



# The PROFILE

March 2007

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## March Program Features Archeology of Houston's 4<sup>th</sup> Ward by Rachel Feit and Bradford Jones

Rachel Feit and Bradford Jones, archeologists for Hicks & Company, will give a presentation on the archeology of Houston's 4<sup>th</sup> Ward at the March 9 meeting. Located at the edge of the community known as Freedmenstown in Houston's 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, and at the heart of a rapidly transitioning neighborhood, the site of HISD's planned new Gregory-Lincoln school was recently investigated by contract archeologists at Hicks & Company in advance of development. The project was envisioned as a multidisciplinary effort, integrating archival research, oral narrative, archeology and public involvement to develop a complex narrative about this turn of the century African American neighborhood. The project investigated ten city blocks. It was challenging not only due to its size, but also due to the active public involvement that opposed site development, and often opposed the excavations themselves. During this presentation Rachel Feit will discuss the neighborhood history, project history, and the excavation work that was conducted. She will talk about some of the challenges, successes, and failures of the project. Bradford Jones will then share some of the results of the ongoing artifact analysis, which both compliments the historical record, and has revealed some notable patterns.

### About the Archeologists

Rachel Feit grew up in northern Virginia and attended the University of Chicago from 1986-1990, where she majored in Cultural Anthropology. She received her Master's degree in 1998 from the University of Texas, where she focused on Classical Archaeology. She began working full-time for Hicks & Company in October of the same year. While at Hicks & Company, she has had the opportunity to lead a number of fascinating projects, including the excavation of Austin's red light district, the Susannah Dickinson house in Austin, Fort Anahuac, and at the San Jacinto Battleground. She has been a member of the Texas Archeological Society since 1998 and is active in the Council of Texas Archeologists. In addition to archeology, Rachel has been a freelance writer since 1999, publishing



numerous articles on food history, restaurants, travel and archeology for newspapers and magazines. (*Continued on page 2*)

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**April 2007 Program:** Frank Griffin will present a Lithic Technology Primer. Anyone wishing to deliver a future presentation should contact Michael Bailey at [m Bailey@beamans.com](mailto:m Bailey@beamans.com)

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**Laboratory Schedule: March Labs:** Monday, March 12 and March 26, 7-9pm., Sewall Hall, Room 103, Rice University.

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**February Minutes:** There was no business meeting at the February HAS meeting.

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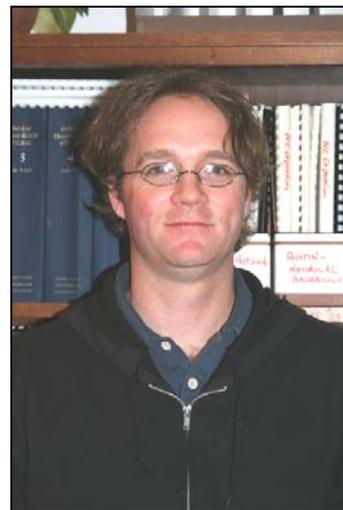
**HAS Library:** Open March 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-7:20pm., 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

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**New at the Library:** Marianne Marek's latest report, **Archeological Investigations at San Felipe de Austin (41AU2)**, for the 2004-2006 season is now available in the library.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Bradford Jones was born in Houston and grew up in Houston, San Antonio and Grapevine, Texas. He graduated in 1996 from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors degree in Archaeology/Anthropology and a minor in Art History. Subsequently he attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he received his Masters degree in 2004. Brad's primary research focus has been Andean South America where he excavated and surveyed extensively in pre-ceramic through early Spanish Colonial sites in the highlands of Ecuador and Cuzco, Peru. He has also conducted archival research on ethnic groups living in the Cuzco area during the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. More recently he has begun to pursue his interest in the archeology and history of Texas first stimulated during his undergraduate years at UT and later working in various capacities for TARL. Since spring of 2005, he has been working for Hicks & Company as a staff archeologist and lab director. During this time he has conducted work with both prehistoric and historic archeological materials from across the state.



