both in person and virtual via Zoom.

**Membership** – Bob Sewell, President. HAS completed 2025 with a total of 190 members, and membership now stands at ninety-four members so far for 2026, including fourteen students and nineteen contributing. Please don't forget to renew your membership for 2026! Yearly dues are \$15 for students, \$25 for individuals, and \$30 for families. Memberships can be renewed quickly and easily on the HAS website: <https://txhas.org/membership.html>

**Treasury** – Bob Sewell, President. Funds are looking good. We have also received a few donations in recent weeks and want to say a sincere thank you to those generous donors.

**Projects** – Bob Sewell, President.

- **Lone Oak (41CD168)**
  - Our last visit to this site was on December 27; we had a great turnout of around fifteen folks. After repeated issues with the electric fence at this site, we have re-cabled it with colored rope instead and are hoping that this will be sufficient to keep the cattle away from the units. One of our First Lego League groups will join us onsite in the near future to demonstrate their robotics project.
- **Goloboy Site (41WL3)**
  - We visited this site last weekend, January 10, and put out some shovel tests in a new area. One member was lucky enough to find a lovely Perdiz point on their very first site visit with us!
- **Walnut Tree Hill Site**
  - Work at this site has been paused for the hunting season, which comes to an end this weekend, so we are hoping to arrange a visit here very soon.
- **Upcoming Work**
  - We are regularly cycling through visits to all three of our active sites. Members interested in participating in site visits may look out for invitations from [fielddirector@txhas.org](mailto:fielddirector@txhas.org).

**TAS Academy** – Bob Sewell, President. The Texas Archeological Society's Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy will take place on February 28 and March 1 at Rice University. HAS will be helping to host this event. Although registration is full at this time, interested members can still join the waitlist at <https://txarch.org/Academies> in case any spots open up. There are two additional upcoming TAS Academies: Rock Art in El Paso on March 21-22 is also full (with a waitlist available), but Archeology 101 in San Angelo on April 10-12 still has some spaces left.

**HAS 2026 Budget** – Bob Sewell, President. We are happy to announce that the proposed budget for 2026 was approved unanimously by our membership, with a total of forty-four votes cast. Thank you very much to those who voted.

**Outreach** – Bob Sewell, President.

- We recently participated in an event with Scout Group 1100 at Spring Creek Park in December.
- The youth robotics competition FIRST Lego League (FLL) has selected archeology as their theme for this year's event. Bob, Louis, Frank, and John have met with several FLL teams, including one group who joined us at a site visit to Lone Oak in 2025 and would like to return on January 31 to test their project.

**February 2026 Monthly Meeting** – Our next meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on February 19. Our speaker will be Sammi Burke, a graduate assistant at New Mexico State University who will be discussing insect iconography in Mimbres pottery and culture.

Tonight's presentation will be conducted by Caitlin Gulihur, the Archeology Team Lead and Principal Investigator for Terracon Consultants, speaking about the historic candelilla wax industry in West Texas.

**The business meeting was concluded at 6:40 p.m.**

*Noah Newland, HAS Secretary*





## TAS Field School Registration Now Open ~ Rockdale, Texas ~ June 13-20, 2026

Frank Kozar



The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) has begun accepting registrations for its annual field school. This year, the event will take place at the site of Presidio San Xavier (41MM18), near Rockdale, from June 13 to 20. Dr. Tamra Walter will serve as Principal Investigator. Test excavations during the 2025 field school likely identified the location of the presidio, which was occupied by the Spanish from the late 1740s until it was abandoned in 1755. Additional excavations are needed to confirm those results, and survey and lab work will also be offered. If you have not gone to a TAS field school

previously, be advised that you must be a TAS member, and you are not obligated to attend for the entire week. Most attendees tailor the days they stay to accommodate personal work and school schedules. Camping will be available at the Apache Pass RV park and campground, located right next door to the field school site. A campsite without electricity is included with your field school registration. A spot with a 20-amp outlet is \$25 per night (sign up on the registration form). Should you wish to arrange other accommodations, several motels are located in nearby Rockdale. You can learn more about the history of Presidio San Xavier at <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/san-francisco-xavier-de-gigedo-presidio>. You may register at <https://txarch.org/2026-Field-School>.

As HAS members know, each summer TAS sponsors the week-long archeological field school. The program provides training in archeological techniques to Society members and contributes important new data to the state's archeological and historical heritage. No prior archeological experience is necessary. Activities and learning opportunities are offered for all ages, including excavation techniques, survey methods, and special training for newcomers and teachers. The field school is led by professional archeologists and trained avocationals. Participants may register for a minimum of three days or for the full week and choose excavation, survey, or the laboratory. Volunteers may participate in afternoon and evening workshops, educational programs, and social activities that are spread throughout the week. Several Field School Scholarships are also available. Keep an eye out for more field school information on the TAS website and in the TAS spring newsletter. Learn more at [TAS-Field School](#); [nps/planyourvisit/texas.htm](#); [statesman.com/tonkawa-tribe-sacred-sugarloaf-mountain](#).

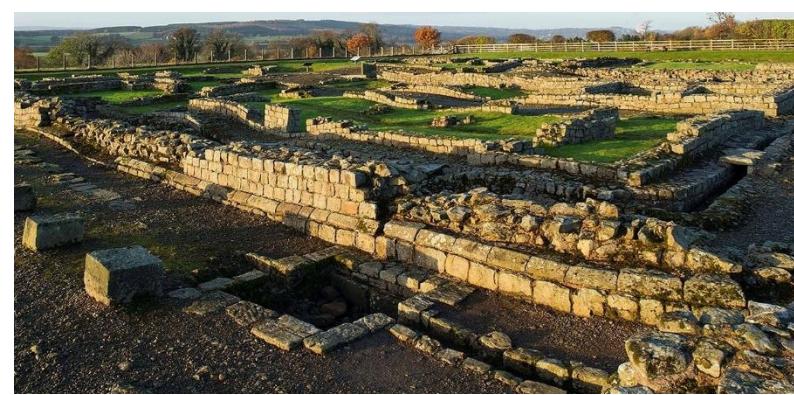


### The Love Charm of Polemius ~ An Artifact from Roman Britain



As described by [Corbridge Collection Highlights](#), English Heritage:

*Each of the sixteen facets of this ring contains one letter, with a leaf stop dividing the two Greek words ΠΟΛΕΜΙΟΥ ΦΙΛΤΡΟΝ (the love-token of Polemius). The Romans used Greek for magical incantations and spells, so it may be that this ring was being used as a charm to help Polemius in his search for love.*



Left: The Love Charm of Polemius ring; [Corbridge Collection Highlights](#) | English Heritage. Right: The archeological site of Corbridge Roman Town, located 2½ miles south of Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland; [History of Corbridge Roman Town](#) | English Heritage.





Source: [Black History Month - Texas A&M University Press](#)

## February is Black History Month – Celebrate this Important and Profound Story in the History of our State and Nation with these Events and Resources

Here is a list of resources for Black History Month in Houston, throughout Texas, and beyond.

City of Houston, [Celebrate Black History In Houston](#), Black History Month: A Guide to Houston's African American Landmarks

Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston [Woodson Black Fest 2026](#) | Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Dallas African American Museum, [www.aamDallas.org](#)

Freedmen's Town Museums and Archaeology

George Ranch Black Cowboy Student Education Day - The George Ranch; [www.georgeranch.org](#).

George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, Austin; [www.ciaustin.tx.us/carver](#); Black History Month | AustinTexas.gov  
Houston Museum of African American Art

Houston Public Library [Black History Month Events](#), including cooking, crafts, storytelling, and lectures for all ages.

Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site - 2/7 – Saturday, 2 p.m. [Art Talk with](#)

[Andrew L Thompson](#). Local artist Thompson uses stories shared by ancestors and recollections from childhood to reconstruct the Mims community, Sweeny, Brazoria, Hinkle's Ferry, and the historical significance of Brazoria County. 2/28 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – Noon. Trace family history using FamilySearch, a free online genealogy platform and exploring historic marriage records, with a special focus on the first legally recognized marriages of African Americans after emancipation.

[The Library of Congress Black History Month](#)

Audio and Video Resource Page

[James Madison's Montpelier Black History Month](#)

[Virtual Lectures](#)

[Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts](#), Spring

2/21- Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Family Day: Black History Month, a free event with art activities, performances, and more.

[Project Row Houses, Third Ward Black History](#)

[Month Bus Tour](#), 2/7 – Saturday, 9:45 a.m. A free bus tour exploring the rich history of Third Ward during Black History Month, [Registration](#).

[Rice University Black History Month Programs](#)

[Sawari Tours of Houston](#), [Bus Tours of Black History Sites in Houston](#)

[Texas A&M University Press Black History Month Book Recommendations](#)

[Texas American Federation of Teachers Black History Month](#)

[Texas Education Agency Black History Month Resources](#); [MLK's visits to Texas](#)

[The Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference 2026](#) – although this takes place in Austin in April, several important Black History sessions are included: an East Austin Black History Walk, Rewards and Challenges of African American Genealogy Research, the Role of Volunteers in Restoring and Preserving an Historic African American Cemetery, Black Borderlands: Chronicling African American Experiences in West Texas and Beyond, Documenting Joy: Celebrating Black Communities in East and Southeast Texas, HBCUs in Texas. More at [Real Places Conference](#).

[Texas Historical Commission Teach Texas History African American Learning Resources](#); take a virtual tour of a [sharecropper cabin](#).

[Texas State University, Celebrating Black History Month](#); including [63 Years of TXST Black History](#) and [Black Voices and Vision](#).

[University of Houston 2026 Dean's Distinguished Black History Month Lecture](#), [Law Center](#), virtual/in person, 2/10 – Tues. 6:30 p.m.  
[The University of Texas in Arlington, Power of Presence: Black Identity in Professional Social Work](#)



Above: Photograph, Library of Congress, Gladstone Collection of African American Photographs, believed to depict Samuel Smith, 119th US Colored Infantry and his family. Sgt. Samuel Smith, African American soldier in Union uniform with wife and two daughters.jpg - Wikimedia Commons.

