

Houston
Archeological
Society



www.houstonarcheology.org

The PROFILE

March, 2008

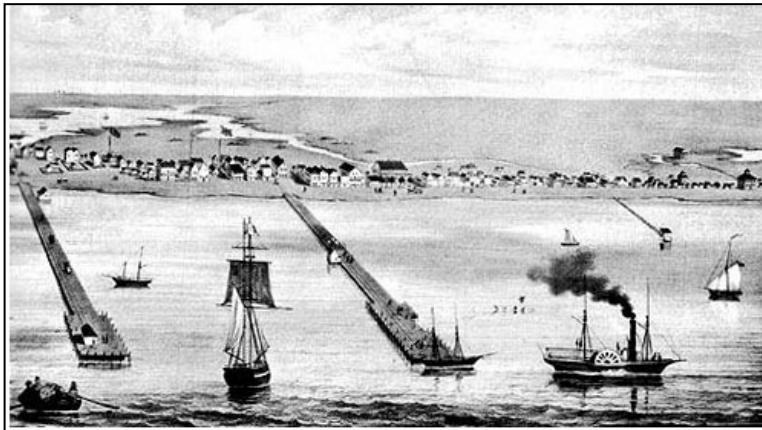
Steve Hoyt to Speak on “Indianola: Rediscovering the Ruins of a Lost Port City”

Steve Hoyt, State Marine Archeologist at the Texas Historical Commission, will be our speaker on March 14, with an interesting presentation titled “Indianola: Rediscovering the Ruins of a Lost Port City.”

Beginning in the early 1840s, the town of Indianola, Texas, grew from an empty sandy beach to a port city second only to Galveston on the Texas coast, called the “Queen of the West” by local boosters. Forty years later, the town was gone, destroyed by successive hurricanes of 1875 and 1886. Numerous sailing vessels and at least three steamships are known lost at the port, due to storms, accidents, and abandonment. The Texas Historical Commission conducted the Indianola Project to locate and document previously unidentified historic shipwrecks, wharves and other aspects of the maritime landscape at Indianola.

Steve Hoyt is the State Marine Archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission, a position he has held since 1998. In this position, he is responsible for the preservation and protection of all historic shipwrecks in state waters. He has over 25 years of experience in the study of historic shipwrecks, performing much of his early work in the islands of the Caribbean and in Bermuda, including several years with the Institute of Maritime History and Archaeology at the Bermuda Maritime Museum. Before accepting the position as State Marine Archeologist, Hoyt spent nine years doing underwater archeological consulting work for a private firm based in Austin. During that time he became very familiar with the historic maritime resources of Texas. His research background includes projects on numerous vessel types and

periods, including ships from the great age of European exploration and discovery, Spanish treasure ships, paddlewheel river steamers, deep-water steamships, and many others. His academic background includes a Bachelor's degree from Colorado



An 1860 sketch by Helmuth Holtz from the rigging of the *Texana*, looking toward the port of Indianola. Photo courtesy of indianolatx.com.

State University specializing in prehistoric archaeology and a Masters degree from Texas A&M University in nautical archaeology.

The March meeting is at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. Parking: Use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of W. Alabama and Graustark (\$2 fee), or park in Faculty Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 pm (no charge). For a detailed map, visit our website at www.houstonarcheology.org, or e-mail HASEvents@aol.com.

April Meeting: Robert Shelby will present “The Elizabeth Powell Site.”

The Prez Sez

I am contacting one more person to see if he will be on our library/meeting room search committee. Hopefully, we will have our first meeting on the 14th, before the monthly meeting. Wish us luck. I have not received suggestions from many people about new locations. Even if you doubt that it will work, please send me suggestions. I'll pass around a suggestion sheet during the meeting.