The March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30pm. For a detailed map, visit the HAS web site at [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org).

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President's Column

## **Site Report for Mrs. Powell's Place to be Published Soon**

If you have been a member of HAS for the past eight years or so, chances are that you have participated in fieldwork at the site of Mrs. Powell's place near Turkey Creek in Ft. Bend County. The historical component of this site dates back to c. 1830, when a lady named Elizabeth Powell moved there from New Orleans with four of her five children and built a homestead. Research (by Bob Shelby) indicates the house probably was a dog-trot cabin with a few outbuildings, and it was situated near the road connecting the northern and southern parts of Stephen F. Austin's colonies. Mrs. Powell had owned and operated a boarding house in New Orleans, and it appears that her new roadside location in Texas served as an inn as well.

Her homestead/tavern/inn took its place in history in April of 1836, when Santa Ana's armies made it their rendezvous point before and after the Battle of San Jacinto. Unfortunately for Mrs. Powell, the Mexican army burned the place down upon leaving the area.

In 1836 the State of Texas erected a historic marker in the vicinity of the Powell homestead, although the exact location of the main house and outbuildings was unknown. Joe Hudgins and other members of the Houston Archeological Society began investigations at the site in 1999 in the hopes of pinpointing the house's location. Excavations were conducted there up through 2004, and thousands of artifacts—Mexican, American, and Texian, with a few other imports--have been catalogued and studied in the process.

A team of HAS members (Beth Aucoin, Bob Shelby, Dick Gregg, Tom Nuckols, Melissa May, Johnney and Sandra Pollan, Sheldon Kindall and Pablo Castro, with assistance from Joe Hudgins and other excavators), is in the process of writing the final report, which promises to be quite interesting. Due to the amount of material to be covered, our plan is to publish the report in three parts over the next several months, with copies to the membership at no charge. The first part should be ready for publication this spring. I think you're going to enjoy reading about Mrs. Powell's place!

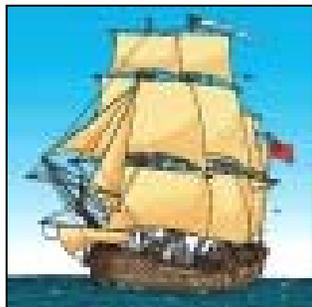
*-- Linda Swift*

## PAST Foundation Announces Maritime and Forensic Archeology Field Schools

The PAST Foundation is pleased to announce three field schools for the summer of 2007 that focus on maritime heritage and forensic archaeology.

### **Boca Chica Shipwreck Field School for Teachers,** Port Isabel, Texas, June 2-10, 2007

The Boca Chica Shipwreck Project is a hands-on archaeological field school for K-12 teachers, focusing on a 19th century schooner stranded on the beach just north of the Texas/Mexico border. Participants will learn about the different aspects of a scientific archaeological investigation while recording the shipwreck via mapping, test excavation and artifact



analysis. Teachers will participate in developing a public outreach program that can be taken back to the classroom and incorporated in numerous lesson plans and activities. Awards 40 CPE contact hours approved by the Texas Education Agency.  
<http://www.pastfoundation.org/2007BocaChicaFieldSchool/>

### **Florida Keys Underwater Field School: The Tonawanda,** Key Largo, Florida, July 29 - August 10, 2007

The Florida Keys Underwater Field School covers the basic techniques and fundamentals of maritime archaeology including material culture, conservation, underwater surveying techniques, ship construction

and cultural resource management. The 2007 field school will focus on the Civil War Era shipwreck of the Tonawanda (formerly U.S.S. Arkansas) located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and a selected material culture collection.



<http://www.pastfoundation.org/2007FloridaKeysFieldSchool/>

### **Forensic Archaeology Field School at Ohio State University,** Columbus, Ohio, June 18 -- July 6, 2007

The Forensic Field School is an in-depth course covering all aspects of an archaeological investigation focused on recovering forensic information. Over the course of three full weeks participants will learn excavation, documentation and analysis techniques, as well as techniques for legally presenting results. The field school combines field and lab day-long classes. Participants must enroll in OSU Course ANTH 685-5 Credit Hours at additional cost.