Below: [www.georgeranch.org](#).





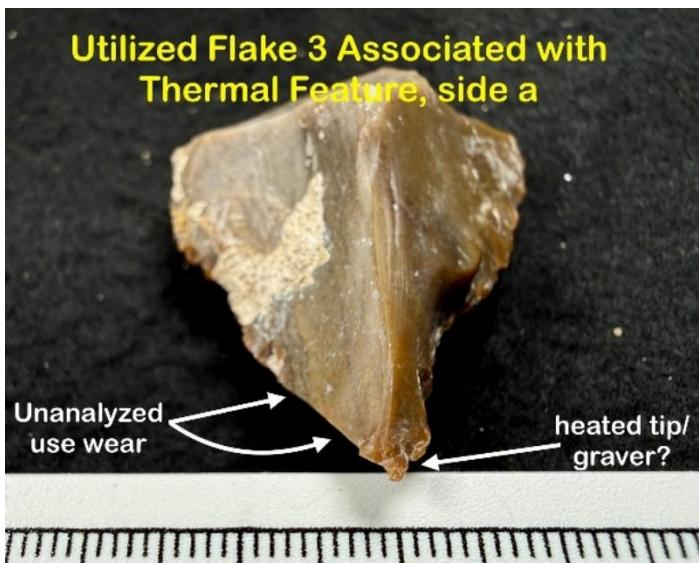
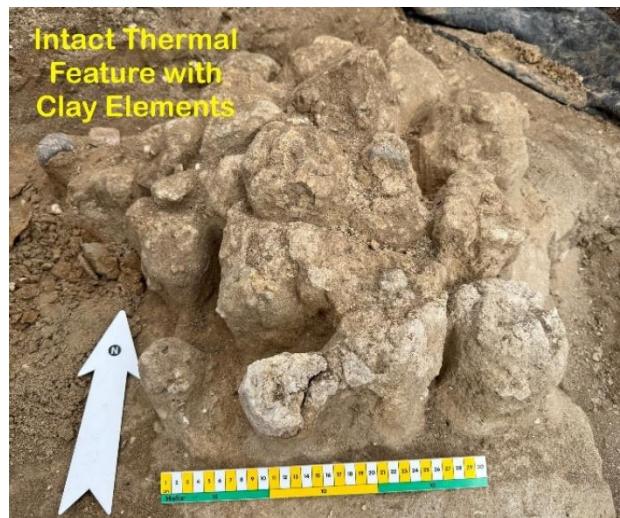
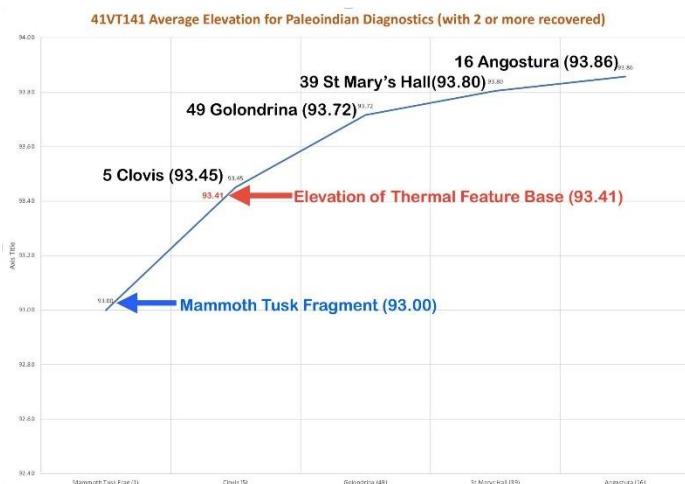
## Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria, Texas

The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team, based in Victoria, is working at the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a collaborative agreement with the landowner and the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant Paleoindian site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

In November, the CoBalt team visited a trinomial site near the Goliad/Refugio county line that we try to visit every year. This archeology site features a natural playa lake and is a very rich lithic site that has yielded Paleoindian artifacts dating back to Clovis. The artifacts are exposed by both the rise and fall of this shallow drainage lake and the amount of hog activity along the shoreline. This trip was productive with a wide variety of lithics exposed including a triangular scraper, several hand axes including one made from the local red/yellow chert in this area, a piece of fossilized wood used as a tool, a lot of utilized flake tools, and a core as well as utilized flake from that core.



Excavation Days of December 12 and 19, 2025: Our final two excavation days of 2025 turned out to be some of the most rewarding at the McNeill Ranch. The highlight was the careful excavation of what may be an early Paleoindian thermal feature made up mainly of intact clay elements. First identified on October 17 in the north unit, the feature initially appeared to extend across several units. To make room for its excavation, the team working the north unit spent the previous seven excavation days in the units to the north and northeast of the feature. (Readers who follow our updates may recall that two Clovis blades were found in the north east unit while we were working around this feature.) The clay elements of this feature were found in place rather than scattered, and several show what may be surface residues, suggesting they were part of a heating or combustion area. Some of the upright clay elements reach heights of up to 17 cm. The base of the feature sits at an elevation of 93.41, placing it just 0.04 cm below the average elevation (93.45) of five nearby Clovis artifacts.



All twenty-two clay elements were carefully removed over the two-day excavation and are now stored in the museum vault. Soil samples from beneath and between the clay elements were also collected for further study. Two archaeologists have already requested samples of selected clay pieces and surrounding sediments for organic residue analysis and radiometric dating. Several land snails (*Rabdotus alternatus*) found within and next to the feature were also collected for possible dating. No clearly diagnostic stone tools were found directly within the feature. However, two utilized flakes were recovered in place about 10 cm northeast of it, along with two more in screened soil from the same area. All four flakes show signs of heat exposure on their tips and appear to have been used as gravers or possibly as hide punches or drills. Although detailed microwear analysis has not yet been completed, close visual inspection and use of a 10 $\times$  magnifying glass suggest the presence of fine striations and polish along several edges of each utilized flake. A range of organic materials was also recovered in and around the feature, including land snails, turtle, deer, and mussel shell. Bill, Mike, Roger, O.C., Max, Matt, Ben, and Ann all contributed to the two-day excavation effort. We are especially thankful for the guidance provided by Dr. Gus Costa in planning and carrying out the extraction. On the Paleo2X terrace Frank, Jem, and first-time visitor Bernice found an early stage biface, a utilized flake with heated tip, and a large sample of mussel shell.

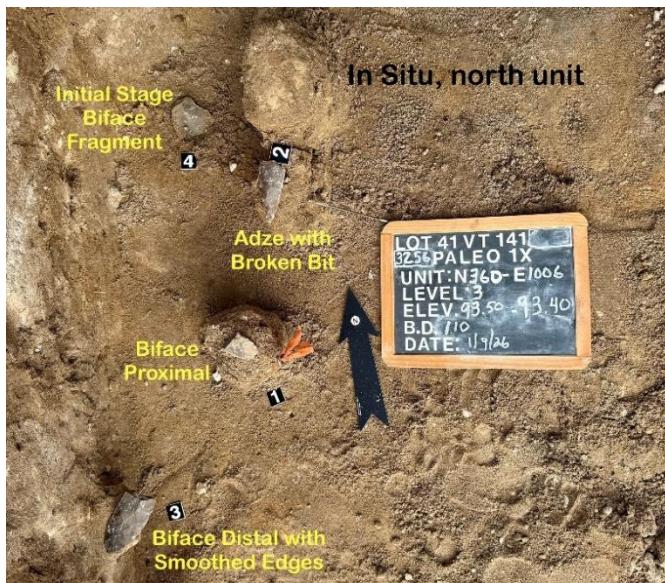


Excavation Day, January 9, 2026: Rain fell in the past week and the site was hopping with excitement with a group of home-schooled students working the west unit with Mike and also helping Frank and John on the Paleo2X Terrace. The well-behaved students and their chaperons had a good time and learned a lot. The students found a core fragment, a biface

proximal in the west unit with Mike. Those helping Frank and John on the Paleo 2X terrace also found two distals and learned to identify different materials in the shaker screen. In the north unit, Bill, Roger, and O.C. worked a deep Paleoindian elevation to finish the level with the thermal feature that was extracted in late December. The site yielded several interesting lithics including a biface proximal, an adze with a broken bit, a biface distal with smoothed lateral edges, a primary stage biface fragment, and a lot of land snails.

HAS members are always welcome to join us at the site or in the lab. Please contact CoBolt prior to coming because we will be relocating our archeology lab work space in 2026. You can follow CoBolt Archeology's progress at [CoBolt Facebook](#).

~ O. C. Garza



All photographs are courtesy of O.C. Garza. Source: [CoBolt](#).



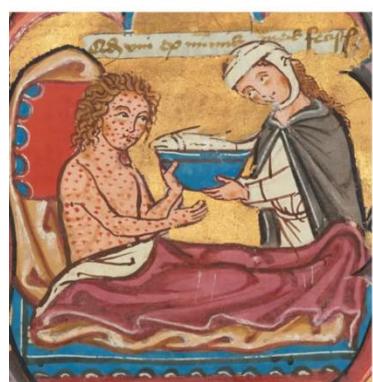
### Medieval Valentines

My love for you is contagious

It would be a crime if we weren't together

I'm ax-ing you to be my Valentine

I'm dead serious about wanting to take you out



Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram](#); [Medievalistmatt](#).



