



The PROFILE

Texas Archeological Society-www.txarch.org

March 2005

MARCH MEETING: "Pragmatism, Politics, Descendants and Communities: Public Archeology Today." Carol McDavid, Ph.D, Project Director for Public Archaeology: Yates Community Archeology Program.

Speaker for April, David Sherman, "Ear Spool Site."
Meeting location, University of St. Thomas.
Anyone wishing to present should contact Muriel Walker at 281-392-7504.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE:

Mondays, March 14 & 28, 7:00 p.m. Rice University Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103.

HAS LIBRARY: Library hours are 6:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m., Friday, March 11.

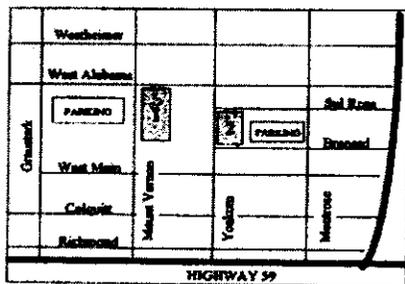
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

No column this month, **Linda Swift is on vacation!**

NEED TO FIND US? Compliments of Fred Kelly:

LOCATION MAP

1. **M. D. Anderson Hall**
3900 Mount Vernon
University of St. Thomas
2. **McAgy Archaeology Library**
3907 Yoakum
University of St. Thomas



MARK YOUR CALENDER!

- Book Sale and Signing, "Sleuthing the Alamo, Davy Crockett's Last Stand and Other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution." March 10, 7:00 p.m., Hilton-University of Houston, Shamrock Salon, 2nd floor. Author Dr. James E. Crisp will serve as the moderator for the San Jacinto Symposium.
- Texas Colonial Heritage Festival, April 9, 10 a.m. - 5p.m., Stephen F. Austin State Park. Demos of life in the 1820s including gun displays, outdoor cooking and general everyday chores. 979-885-3516. Walk across FM1458 and see the San Felipe de Austin Archeological Project.
- The 5th Battle of San Jacinto Symposium, Hilton-University of Houston. For information call 281-496-1488 or sjba@usa.net.
- San Jacinto Day Festival & Battle Reenactment. Saturday, April 23, 2005, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Volunteers needed, contact Beth Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net, or 281-480-6151, or www.sanjacinto-museum.org, 281-479-2421.**
- "Finding the First Americans", April 24, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Jones Auditorium, University of St Thomas, Dr. Michael Collins, University of Texas. Reception for the speaker follows the lecture.

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES, February 11, 2005

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the February meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were forty people (six visitors) in attendance.

Announcements:

- It is time to pay membership dues.
- Field work at San Felipe de Austin continues.
- The HAS will conduct a field school in April
- Visitors were encouraged to visit the library, attend a lab session and refer to the HAS website for future activities.
- Fred Kelly introduced special guest Mr. Hugh McCain, the Honorary Council General of Belize.

Muriel Walker introduced the night's speaker, Dr. Rebecca Story, University of Houston, for her presentation, "The Xibun Valley in Belize".

Following the program, there was a break for refreshments and the business meeting began at 8:45 p.m.

- ✓ There were 16 people in attendance. The minutes from the January meeting were approved without corrections. Linda discussed the pros and cons concerning mailing versus emailing the HAS newsletter to the membership and which would they prefer. The membership was asked to contact the mailing committee and state their choice*.
- ✓ Librarian Diane Baird asked the membership to please check the library check-out box to see if there are any past due books that need to be turned in.
- ✓ Treasurer Karen Acker stated that 66 membership renewals have been received.
- ✓ Publicity Campaign Chairman, Fred Kelly, talked about HAS website links to other related organizations.
- ✓ Richard Carter reported that 44 people visited the website last month.
- ✓ Wanda Carter thanked Fred Kelly and Karen Acker for providing refreshments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Tom Nuckols, annesullivan@andreswurth.com

**(Members are Sheldon Kindall, Karen Acker, Linda Swift, Dick Gregg, Tom Nuckols, and Mary Barbara Gold.)*

Dance Revolver: In 1862/63, approximately 500 cap and ball revolvers in both .36 and .44 caliber were manufactured by J. H. Dance & Brothers of Columbia, Brazoria County, Texas, for the Confederacy. The need for small arms was so great that the Governor of Texas granted exemption for the company's workforce from military service. Sometime in 1863 the Dance Brothers operation was moved to a new location a few miles away to prevent shelling by Union gunboats. It is unknown if production continued after the move. Depending on condition, Dance revolvers are worth \$16,000 to \$47,000.