<http://www.pastfoundation.org/2007OSUForensicFieldSchool/>

The PAST Foundation is a small federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational foundation whose mission is to promote a better understanding of history and culture by teaming professional anthropologists and historians with the public to explore potential cultural sites both locally and globally. For more information, visit the PAST Foundation main website, [www.pastfoundation.org](http://www.pastfoundation.org).

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## Texas Archeology Academies 2007

**Ceramics:** The Stories Found in Pottery, Nacogdoches March 3-4. Registration deadline February 17, 2007.

**Rock Art:** at the Shumla School, Comstock, March 30 - April 1. Registration deadline March 17, 2007.

Fees: TAS member 2006, \$85; Non-member (includes membership fee) \$125.

Registration forms will be available at the meeting; on-line registration and additional information on [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org). - Beth Aucoin



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## Upcoming Events

### San Jacinto Countdown

**March 17:** "Drawn from Experience: Landmark Maps of Texas" at the San Jacinto Museum opens.

**April 14:** Battle of San Jacinto Symposium. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, University of Houston.

**April 21:** San Jacinto Festival and Battle Reenactment, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Volunteers needed 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting. Information at [www.sanjacinto-museum.org/Calendar](http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org/Calendar)

**"Not Your Typical Paleoindian- Rethinking the Early Americans"** lecture by Dr. James Adovasio of Mercyhurst College will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 7:00PM. Archeological Institute of America, Sewall Hall, Rice University Campus.

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Explore the magnificence of **Imperial Rome** at the **HMNS** February 23-July 29. For tickets and more information visit [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).

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**TAS 2007 Field School** will be held **June 9-16 at Presidio San Saba, Menard, Texas**. Information and online registration are now available - [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org).

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Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, [sguillote@hotmail.com](mailto:sguillote@hotmail.com)  
Submit articles no later than April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the April issue.

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

#### HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Swift, President, [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net)

Michael Bailey, Vice President, [m Bailey@beamans.com](mailto:m Bailey@beamans.com)

Karen Acker, Treasurer, [tkacker@aol.com](mailto:tkacker@aol.com)

Tom Nuckols, Secretary, [annesullivan@andrewskurth.com](mailto:annesullivan@andrewskurth.com)

Kathleen Barry, Director-at-Large, [kate\\_barry42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kate_barry42@sbcglobal.net)

Diane Baird, Director-at-Large, [diba1952@yahoo.com](mailto:diba1952@yahoo.com)

Richard Carter, Director-at-Large, [richardandwanda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardandwanda@sbcglobal.net)

#### TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, [ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net](mailto:ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net)

Sheldon Kindall, [kindall1@peoplepc.com](mailto:kindall1@peoplepc.com)

Bev Mendenhall, [bmend2@yahoo.com](mailto:bmend2@yahoo.com)

R. L. Gregg, [rlgregg@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rlgregg@worldnet.att.net)

Marilyn & Walter Horton, [w mh@houston.rr.com](mailto:w mh@houston.rr.com)

Don Keyes, [keyes\\_don@hotmail.com](mailto:keyes_don@hotmail.com)

Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

J. D. Hudgins, [manso@jdhudgins.com](mailto:manso@jdhudgins.com)

Sandra & Johnny Pollan, [pollanone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pollanone@sbcglobal.net)

Sandra Rogers, [sojourne@consolidated.net](mailto:sojourne@consolidated.net)

#### TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Pat Mercado-Allinger, [pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us)

Jeff Durst, [jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us)

#### TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sue Gross, Region V Director, [suegbobs@houston.rr.com](mailto:suegbobs@houston.rr.com)

Pam Wheat, Executive Director, [pwheat@vplus.com](mailto:pwheat@vplus.com)

Carolyn Spock, President, [c.spock@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:c.spock@mail.utexas.edu)

Web Site: [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org)

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### *The Profile*

### Houston Archeological Society

P O Box 6751

Houston, TX 77265-6751

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