# Rediscovery and New Interpretation of the Early Paleoindian Lithic Artifact Assemblage in Southwest Texas

Alan M. Slade <sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin

<sup>2</sup> Texas Fluted Point Survey, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, Austin, Texas

Bonfire Shelter, (41VV218), Val Verde County, is a rockshelter that was the scene for a series of bison (buffalo) jumps where the early Paleoindians stampeded herds of bison over the edge of a cliff overhanging the shelter in a narrow box canyon that empties into the Rio Grande near Langtry, Texas (Bement 1986). Bonfire Shelter has the distinction of being both the earliest and southernmost bison jump site known in North America (Dibble 1970). The first definitive jump episodes at Bonfire Shelter occurred over 11,700 years ago during the Paleoindian era at the end of the last Ice Age (Pleistocene). At least three separate events created what archeologists call Bone Bed 2, a layer in the shelter's deposits containing the bones of a now-extinct species of bison (*B. antiquus* or *B. occidentalis*) as well as a small number of stone tools including Folsom and Plainview projectile points (Dibble and Lorrain 1968). The Folsom points, their rediscovery, and their reinterpretation are the subject of this article.

Bone Bed 2 contains an early Paleoindian component consisting of Folsom and Plainview lithic artifacts. Of primary concern for myself was the Folsom fluted points for their addition to the Texas Fluted Point Survey. There are currently 3 Folsom points present in the archaeological record from Bone Bed 2 at Bonfire Shelter, 2 complete points, and 1 point fragment (Figure 1). The first complete point (a) was discovered in the 1963-1964 excavations (Dibble and Lorrain 1968). A review of the Bone Bed 2 artifacts (Cooper and Byerly 2005) revealed that a point fragment (b) was originally catalogued as an unworked flake. At the time, the discovery of another Folsom point greatly reduced the probability that the Folsom component at Bonfire Shelter was intrusive and thus strongly suggested that there was a Folsom component present. However, this did have implications for the cultural interaction with the Southern Plains peoples, in that the later Plainview was contemporaneous with Folsom and that the three bison kill/jump locales were associated. More recently, excavations by the Ancient Southwest Texas team (Kilby *et al.* 2024) recovered a third Folsom point (c) which reinforced the Folsom component status.

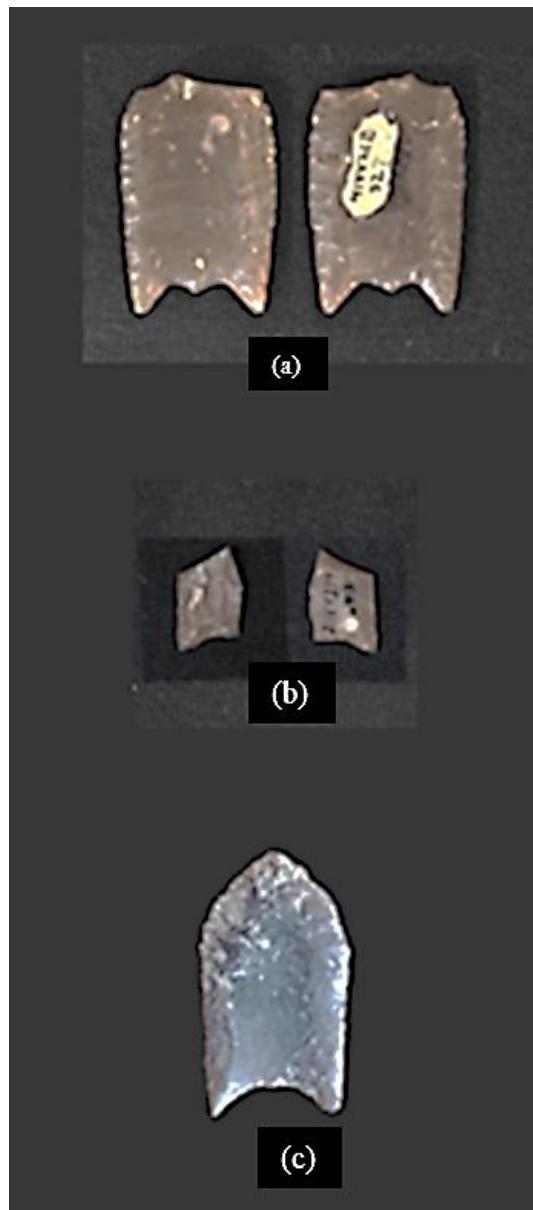
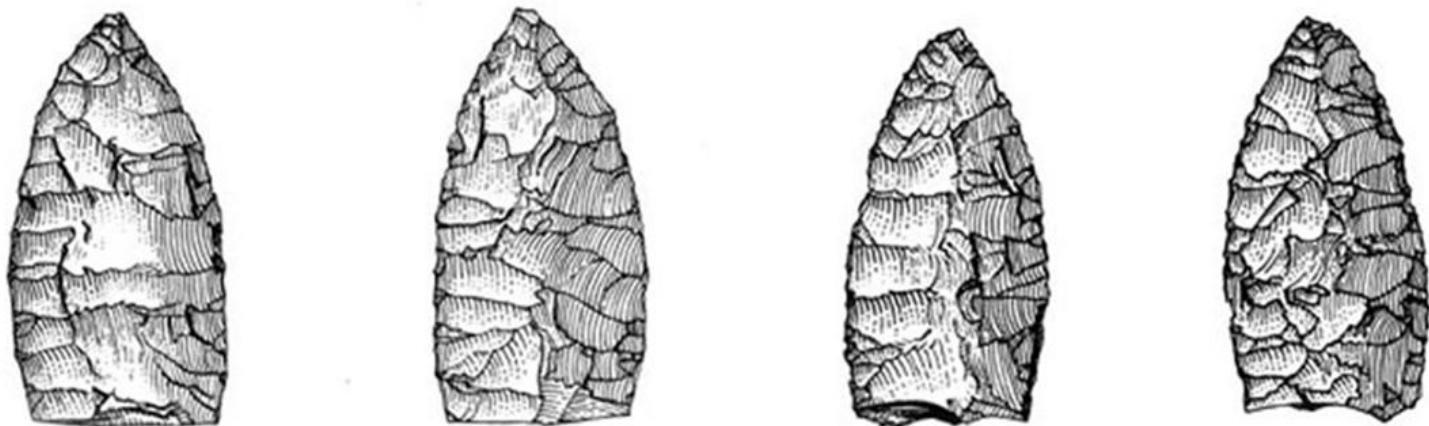


Figure 1. Three Folsom points found in Bone Bed 2, Bonfire Shelter (after Kilby 2024).

Figure 2. Two Plainview preforms erroneously listed as Clovis unfluted points (after Dibble and Lorrain 1968).



The results and analysis of this research indicates that the three kill/jump locales are indeed separate, the two Plainview areas are separate to the Folsom, and they are also separated chronologically, like elsewhere in the Southern Plains (e.g. Hofman *et al.* 1989). Slade would also like to stress that the suggestion that there was a Clovis component present in Bone Bed 2 should be ignored. There are two Clovis ‘unfluted’ points reported on the Texas Beyond History website (Figure 2) and were originally identified as being Plainview-like (Dibble and Lorrain 1968); recent reanalysis of these points at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory facility by David Robinson, Alan Slade, and head of collections Lauren Bussiere confirmed that they were Plainview preforms and not Clovis. The recent Eagle Nest Canyon publication (Koenig *et al* 2022) reports that there may be Clovis activity in Eagle Cave, but no identifiable Clovis cultural material was recovered.

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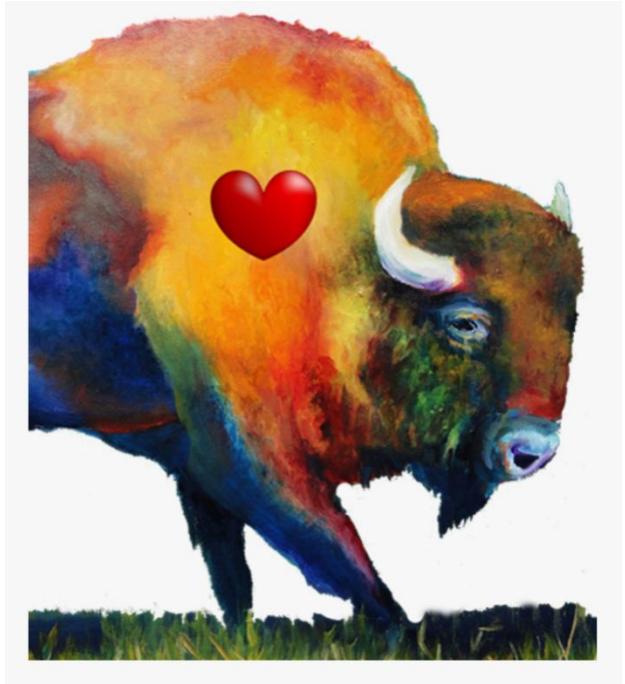
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#### Acknowledgements

Thanks to: Lauren C. Bussiere; Fred Valdez; Charles Koenig; J. David Kilby; and David Robinson. Thanks also to my colleagues at TARL, in particular librarian and archivist Jean Hughes and colleagues for access to the library and records room. And thanks to Becky Campbell Slade for reading through previous drafts.



Buffalo Stampede Half Marathon Free Image: <https://www.brazosvalleymuseum.org/>



## Could This Seventy-Five-Year-Old Establishment Be the Most Romantic Restaurant in Texas?

To what historic restaurant in Houston should you and your Valentine go for dinner? How about Whataburger? Believe it or not, this beloved burger enterprise has hosted countless weddings since the founding of the chain in 1950. Over seventy-five years ago, Harmon Dobson opened the world's first Whataburger in Corpus Christi. The story goes that Dobson hoped to "serve a burger so big it took two hands to hold and so good that after one bite customers would say, 'What a burger!'" ([Our History: The Whataburger Story](#)).