Last month, I received this letter from Gunnels Gun Shop in Ore City, Texas, via the HAS mail:

Attn., Mr. Tommy Nuckols or Mr. Dick Gregg,

Upon contacting Michael Bailey, curator of The Brazoria County Historical Museum in Angleton, he gave me your name to contact concerning a possible Dance revolver. I am looking for someone that can verify that is this or is not a Dance. If you can help contact me at the gun shop.

Thanks,

Jack.

I contacted Jack at the gun shop and told him that the distinguishing feature of a Dance revolver was the absence of a recoil shield. He stated that his particular revolver was minus the shield. I then suggested that he take the revolver to a professional firearms appraiser because unscrupulous people have taken Colt revolvers, filed off the recoil shield and passed them off as a Dance. He is going to let me know the results when he gets his revolver appraised.

Tom Nuckols, annesullivan@andreswurth.com

Archeological Excavation Techniques: Mini-Field School, Saturday, April 30, 2005.

The purpose of this event is to introduce proper archeological techniques to people who would like to participate in the various excavations going on in the greater Houston area, but who have been reluctant to volunteer because they lack experience.

This will be a full-day event. The first part of the day will be "classroom" followed in the afternoon by field work at an archeological site. Members of HAS will teach the class and serve as mentors in the field.

The course will be free for members of HAS. There will be a charge of \$12 per person, for non-members, but this charge will include membership in HAS for the remainder of the year.

Interested people may sign up at an HAS meeting or via any officer of HAS or by contacting one of the following: Sheldon Kindall, 281-326-2160, kindall@mcleoudusa.net; or Beth Aucoin, 281-480-6151, ekpj.aucoin@parodigy.net.

Texas Heritage Day: Several hundred people visited the HAS & TAS exhibits at the recent Texas Heritage Day Celebration held at Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center. Visitors were fascinated by the flint knapping skills of Bill Csanyi and Mike Marshall while others enjoyed their wonderful displays of wood and stone tools and artifacts. Children as well as adults participated in a mock dig, while others tried their hand at drilling dried gourds using stone tools or grinding corn in a mortar and pestle. Visitors also had an opportunity to view other archeological displays and participate in additional activities. Lots of HAS & TAS information and brochures were distributed to teachers and the general public. Many thanks to volunteers Beth & Pat Aucoin, Karen Acker, Richard & Wanda Carter, Bill Csanyi, Mary Barbara Gold, and Mike Marshall and Marty McCoy. A special thanks to Leland Patterson for an unending supply of drills and gourds as well as other stone tools used in the numerous hands-on displays.

Greco-Roman Libya: If you missed Fred Kelly's illustrated lecture on "Greco-Roman Libya" at HAS in January, he will be giving it again for the Brazosport Archaeological Society on March 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science, Center for Ares and Science, 400 College Blvd. in Clute/Lake Jackson. For a map, go to: <http://bcfas.org/museum/>.

The Yates Museum: Professor David Bruner, U of H, holds field school and lab sessions every Saturday (8:30 AM – 3:00 PM) at 1314 Andrews in Freedman's Town (founded by freed slaves in 1868. Confirm at davearch@houston.rr.com or call Dr. Carol McDavid 713-523-2640.

To submit articles to The Profile, contact Mary Barbara Gold, 3303 Big Spruce, Kingwood, TX 77339, 281-360-5226, or mary.gold@humble.k12.tx.us.

Submit articles no later than March 28, 2005, for the April edition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON H.A.S., CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Swift, President, linda.swift@centerpointenergy.com Fred Kelly, Director-at-Large, fwkelly@aol.com
Muriel Walker, Vice President, murielwalk@earthlink.net Beth Aucoin, Director-at-Large, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net
Karen Acker, Treasurer, tkacker@aol.com Richard Carter, Director-at-Large, richardandwanda@sbcglobal.net
Tom Nuckols, Secretary, tholnuc@ev1.net

THC STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com
Frank Binetti, fkbinetti@houston.rr.com Sheldon Kindall, kindall@mcleoudusa.net
C. R. Ebersole, 713-668-1253 Bev Mendenhall, bgmarch@awesomenet.net
R. L. Gregg, rlgregg@worldnet.att.net Sandra & Johnny Pollan, jpollan@brazosport.cc.tx.us
Marilyn & Walter Horton, wmhorton@ev1.net Sandra Rogers, sojourne@consolidated.net
J. D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

THC

Pat Mercado-Allinger, pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

TAS

Beth Aucoin, Region V Director, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net Ron Ralph, President, ronralph@austin.rr.com
Pam Wheat, Executive Director, pwheat@vmplus.com

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Houston Archeological Society
P O Box 6751
Houston, TX 77265-6751

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