I was at a very interesting meeting on Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Did you know that we have a Houston History Association in town? It's about a year old and they put together a conference for all "alike" groups in Houston to see how to assimilate the history of Houston into the community. There were about 100 people attending. Mayor White spoke to us, and then we brainstormed about how to reach our goal. Most everyone agreed that in order to keep the history of Houston alive, we must educate our students. If they are not interested, anything we do will be lost.

I will be receiving all the notes from the conference and will forward good ideas to the group. Anyone who would be interested in joining HHA, let me know and I'll give you the information.

They are aware of the Yates Project, and big on the list is PRESERVATION of historic buildings. Boy, do we need someone in that corner!!

There will be an announcement at the meeting about our participating in the San Jacinto Festival. I hope a lot of people will volunteer, I've done it for two years and it's lots of fun!

See you at the meeting!

-- Diane Baird

18 Historic Texas Sites Transferred from Parks & Wildlife to the THC

On January 1, under a new law passed by the Legislature, 18 Texas historic sites were transferred from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The sites include:

Acton, Acton	Fulton Mansion, Fulton
Caddoan Mounds, Alto	Landmark Inn, Castroville
Casa Navarro, San Antonio	Levi Jordan Plantation, Brazoria
Confederate Reunion Grounds, Mexia	Magoffin Home, El Paso
Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison	Sabine Pass Battleground, Port Arthur
Fannin Battleground, Fannin	Sam Bell Maxey House, Paris
Fort Griffin, Albany	San Felipe, San Felipe
Fort Lancaster, Sheffield	Starr Family Home, Marshall
Fort McKavett, Menard	Varner-Hogg Plantation, West Columbia

The THC already oversees the Sam Rayburn House Museum in Bonham and the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. Spokesperson Kristie Lawler of the THC said in a message to THC Stewards, "The THC's mission is to make these historic attractions the best of their kind in the nation. Upcoming changes include extended hours, additional staff at sites, new marketing materials, as well as many physical changes to the sites. Make sure to bookmark the new historic sites web pages at www.thc.state.tx.us/hsites/hsdefault.shtml."

San Jacinto Festival – We'll Be There This Year!

The San Jacinto Festival and Battle Reenactment is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park located off Highway 225 near LaPorte.

Laura Witzel, U of H student and new member of HAS, has agreed to handle our booth at this year's event. More details as they become avail-

able. **Volunteers needed!** A sign-up sheet will be available at the March 14th meeting.

Last year, approximately 30,000 visitors attended this annual event, and many of those visitors came by and enjoyed the HAS exhibits and hands-on activities. I know Laura will appreciate your assistance as I appreciated it over the last 6 years. Many thanks for your continued help and support!

-- Beth Aucoin

Erratum: In the "Lithics Academy Wrap-Up" in the February issue of *The Profile*, the woman in the picture with John Nuckols and Bob Schlemmer is Sue Gross, TAS Region 5 Director, not Lynn Yakubik.

HAS Archeology Lab Activities

Lab Director Melissa May and I have discussed work for the remaining five lab nights prior to the June TAS Field School. Lab dates at Rice are: March 17 & 31, April 14 & 28, and May 12 only, since May 26 is Memorial Day. We will be doing the following:

1. Comparative analysis of Powell site faunal material. If you have expertise in identifying animal bones, scat, fur, footprints, etc., we could really use your help!

2. Fine sorting and initial identification/analysis of the Barnhill site (41WH17) artifacts.

3. Research/clarification/coordination among the Powell report authors in preparation for Part 3.

For a map and directions on how to get to our lab at Rice University's Sewall Hall, check the HAS website, www.houstonarcheology.org.

Any questions or comments, please let me know. See you there!--Beth Aucoin, 281/480-6151 or ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net

Register Now for TAS Field School June 14-21

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Field School will return to the upper Panhandle near Perryton in Ochiltree County for 2008 and 2009. Harold Courson and his family have invited TAS back to the Courson ranch to help conduct some important archeological investigations to be directed by Dr. Scott Brosowske.