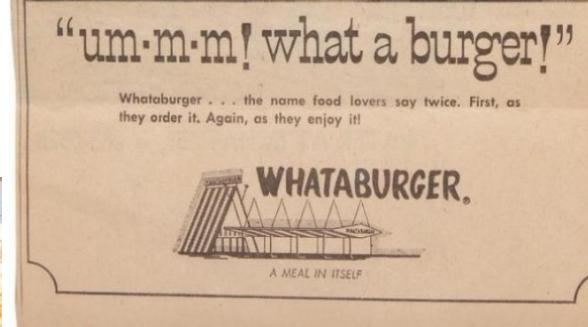
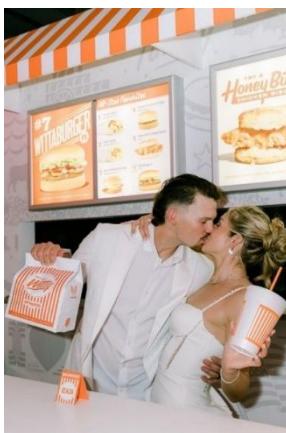
Above: Harmon Dobson's business card from the 1960s. Courtesy of Whataburger.

Right: Newspaper ad for Whataburger, 1969. Courtesy of Whataburger.



Since then, as Miranda Grubbs in Public Relations relates:

*At Whataburger, we know love often blossoms over fresh fries and Fancy Ketchup. We're lucky to have some of the best fans in the world; fans who care enough to make us part of one of the biggest days of their lives, and that's an honor we never take for granted. Over the years, we've welcomed more weddings than we can count, from couples hosting ceremonies in our restaurants to Whataburger food setups at receptions. We've even collaborated with super fans like Kansas City Royals shortstop Bobby Witt, Jr. Most recently, as part of our 75th anniversary, we hosted a Whatawedding in Las Vegas for Michael and Haley, a super fan couple from Frisco, Texas.*



Left: Haley and Michael's Whatawedding. Photograph courtesy of Whataburger.

Right: Witt Wedding. Photograph by Britney Tarno, courtesy of Whataburger.



## Fifth Biennial Oklahoma Archaeology Conference ~ March 5–7 ~ University of Oklahoma, Norman



The conference will feature a Thursday evening opening reception, a Cultural Resource Management fair, Oklahoma Native artists, papers, posters, and indigenous textile workshops presented by University of Arizona PhD candidate Jennifer Byram. Registration is \$15. Conference registration is free for students in an academic program. [More information and registration here.](#)



## TSHA 2026 Annual Meeting ~ Austin ~ March 4 - 7, 2026

### Featuring HAS Friends Tiffany Osburn, Sarah Chesney, Brad Jones, Tamra Walter, and Olive Talley

The 130th TSHA Annual Meeting takes place in Irving, Texas, beginning Wednesday, March 4, through Saturday, March 7, 2026. The Friday schedule includes Beneath Our Boots: Archeologists on the Subject of Texas History featuring HAS friends Tiffany Osburn, Sarah Chesney, Brad Jones, and Tamra Walter.



Tiffany Osburn (Texas Historical Commission), Sarah Chesney (University of Texas), Brad Jones (Texas Historical Commission), and Tamra Walter (Texas Tech)

The work of these four archeologists reveals how archeology complements and challenges written history. Through studies spanning missions, frontier forts, forgotten cemeteries, and early settlements, the panel demonstrates how material evidence enriches our understanding of Texas's past and deepens public engagement with its stories.

The Stones are Speaking – On Saturday, writer and director Olive Talley presents a 56-minute version of her documentary, followed by a Q&A session. The film follows the remarkable story of Austin archaeologist Mike Collins and his efforts to preserve the Gault Archaeological Site—one of the most significant prehistoric discoveries in the Americas. Collins and his team uncovered evidence of human life in Central Texas dating back 20,000 years, rewriting the timeline of human arrival in North America. HAS members have worked at this site over the years.

Many other interesting topics will be addressed, including the following.



Joint Session with the German Texas Heritage Society – Explore the German Texan experience and Texas's multilingual roots in this rich, three-part session. From Ferdinand Lindheimer's on-the-ground journalism in the 1850s, to an intimate immigrant memoir by Heinrich von Struve, to a sweeping look at Texas's trilingual legal and educational past, attendees will gain fresh insight into how language, identity, and community shaped nineteenth-century Texas. Key Moments in WWII and the Texans Who Were There – Learn about the lives of three Texans whose wartime experiences left an indelible



mark on history. From Harlon Block's iconic role at Iwo Jima, to Jane Weir Phillips Scott's firsthand witness to Nazi atrocities as a Red Cross worker, to Albert DeHart's harrowing missions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this session offers a powerful, human perspective on pivotal moments of the Second World War. Re-Evaluating Texas Unionists – Examine the persistence of Unionism in Texas during the Civil War and the stories of some successful but perhaps not well-known Texans. The history of Unionism in Texas has often focused on violent events, while many discussions of Unionist leaders reflect the wartime denunciations of them as scalawags. Recent scholarship provides a more thoughtful perspective on the political complexity of the Lone Star State during this turbulent era. Evolving Research on Washington County Freedom Colonies – Highlights of new research into Washington County's freedom colonies, communities founded by formerly enslaved Texans after emancipation. Presenters will explore how churches, schools, cemeteries, and cultural traditions helped shape these settlements, with case studies of Camptown and other colonies, and how recent projects are preserving their stories for future generations. The President-Elect Dinner showcases legendary Texas musician and storyteller John Lomax III. Non-members are welcome to attend. More information and registration details may be found at [TSHA Annual Meeting](#).





## Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation Updates

January 12, 2026 - Archaeologists continued investigations for the Church Preservation Project in EUs 51, 59, 117, 118, 122, and 128. Excavations within EU 51 started last week. This unit is within a group of units located north of the Church and near the Gift Shop. The unit started on Friday afternoon and archaeologists reached a depth of 10 cm below surface. Two old utility pipes were encountered immediately beneath the surface. Archaeologists also began excavations within EU-59 against the Church wall last week. This unit is located on the north side of the Church, immediately to the east of the exit door. Archaeologists excavated a depth of 90 cm below surface by the end of the week. While no features were encountered, several artifacts were recovered from this unit including Spanish Colonial ceramics, ammunition, metal, glass, and a Guerrero projectile point.



Archaeologists completed excavations at the terminal depth of 150 cm below surface within EU-117. At the completion of excavations, final documentation was also completed. This included soil profile maps and descriptions, multiple digital scans and photos, and GPS points. Excavations in EU-118 reached a depth of 50 cm below surface. Archaeologists encountered numerous utilities and mixed soil deposits. While no significant artifacts were recovered from the unit, a glass bottle stopper was found. Excavations were paused when a concrete curb and slab were encountered along the southern extent of the unit.



Above left: Guerrero Point from EU-59. Center: EU-59 excavations at 90 cm below surface, photo facing south. Right: Musket ball from EU-59.

Below left: EU-117 at 150 cm below surface, facing north. Right: Glass bottle stopper from EU-118.

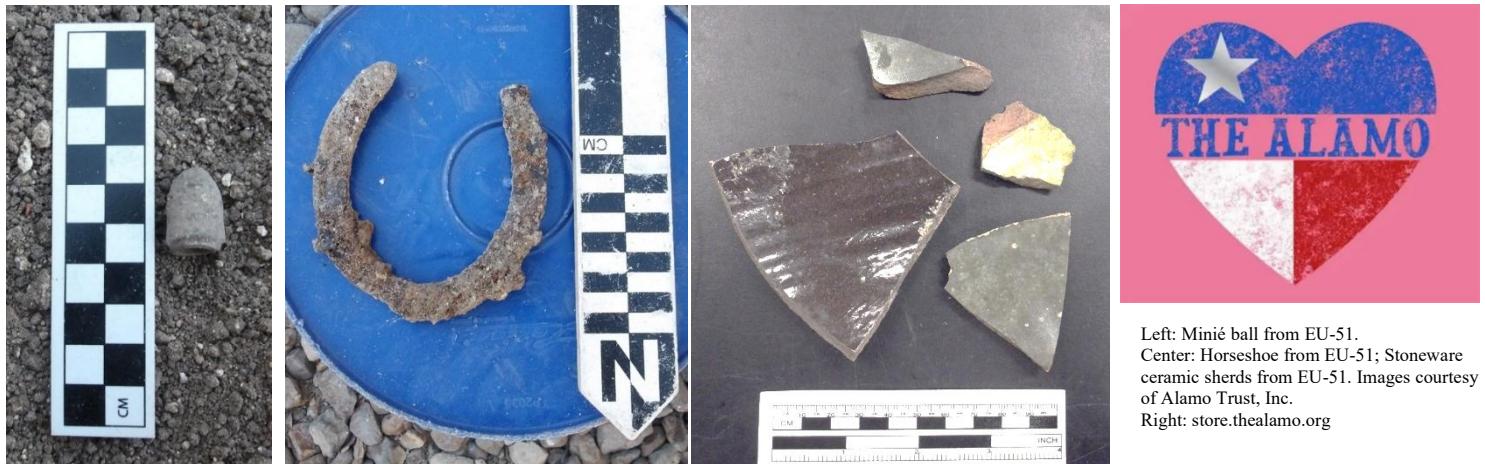
All images courtesy of Alamo Trust, Inc.

In EU-122, excavations reached a depth of 40 cm below surface, where archaeologists encountered the same concrete curb and slab seen in adjacent units. A compacted caliche surface was also seen north of the curb, but it was previously impacted by a utility which left a narrow trench. All of the soil deposits represent modern disturbances, as evidenced

by a c.1994 Coca-Cola can recovered from the unit. Archaeologists continued excavations in EU-128 and reached a depth of 100 cm below surface. The police substation wall foundation identified in previously excavated units continues within EU-128. Archaeologists are also beginning to encounter pockets of the natural caliche hardpan at the base of the unit. This is surprising because adjacent units did not encounter the caliche hardpan until much deeper.

January 20, 2026 - Archaeologists continued investigations for the Church Preservation Project in EUs 39, 51, 56, and 59. A group of units located north of the Church and near the Gift Shop were excavated last week. Excavation within these units, 39, 51, and 56, were almost completed. Each of the units exhibits significant disturbance from previous construction

in this area. Multiple old utility pipes were encountered, as well as a sand-rich matrix indicative of soils associated with construction episodes. The maximum depth for these units was 1 meter below surface. At the completion of excavation all units were documented with photos, hand drawn maps, 3D scanning, and GPS points. While the stratigraphy in EUs 39, 51, and 56 indicated intrusive construction deposits and mixed contexts, archaeologists did encounter some interesting artifacts. EU-51 recovered a horseshoe, several stoneware ceramic sherds, and a .58 caliber Minié ball. Archaeologists also completed excavations within EU-59 against the Church wall. Archaeologists excavated to a depth of 150 cm below surface. The natural caliche began to appear around 130 cm below surface and covered the base of the unit at the terminal depth. Archaeologists documented a shallow posthole near the wall at approximately 120 cm below surface. No artifacts were recovered at this depth. Content courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc. More updates and information about the Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation Project may be found at <https://www.thealamo.org/support/presrvation/updates>.



Left: Minié ball from EU-51.  
Center: Horseshoe from EU-51; Stoneware ceramic sherds from EU-51. Images courtesy of Alamo Trust, Inc.  
Right: store.thealamo.org

### The Alamo Podcast Reveals Latest Battle Cannon Acquisition

Episode 115 of the award-winning [Stories Bigger Than Texas](#) brings the news that the Alamo has acquired a cannon used in the 1836 Battle of the Alamo, making it the eleventh battle-used cannon currently in the Alamo's possession. Explore [the cannon's fascinating history](#) and learn how experts here in Texas are conserving all of the Alamo's battle cannons and why cannons from the Civil War will soon be on display near the new [Welcome Center](#). Content provided by Alamo Trust, Inc.



### More Medieval Valentines

You're a sight for  
sore eyes!

I'd give an arm and a leg  
for a date with you



I'm toad-ally in love  
with you



Do you like leeches? Because  
I'm stuck on you!



Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram](#); [Medievalistmatt](#).



## Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings will vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.

**February 19** – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Sammi Burke, New Mexico State University graduate student, discussing insect imagery in Mimbres pottery, via Zoom only.

**March 19** – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Becky Shelton, Texas Historical Commission, via Zoom only.

**April 7** – HAS Board Meeting

**April 16** - 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Bethany Miller, New Mexico State University graduate student, via Zoom only.

**May 21**- 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Kelly Jenks, Professor at New Mexico State University, via Zoom only.

**June** – No Meeting. See you at TAS Field School.

**July 16** – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting with a TAS Field School recap.

**August 20** – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Heather Para, via Zoom only.

**September 17** - 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Gus Costa. In person with a Zoom link available to members.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are ordinarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived on our [YouTube Site](#), where they are available for public viewing. For more information about HAS, visit [www.txhas.org](#), email us at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org), or join our [Facebook Page](#).

### Lunar New Year – February 17, 2026 – The Year of the Horse

In 2026, the Lunar New Year falls on February 17, kicking off the sixteen-day Spring Festival. The Asia Society of Houston has compiled a list of area events (sorted by date, [Lunar New Year Activities – Houston](#)):

**Otaku's Lunar New Year Festival** – January 16 (5pm-8pm), January 17 (12pm-8pm), January 18 (12pm-8pm) | Vietnamese Community Center, 13915 Bellaire; **Walmart** – Lunar New Year Community Day Celebration – Sugar Land, January 17 (11am-12:30pm) | Walmart Supercenter #2993 (345 Highway 6, Sugar Land, TX 77478); **Asian Chamber of Commerce** – Lunar New Year Networking Event January 22 (5:30pm-7:30pm) | GiAu Barn Bites (9889 Bellaire Blvd. Suite 200); **Asiatown Lunar New Year Foodies Tour** February 1 (5pm-7pm) | 5300 N Braeswood Blvd Ste 4-207; **USPS Lunar New Year** – Commemorative Forever® Stamp First-Day-of-Issue Ceremony February 3 (11am-12pm) | Chinese Community Center (9800 Town Park Dr., Houston, TX 77036); **Houston Public Library** – Lunar New Year Storytime with author Monique Truong February 7 (3pm-4:00pm) Alief-David M. Henington Regional Library; **Texas Lunar Festival** – 2025 Texas Lunar Festival February 14 (10:30am-4:00pm) Alief Career Center (12160 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77082); **Downtown Houston** – Lunar New Year Celebration 2026 February 14 (12pm-6pm) | Market Square Park ( 301 Milam Street Houston, TX 77002); **Children's Museum Houston** – Lunar New Year February 14 (9am-5:00pm) (1500 Binz St, Houston, TX 77004); **Chinese Community Center** – Lunar New Year Festival February 14 (10am-4pm) (9800 Town Park Dr., Houston, TX 77036); **Asia Society; Discovery Green** – Lunar New Year February 15 (4pm-7pm); **Ascend Houston** – Lunar New Year Celebration February 19 (6:30pm-8:30pm) | Seoul Garden (9446 Long Point Rd. Houston TX 77055); **Kroger** – Annual Lunar New Year Celebration 2025 February 21 (10am-3pm) | Kroger South University Sugar Land ( 18861 South University Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479); **Space Center Houston** – Lunar Near Year Celebration February 21 & 22 (10:00am-4:00pm) | 1601 E NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058; **Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center** – Lunar New Year February 21 (10am-3:00pm) ( 198 Kempner St., Sugar Land, TX 77498); **Fort Bend County Library** – Lunar New Year Celebration February 21 (1:30pm-2:30pm) | University Branch Library (14010 University Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479); **Memorial Park Conservatory** February 21 (4pm-7pm) | Live Oak Court at Clay Family Eastern Glades (6502 Memorial Drive, Houston TX 77007); **Pearland Chinese Association** – 2026 Pearland Lunar New Year Festival February 21 (11am-4:00pm) | Pearland Recreation Center (4141 Bailey Rd, Pearland).



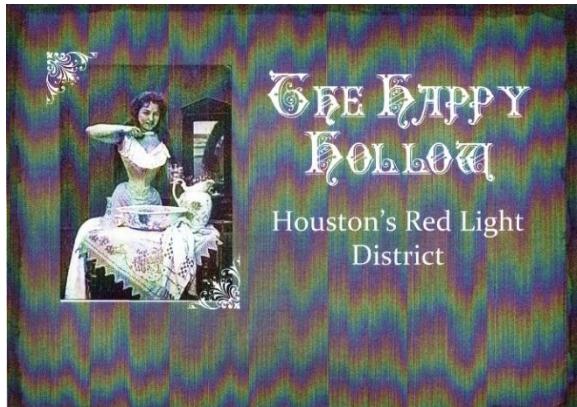
Lunar New Year 2026 Free Vector Art, Vecteezy; Year of the Horse – Royalty-Free

# ♥ Valentine Bonus ♥

♥ Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places ~ A Novella About Happy Hollow  
 Make Yourself Comfortable Y'All and Learn About an Emergency Salvage Archeology Project  
 in Houston's Historic Red-Light District