Various different archaeological sites will be investigated, some sites repeatedly occupied over several hundred years by mobile hunter-gatherers, 700-year-old villages inhabited by sedentary horticulturalists, and historic Indian and U.S. military encampments established during the 1860s.

One of the primary sites is a large Antelope Creek phase horticultural village called Chill Hill. It is nothing short of amazing that this site was only found in 2005, since it covers an area approximately 600,000 sq m, has dense concentrations of artifacts littering the ground, and is only about 600 m from a major highway. Recent excavations of two 1m x 1m test units resulted in the recovery of just over 13,000 artifacts, including chipped stone tools and debitage, faunal remains, ceramics, marine shell ornaments, and various other items. The density of artifacts recovered from each of these test units averaged 1000 items per 10 cm level!

The second primary site is the Halston site. Halston represents a large historic Indian encampment located near the Buried City locality on Wolf Creek. Diagnostic Euro-American artifacts recovered during preliminary investigations suggest that this locality was repeatedly occupied between 1825 and 1875. Artifacts recovered include metal arrowpoints, horse-related gear, German silver ornaments, brass wire bracelets, tin and brass cone tinklers, bison hide fleshers, fragments of brass cooking kettles, glass beads, clothing buttons, butcher knives, iron awls, parts of flintlock and

percussion guns, and debris associated with the production of arrowpoints, tools, and ornaments.

A third site is a military supply depot established by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel A. E. Evans. This encampment was inhabited by 525 men and represented one of three major military detachments employed as a part of General Philip H. Sheridan's 1868 winter campaign. Artifacts recovered during testing included .50-70 shell casings, lead bullets, horseshoes, canteens, military eagle buttons, tin can food containers, picket pins, and a wide variety of other items and equipment typical of the Civil War era. Features identified at the site include numerous military dugout depressions and an area occupied by the expedition blacksmith.

There will be something for every age group and every archeological interest, including site surveying and recording, historic and prehistoric field excavations, and two labs.

Thanks to the Coursons' hospitality, attendees will be treated to two catered dinners with live entertainment. The first will be on Saturday, June 14, with a grand finale on Friday, June 20th, featuring dinner and entertainment by the well-known band, **Asleep at the Wheel**.

The campground will be at picturesque Wolf Creek Park and Lake Fryer, about 15 miles from Perryton. Large elm and cottonwood trees at the campsite on the lake promise an enjoyable tenting experience. Bathhouses with restrooms will be available nearby. There are also 54 RV hookups with water and electricity.

Surprisingly, considering the heat at some previous Field Schools, attendees are advised to bring jackets, since nights are often cool.

For more information and to register, go to www.txarch.org, and click on Activities/Field School. --Excerpted from www.txarch.org.

Archeology... Life in the Past Lane

2008 Archaeology Field School at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, June 02, 2008 - July 25, 2008, focusing on the Lower Nueces River Valley, an area that supported a long hunter/gathering tradition. Undergraduate students and volunteers receive training in field survey, site excavations, and laboratory analysis. Interested high school middle school students or interested adults who would like to volunteer in the program for a short period of time should contact Bob Drolet, Director, Archaeology Field School, South Texas, at bobd@cctexas.com. More information is available at:

<http://www.archaeologcal.org/webinfo.php?page=10037&entrynumber=330>.

Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies

2008 Annual Meeting. Theme for the Annual Meeting is "Toyah Focus." Guest Speaker: Doug Boyd. Hosted by Midland Archeological Society. Location: Sibley Nature Center, 1307 East Wadley Midland, Texas, 79705. Registration fee is \$10.00. RVSP to Secretary, Teddy Stickney, Teddy Stickney, 201 West Solomon, Midland, TX 79705, Telephone 432-682-9384, Cell: 432-559-2390, Email stick711@sbcglobal.net.

Please submit articles for publication to Linda Swift, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net

Submit articles no later than March 31 for the April issue.

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

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