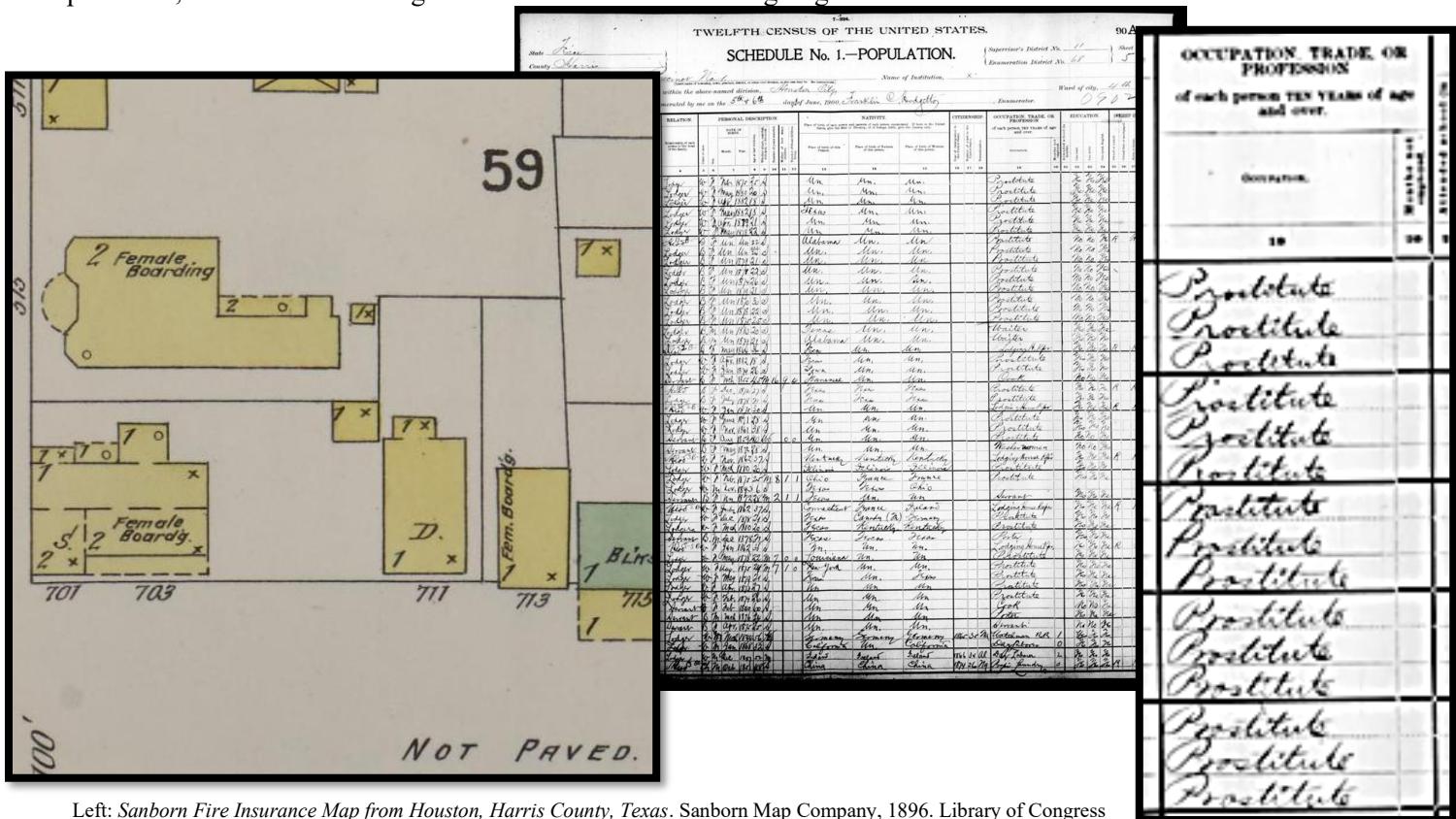


Linda C. Gorski, Former TASN Steward and Former HAS President



For three short but eventful days at the end of January in 2016, Texas Historical Commission Archeological Stewards from Harris County and members of the Houston Archeological Society participated in an emergency salvage archeology shovel testing project at a unique site in downtown Houston. Owners of an historic hotel on Louisiana Street were forced to demolish two adjoining buildings to provide parking spaces for the hotel. The owners of the hotel graciously allowed the Texas Historical Commission to examine the site before it was paved over. These buildings in the 500 block of Louisiana Avenue were built in 1907 and replaced earlier structures on the lots that were originally female boarding houses—aka brothels. The shovel testing revealed early cisterns, brick and concrete piers that supported the pier and beam building, an historic gulley, and a privy. Approximately 1,100 artifacts were recovered in three days, including many complete bottles that originally contained female medications and tonics, providing clues as to what was going on at the site in the late 1800s and early 1900s and lending credence to the site's original name, Happy Hollow! This article will present the history of an early red-light district in Houston through the artifacts recovered.

Of course, as with all archeological projects, we first completed our due diligence: delving into maps, building records, and census records for the site. This early Sanborn map shows the two buildings on the lot (lower left) labeled as female boarding. The census record from 1900 shows that virtually every resident of the building declared their employment as prostitute, therefore confirming the illicit activities that were going on at the site!!!



Left: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Houston, Harris County, Texas. Sanborn Map Company, 1896. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. [http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4034hm.g4034hm\\_g085801896](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4034hm.g4034hm_g085801896). Right and inset: Twelfth Census of Population, 1900 [microform] : Texas : United States. Census Office, Reel 1642, Harris County, p. 180.

We also trolled through contemporaneous newspaper articles for stories related to Happy Hollow. This 1905 clipping from the *San Antonio Daily Light* humorously reports that “the fight to clear out a section of Houston’s ‘Happy Hollow’ has resulted in an exodus of demi-mondes from the city” and indicates they and their madams were headed toward Austin and San Antonio. The “Soiled Doves” caused a stir as they flew from Houston and winged their way into new communities across Texas.

When the Happy Hollow District closed down, the brothels were destroyed and two new buildings were constructed on the site. Over the years those buildings served many purposes including housing a popular restaurant called Charley’s 517 (1971-1994). However, in more recent years the buildings were abandoned, deemed unsafe and unsalvageable, and eventually officials approved them for demolition.

Following the removal of the two buildings, archeologists swooped in for a hasty shovel testing survey before the site was leveled and covered with concrete. Led by Texas Historical Commission Regional Archeologist Jeff Durst and members of Houston Archeological Society, a grid of thirty-eight units was measured, flagged, and prepared for shovel testing.

**San Antonio Daily Light, October 15, 1905, page 2**

## DRIVEN FROM HOUSTON AND COMING THIS WAY

**Special to The Light:**

Houston, Tex., Oct. 14.—The fight to clear out a section of Houston’s “Happy Hollow” has resulted in an exodus of demi-mondes from this city. One madame and her six mother-hubbard companions, who made up the inmates of a notorious place, left last night for Austin. Another delegation went to San Antonio, and others have scattered like chaff in the wind. It was not the intention of the Houston authorities to benefit by inflicting their neighbor cities, but over such movements they have no power. The reason given by some for quitting Houston was that they feared a continuance of the crusade, and also for the reason that they could not find suitable locations with the reservation limited as it has been.



Above: The Sunday Light (San Antonio, Tex.), Vol. 24, No. 269, Ed. 1 Sunday, October 15, 1905 - Page: 2 of 32, Portal to Texas History.  
Center: Buildings in the 500 block of Louisiana Street before and during demolition. Photographs by Louis Aulbach.  
Below Left: Worthpoint Vintage Restaurant Ware, Charley's 517 Houston, TX.  
Right: Vintage heart Photos Freepik.





Left: The site cleared of debris. Right: The site flagged for shovel test pits. Below clockwise: Site records; Sandy Rogers and Bob Sewell screening; the team onsite; Jeff Durst, Regional Archeologist for the Texas Historical Commission was on hand to supervise the salvage project, and he is shown here locating and documenting an early cistern. Photographs and images by Linda Gorski.

*Shovel Test Numbers  
S Louisiana Street →*

1	10	20	30
2	11	21	31
3	12	22	32
4	13	23	33
5	14	24	34
6	15	25	35
7	16	26	36
8	17	27	37
	18	28	38



A brick pier from the original buildings on the site was uncovered, measured, and documented, giving the team an idea of the dimensions of the buildings. A wall foundation also gave us a good idea of how the building was constructed and the materials used.





Shovel Test Numbers Suzanna Street			
1	.9	.19	.39
2	.10	.20	.30
3	11	.21	.31
4	.12	.22	.32
5	.13	.23	.33
6	14	.24	.34
7	15	.25	.35
8	16	17	.36
9	18	.28	.37
10	19	.29	.38

--- 100cm wide trench  
 — Foundation 43 cm thick + mortar  
 2 Bricks lengthwise wide

numerous bottles in trench area  
 some use  
 C - red trench

② - Cistern 7 63 cm OD, 43 cm ID  
 10 cm drain pipe iron on N. side going north  
 10.5 cm

⑩ 1x1 m pier Sewell + Rager  
 3 - tube pier

We kept accurate records on each shovel test, despite the short time we had to excavate the site. But the real story of the site wasn't told by the foundation features we uncovered. No, that Tale was told by the bottles we recovered, most of which contained "female medications." Literally hundreds of bottles were collected from the site over the three-day period.

The items were transported to a member's home and the following Saturday we held a cleaning session in the driveway, including HAS members Beth Aucoin and Bob Sewell (below).



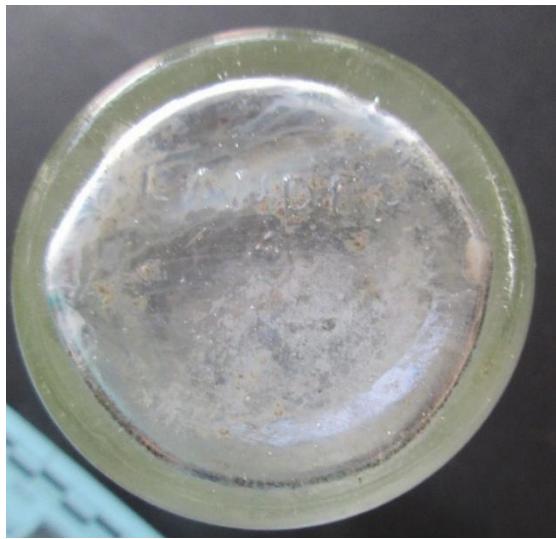
After the bottles were washed, several HAS members including Louis Aulbach, Larry Golden, and Bob Sewell conducted research on the bottles, documenting any markings and using numerous databases for further identification (right). Here are a few artifacts that indicate this was indeed a brothel site!



Photographs and images by Linda Gorski.

## Lander Company, Inc., Talc and Toilet Waters

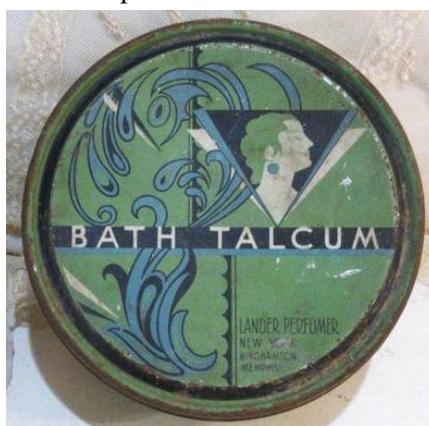
This non-descript bottle below was recovered from the bottle trench at the archeological site at 517 Louisiana Street, but we uncovered an interesting history thanks to the embossed word “LANDER” on the bottom. Lander was founded by entrepreneur Charles Oestrich, whose innovations in manufacturing and distribution allowed the company to provide affordable high-quality beauty merchandise, reducing price points through efficiencies in product cost and overhead. Lander produced a range of cosmetics, perfumes, and toiletries, such as one of its most enduring scents, Pixie, which, for the next four decades, could be found in a variety of products and gift sets.



Left: Lander bottle, photograph by Linda Gorski. Right: Lander's Talc advertisement as seen in *Radio Stars* magazine, December 1937, <https://www.ebay.com>; 1945 Lander's & Dorothy Reed Cosmetics.



A staple in local dime stores across the country, the toilet waters and scents were marketed in a variety of novelty bottles in shapes such as a swan, oil lamp, or reindeer. With exotic names like Movie Star, Black Orchid, Forbidden Secret, and Samedi-Soir, these popular scents and glamorous bottles decorated many women's dressers and vanities. Colorfully packaged gift sets with powdered bubble bath, body talc, and bath salts also sold well. It's too bad that we seem to have recovered one of Lander's more basic perfume bottles.



An array of novelty Lander products.

[Lander Bath Talc Tin; Vintage](#)  
[Lander Bath Talc Tin 1930s - Etsy](#)  
[Vintage Lander Apple Blossom Time Collectible Art Deco Perfume Bottle, Empty, Original Label Lamp and Stand - Etsy](#)  
[Vintage Lander Bath Set Crystals Soap Perfume Cologne Unopened With Box | eBay](#)  
[Lander Skyscraper Perfume Bottle](#)

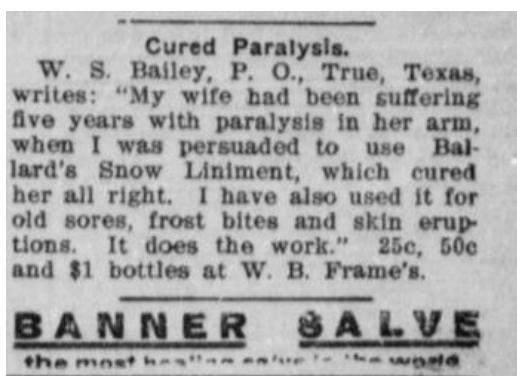
## Ballard Snow Liniment Company



*This wonderful Liniment is known from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Lakes to the Gulf; it is the most penetrating liniment in the world. It will cure rheumatism, neuralgia, cuts, sprains, bruises, burns, wounds, old sores, sciatica, sore throat, sore chest and all inflammation, after all others have failed. It will cure barbed wire cuts, and heal all wounds where proud flesh has set in. It is equally efficient for animals.*

~ The Delta Independent, Delta, Colorado, May 9, 1894

The concoction chiefly contained turpentine and oil of horseradish!! We wonder if the ladies of the night ever read the ingredients of the medicines they slathered on their bodies each evening???



This next intriguing bottle, which once contained even more intriguing ingredients, was recovered from the bottle trench at the archeological site. In 1882, entrepreneur James F. Ballard founded the Ballard Snow Liniment Company in St. Louis, producing one of the most widely advertised and distributed proprietary remedies of the time.



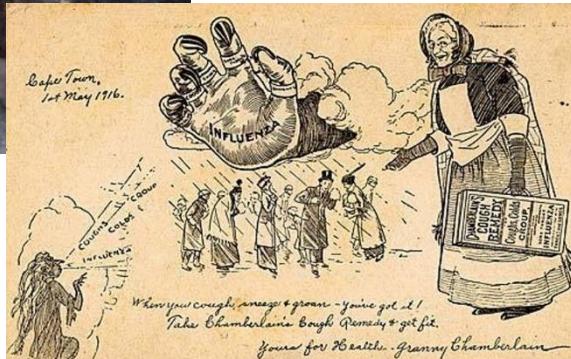
Above: Ballard Snow Liniment bottle, photograph by Linda Gorski; 1880s Ballard's Snow Liniment Bottle - [Etsy](#). Center left: The Wellington Daily News, July 6, 1906, Wellington, Kansas, p. 2; This and That Newsletter.



## Chamberlain Medicine Company



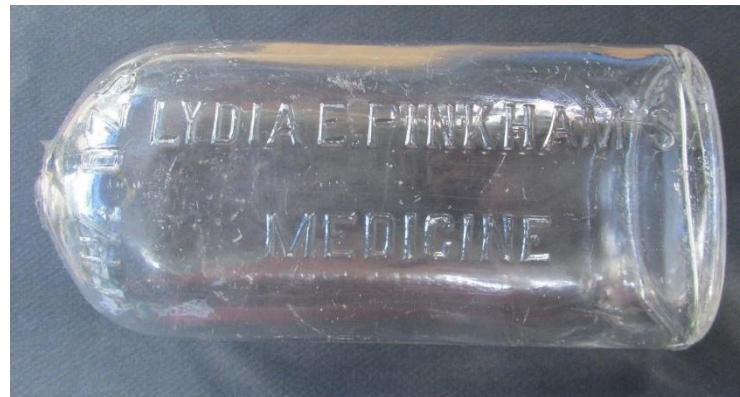
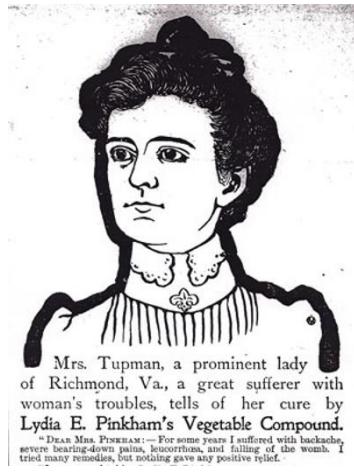
Above: Chamberlain Medicine Company bottle, photograph by Linda Gorski. Right: Black and white postcard advertisement. When you cough, sneeze and groan – you've got it! Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and get fit. Yours for Health, Granny Chamberlain. Chamberlain Med. Co., Des Moines, IA | Old Main Artifacts.



We recovered a bottle from the Chamberlain Medicine Company, known for their Cough Remedy, Pain Balm, and Liniment products. One of the few completely intact bottles recovered from one of the thirty-eight units dug during the shovel testing survey, it was located in Shovel Test 7 at the 20 cm level. According to vintage advertisements, Chamberlain's products cured whatever ailed you! Incredibly, the alcohol content of 45% (90 proof), acting as both a preservative and a soothing agent, was blended with ether and chloroform, resulting in a potent distillate. Chamberlain's tonic became known as an effective treatment for menstrual cramps—and probably gave customers a pretty good high!

## Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Unfortunately, this bottle was damaged when it was surface collected at the archeological site. But oh, the stories this bottle can tell! Lydia Estes Pinkham (1819-1883) became an iconic concocter and shrewd marketer of a commercially successful herbal-alcoholic women's tonic meant to relieve menstrual and menopausal pains. Although her compound sold well to the general public, health experts of the era regarded Pinkham's practices as quackery. As with many of these tinctures, the early Lydia Pinkham formula (pre-1906) included an alcohol content of around 20% (40 proof).



Above: Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound bottle, photograph by Linda Gorski.  
Left: Jan 04, 1903, page 27 - Kansas City Journal at Newspapers.com.

In the early twentieth century, the medical profession suffered a poor reputation, and expensive medical fees precluded professional care for most Americans, except perhaps in emergencies. Often, the remedies were more likely to kill than cure. Considering these circumstances, it is no mystery why many ordinary people of modest means (including the ladies of Happy Hollow) preferred to rely upon unlicensed practitioners. Women often especially trusted herbal pharmaceuticals developed by females such as Lydia Pinkham.

## 7 Up Lithiated Lemon Soda

I've added this vintage 7 Up bottle to this list because of its interesting history and ingredients. This bottle was recovered in Shovel Test 7 at the 20 cm level. In 1920, Charles Grigg founded his St. Louis-based company, the Howdy Corporation, and in 1928, formulated a lemon-lime soft drink as a patent medicinal product, as popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Originally labelled as 7 Up Lithiated Lemon Soda, the beverage contained lithium citrate, a psychiatric mood-stabilizing drug, until 1950. The product name evolved to the familiar 7 Up by 1936.



Left: Photograph by Linda Gorski.  
Right: Original Vintage 7 Up label.

## Dr. Bell's Pine Tar Honey

This bottle in near perfect condition was recovered from the bottle trench at the site. Dr. Bell's Pine Tar Honey cough syrup included perhaps a hint of snake oil and was a popular remedy for coughs and colds. The ladies of Happy Hollow did not have the luxury of being sick and missing any engagements! Produced by the E. E. Sutherland Medicine Company of Paducah, Kentucky, advertisements declared Dr. Bell's syrup a safe, non-habit-forming combination of pine tar, honey, glycerin, and various vegetable extracts, and expressed the typical expansive promises of curing everything from the croup, to the flu, to bronchitis.



Left: Dr. Bell's Pine Tar Honey for Coughs and Cold, photograph by Linda Gorski. Right: Jun 13, 1901, page 3 - The Perry County News at Newspapers.com.

## Listerine, Lambert Pharmaceutical Company



And, finally, my favorite bottle from the site with the best story: this Listerine bottle, recovered from the bottle trench at the site, will make you think twice when you use your mouthwash tomorrow morning! Lambert Pharmaceutical Company of St. Louis, Missouri, first sold Listerine as a germicide and surgical antiseptic. It was later packaged in a distilled formula, and incredibly, was marketed variously as a floor cleaner, a treatment for dandruff, and as a cure for gonorrhea (Levitt & Dubner 2011). By the 1920s, Listerine was promoted as a solution for chronic "halitosis," a then obscure Latin-based medical term for bad breath (Levitt & Dubner 2011).

*[Listerine's] new ads featured forlorn young women and men, eager for love but turned off by their mate's rotten breath. "Can I be happy with him in spite of that?" one maiden asked herself. Until that time, bad breath was not conventionally considered such a catastrophe. But Listerine changed that . . . As the advertising scholar James B. Twitchell writes, "Listerine did not make mouthwash as much as it made halitosis." In just seven years, the company's revenues rose from \$115,000 to more than \$8 million.*

~ The Power of Advertising – Brain In Labor

**And so, in honor of the ladies of Happy Hollow,  
Happy Valentine's Day, y'all!**

Above: Listerine bottle, photograph by Linda Gorski. Right: Vintage heart Photos Freepik; How Halitosis Became a Medical Condition. Below: Listerine, Lambert Pharmaceutical Company | Old Main Artifacts.





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## Upcoming Events – Virtual and In Person

Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.

**VIRTUAL:** Note that most events listed are free of charge but still require advance registration. Some websites listing virtual events and resources: [Texas State Historical Association Events](#); [NTAS](#); [Bullock Texas State History Museum](#); [Virtual Events–Friends of THC](#); [The Story of Texas On Demand Programs](#); <https://www.archaeological.org/events>; [Virtual Resources | PAST Foundation](#); [Archaeology Events & Activities Eventbrite](#); [Archaeological Conservancy](#).

### Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust Wales

2/19 – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Central. Continuity and Change in the Marches AD 300-800. Presentation on the critical time when the established provinces of later Roman Britain were replaced by newly emergent and forming peoples and kingdoms and a linguistic and religious boundary emerged, a new frontier zone between the people of what became Wales, and the initially pagan people of Mercia and other English peoples. [Register here](#).

### Archaeological Conservancy

2/5 - Thursday, 6 p.m. Central. Mapping Fort Decatur: Geophysics and Excavation at a War of 1812 Naval Site. [Register here](#).

### Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)

2/21 – Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Central. Piramesse – from the City of Wonders to Terra Incognita. The splendid capital of Egypt in the reign of Ramesses II and one of the largest cities of its time in Egypt and beyond. [Register here](#).

### Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

2/16 – Monday, 8 p.m. Central. Fieldwork and archaeofaunal analysis of four Chaco-period Great Houses with specimens such as bison and wolf remains, evidence for a possible turkey pen, and a targeted radiocarbon dating program evaluating the intrusiveness of porcupines. [Register here](#).

2/19 – Thursday, 7 p.m. Central. Indigenous Artist Talk, Yup'ik Art Traditions; [Register here](#).

### Cotswold Archaeology

2/25 – Wednesday, 1 p.m. Central. Pits, Pots and People: Evidence for Beaker Activity at Sizewell C. Large-scale archaeological investigations at Sizewell reveal evidence about the use of this landscape during the Early Bronze Age (2200-1900 BC) by people who adopted the practices of a widespread European culture known as Beaker, taking its name from their distinct form of highly decorated pottery. [Register here](#).

### Council for British Archaeology

2/12 – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Central. Discussing collections in over eighty museums worldwide, this lecture identifies trends, similarities, and differences in display techniques and storytelling with remains of extinct species. [Archaeology UK/winter-lecture](#).

2/25 – Wednesday, 1 p.m. Central. Roman Britain's craftspeople; production of pottery in the Upper Nene Valley region. [Register here](#).

### Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series

2/5 – Thursday, 1:30 Central. Sanxingdui: China's Astounding Ancient Lost Legacy. Sanxingdui excavations have uncovered bronze masks, gold artifacts, jade pieces, and ritual statues, revealing a sophisticated Bronze Age culture in Sichuan, China. Dating back over 3,000 years, these discoveries

show a civilization with unique beliefs and artistry, distinct from earlier dynasties, reshaping the views of ancient China. More information at the E-MLS website: <https://engelhardtmoore.wixsite.com/lecture-series>.

#### **Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society**

**2/9** – Monday, 1:45 p.m. Central. A look at historical aspects of the Wandle River and its sources, how water from it has been used, and how its course has changed, along with some of the disputes that have taken place over the river's water. Visitors please email [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com) for link.

**2/11** – Wednesday, Noon, Central. The Mercenary River. Nick Higham tells the story of London's water from the Tudor era to the 20th century. It's a tale of remarkable technological and scientific breakthroughs, but also one of greed and complacency, high finance and low politics. London's 19th century water companies operated a cartel and supplied overpriced, deficient, and frequently filthy water. [Join from Zoom Workplace app - Zoom](#).

**2/13** – Friday, 1:30 p.m. Central. [Roman Cemetery at Holborn Viaduct; www.enfarchsoc.org](#).

#### **James Madison's Montpelier**

**2/20** – Friday, 6 p.m. Central. Two Centuries of Gardening at Montpelier. Fee, \$11. [Reservations here](#).

#### **Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan**

**2/6** - Friday, Noon. [Flash Talk | Childhood and Textile Craft in Roman Egypt](#).

#### **London & Middlesex Archaeological Society**

**2/10** – Tuesday, Noon Central. Meeting followed by lecture on mapping early Tudor London. Over the period from the 1520s to the 1660s, London's population increased four-or five-fold, and the built-up area spread far beyond the walled city, linking Westminster and the east end in a single metropolitan conurbation. The Fire itself, while destroying four-fifths of the walled city, generated plentiful documentation that allows quite detailed reconstruction of most of the burnt areas. <https://www.lamas.org.uk/mapping-london>.

#### **Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Albuquerque**

**2/19** – Thursday 7:30 Central. Ethnoarchaeology of Hunter-Gatherer Technology in Venezuela. Subsistence technologies among Savanna Pumé hunters and gatherers of the Orinoco Plains (Llanos) of Venezuela provide quantified views of foraging activities, mobility, time allocation, food returns, and tool use. [Meeting Registration](#).

#### **North Texas Archeological Society - NTAS**

**2/12** – Thursday, 7 p.m. February Meeting of the NTAS; speaker Charles Frederick discusses his work with shell middens, [ntas.org/contact-us](http://ntas.org/contact-us).

#### **Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center**

**2/18** – Wednesday, Noon. Preserving the Past Through Science: Discoveries at Red Elk Shelter. Newly obtained radiocarbon dates reveal fresh insights into the timing and creation of this unique panel with Pecos River and possible Red Linear pictographs. [Click to Register](#); [Lunch and Learn - Shumla](#).

#### **Smithsonian Institution**

**2/3** – Tuesday, Noon Central. Virtual tour of the Asian Art Museum. Learn about legends, fortunes, and the symbolism of animals, plants, and colors associated with the Lunar New Year, Free. [Webinar Registration 2/3 - Zoom](#); [Online Events | Smithsonian Institution](#).

**2/17** – Tuesday, 2 p.m. Central. Virtual tour of the Asian Art Museum repeated. Free. [Webinar Registration 2/17 - Zoom](#).

#### **West Essex Archaeological Group**

**2/9** – Monday, 1:15 Central. Mapping London after the Great Fire. Contact [weagmembership@outlook.com](mailto:weagmembership@outlook.com) for more details.

**ON-SITE:** Some searchable websites listing upcoming events in Texas: [State Parks - TPWD](#); [Alamo Events](#); [State Historic Sites](#); <https://texashighways.com/events/>; [AIA Event Listings](#); [Archaeology Now](#); [HeritageSociety.org/calendar](#); [Houston Public Library Events Calendar](#).

#### **Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, Bryan**

**Exhibition through May 16, 2026.** The Brazos: Legacy of a Mighty River, an exhibit highlighting the natural and cultural history of the Brazos River.

#### **Discovery Green**

**2/15** – Sunday, 3 – 7 p.m. [Lunar New Year](#) celebration with market, crafts, food, and cultural performances.

#### **Friends of Archeology**

**2/22** – Sunday, 2:30/3:00 p.m. Reception and free lecture by Dr. Xiuju Liu, Archaeological Discoveries in Sanxingdui, held at Bayou Bend.

#### **Houston Civil War Round Table**

**2/19** - Thursday, 6 p.m. Dinner/7 p.m. Meeting and Lecture. Danny Sessums speaking on Granbury's Texas Brigade. Non-members may attend a meeting with one free admission, then for \$10 or membership dues. Meetings at Salt Grass Steakhouse, [8943 Katy Freeway](https://www.yelp.com/biz/salt-grass-steakhouse-katy).

#### **Houston Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park**

**2/12** – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. [History on Tap: America 250 Special- How Beer Sparked the American Revolution](#).

**2/14 and 2/28** – Saturdays, 10 a.m. [Visit Houston Signature Experience for the Soul - From Plantation to Emancipation](#).

**2/19** – Thursday, Noon. [Lunch and Learn: 100 Years of Black History Month](#).

#### **Houston Maritime Center & Museum**

**2/9** – Monday, 6 p.m. [Maritime Monday: Galveston Bay Foundation](#).

#### **Houston Museum of Natural Science**

**Exhibition - Terracotta Warriors.** Learn about the famed Terracotta Warriors. Accompanying film in giant screen theater, [Mysteries of China](#).

#### **Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Sites**

**2/28** – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. [Red, White, & Stew](#). Living history, cooking campfire recipes from the Dawson and Mier Expeditions era.

#### **Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site**

**2/7** – Saturday, 2 p.m. [Art Talk with Andrew L. Thompson](#). This local artist uses stories shared by ancestors and recollections from childhood to reconstruct the Mims community, Sweeny, Brazoria, and Hinkle's Ferry.

**2/28** – Saturday, 10 a.m. – Noon. [FamilySearch for Beginners: Marriage Records](#). Learn to trace family history using this free FamilySearch platform.

#### **McFaddin-Ward House Museum, Beaumont**

**2/19** – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. [The Juicy Story of the Texas Citrus Industry: Proud Past, Today's Reality, Promising Future](#), free lecture by Dale Murden.

#### **Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria**

**2/19** – Thursday, 5:30 p.m. [John W. Stormont Lecture Series - Wrangling Pelicans: Military Life in Texas Presidios](#).

#### **Preservation Houston**

**2/10** – Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. [Time & Place: Unlocking the History of Your Home or Building](#) using mostly free online tools. \$15 fee.

**2/15** – Sunday, 2 – 3:30 p.m. [Turner Addition Historic Architecture Walk](#), 90-minute docent-guided walking tour. \$15 fee.

## **San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site**

**2/7** – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. March on Fredonia. Commemorating the Austin militia joining in to quell the Fredonian Rebellion of 1826; when a few lone colonists attempted to claim independence from Mexico ten years before Texas would do so officially.

**2/21** – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. San Felipe Teaches Teachers: A Free Teacher Workshop, teaching Texas history.

**2/26** – Thursday, 6 p.m. History at Night: Fences, Brands, and Ear Notches. Learn about historic fencing laws and ranching methods.

## **Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site**

**2/19** – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Republic of Texas is No More. Commemorate the 180th anniversary of Texas Statehood.



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## **And Why Not a Few More Medieval Valentines – Those Monks Had Such a Way with Illuminated Manuscripts**

**I totally dig you**



**I think you're cute and I ain't "lion"**



**I'm falling for you**



**Let's face it, I'm yours**



Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram](#); [Medievalistmatt](#).

