



The PROFILE

February, 2009

February Program to Highlight Archeology of the South Pacific

Dr. Frederick B. Pearl, Associate Professor of General Academics and Marine Sciences (Anthropology) at Texas A&M University at Galveston, will be our featured speaker at the monthly meeting on Friday, February 13. His topic will be “The Archeology and Cultures of Oceania”.

“Oceania” is a term for a huge swath of the South Pacific that includes the islands of the southern, western, and central Pacific Ocean, including Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. It is estimated that human migration into the western part of the area began some 60,000 years ago and ended with the settling of Polynesia that occurred between 200 BC and 1200 AD. Included in this huge area is American Samoa, where Dr. Pearl has conducted research.

First European contact with Samoa was a brief encounter in 1768 by French explorer DeBouganville, who made contact with the easternmost islands in the archipelago. However, the French explorer Jean-Francois de la Pérouse led the first expedition to set foot on the island of Tutuila, LaPérouse first arrived in Samoa, then called the Navigator Islands, in December of 1787.

Dr. Pearl’s recent work includes serving as Principal Investigator for two projects in American Samoa: (1) the A’su Valley Project (2002-2003), which focused on Massacre Bay, where LaPérouse lost twelve men in a violent skirmish with the Samoans, some of whom also lost their lives, and (2) the Tutuila Mountaintop Archaeology Project (2004), which surveyed and documented the chronology of selected mountain residential sites on the island of Tutuila.

Dr. Pearl earned his B.A. at San Diego State University, and his M.A. and PhD at Texas A&M University.

He currently teaches courses in anthropology, archaeology, and international maritime culture at Texas A&M University at Galveston.



A view of the memorial monument at Massacre Bay, American Samoa. (Photo courtesy of Texas A&M-Galveston web site, www.tamug/samoa)

The February meeting will be held at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, 3900 Mount Vernon, at 7:30 p.m. For a detailed map, visit our website at www.houstonarcheology.org. Parking: use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark, or park in Faculty Parking Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 p.m.

March Meeting: Sam Whitley of Houston will be speaking on his study of early Texas Colonial Period household items. (Powell Site researchers take note!)

Lab Schedule for February: one night only, Monday, Feb. 16, 7-9 p.m., Room 103, Sewell Hall, Rice University. Visit www.houstonarcheology.org for a map.

The Prez Sez

First it's cold, then it's not, is, not. Gosh, one might think we live in Houston.

It's time for our February meeting. Let's everyone come. We had way too many empty seats in January.



April and the San Jacinto Festival are almost upon us. We really need to do this outreach program. Beth will talk to us at the meeting. We need several members to help pull this together. I'll also have a sign-up list for everyone. It is really a great day.

I hope that the audio-visual equipment will be in working order this month. We had to change buildings last month. Thanks for everyone's patience!

Board members, we will plan on having a meeting this month, probably at the picnic table outside Anderson Hall. Hope it is warm enough or we may be meeting in a bathroom!!!

It's a short column this time. I started it at 10:00 pm and my eyes are crossing.

See ya at the meeting!

--Diane Baird, President

Minutes of the January 9, 2009 HAS Meeting

- President Diane Baird called the meeting to order.
- 23 people were in attendance.
- Karen Acker needs someone to take over her position of membership chairman.
- Richard Carter said there will be a lab Monday 1/12/09 at Rice University.
- VP Mike Bailey said there will be a re-enactment of a civil war battle at the Strand at 21st and Strand. Four of the Civil War Sites in Galveston will be visited.
- Thursday and Saturday: anyone interested meet at 10:00 am at Tyree House, Richmond, for a dig.
- Fred Kelly presented the program, which featured tapes from the BBC about Hadrian's Wall and Middle Saxon Norfolk.

--Submitted by Kathleen Barry

Last Call for 2009 Dues!

If you have not yet paid your 2009 dues, it's time to act! If you have been procrastinating, don't wait any longer. Any members who haven't paid dues by the end of February are dropped from our mailing list. This could be your last HAS *Profile*, so bring your checkbook to the February meeting and make sure you don't miss an issue!

Battle of San Jacinto Symposium Program Announced

The **Battle of San Jacinto Symposium 2009**, *New Light on Old Stories*, is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, University of Houston.

Panelists include: **Roger Moore**, founder of Moore Archeological Consulting, who has led since 2003 the first systematic, methodologically appropriate investigation of the Battle of San Jacinto; **Douglas Mangum**, Moore Archeological Consulting, who co-manages the San Jacinto Battleground field work; **Gregg Dimmick**, author of *Sea of Mud: the Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto* and editor of *General Vicente Filisola's Analysis of Jose Urrea's Military Diary*, translated by John R. Wheat; **Manuel Hinojosa**, architect, artist, avocational historian, and authority on the Mexican Army of the nineteenth century; and **Douglas D. Scott**, professor of anthropology at the University of Nebraska, whose innovative research at the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument won the U.S. Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award in 2002.

Speakers on specific topics are: **H. W. Brands**, who will emphasize the importance of interpreting battlefields and set their meanings in modern context. Brands is the Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial

Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin and author of the award-winning *Lone Star Nation: The Epic Story for Texas Independence*. **Sam W. Haynes** will compare Texas with other post-colonial societies in their struggles to define themselves after winning independence. Haynes is a professor of history at UT-Arlington and author of *James K. Polk and the Expansionist Impulse*; and **James P. Bevill** will discuss his new book, *The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas*, and the San Jacinto soldiers who helped structure these finances. **James A. Crisp**, North Carolina State University, will moderate the symposium for the seventh year. His book, *Sleuthing the Alamo, Davy Crockett's Last Stand and other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution*, won the T.R. Fehrenbach Book Award in 2006.

Pre-registration payment of \$50 includes lunch and parking and must be received by April 10, 2009. Six CPE hours will be awarded for teachers attending the 2009 Symposium. Information and registration forms will be available at the meeting. For additional information, call (281) 496-1488, email sj-ba@usa.net, or visit www.friendsofsanjacinto.org.

This is One Archeology Academy Not To Be Missed

Historical Archeology, March 7 & 8 in Lake Jackson, will be one of the most comprehensive offered in this continuing series of weekend workshops. Archeologist Joan Few brings a vast experience of field work and research to her presentation that covers many topics of interest to history buffs, teachers and archeologists.

The manual is over two hundred pages with one hundred pages of text to complement the Academy and one hundred pages of ready-to-use appendices. Presentations at the Academy will focus on Austin's Colony and recognizing patterns in historical archeology as well as a review of the time periods for Texas – Spanish and French exploration, American colonial, antebellum Texas agriculture, plantation, slave and freedman history and urban archeology. Discussion and hands-on activities will feature excavation techniques, laboratory, curation, and artifact types. Members of the Brazosport Archeological Society will lead sessions on historic ceramics illustrating their field work of early coastal settlements. Appendices illu-

strate obscure historic documents, ceramics assemblages, nail chronology, button analysis and antique farm equipment.

Few's experience surfaces throughout the narrative as she explains broad concepts with personal archeological investigations. She relates the stories of early French and Spanish conflicts along the Trinity River, Champ d'Asile (a colony for Napoleon), Glorianna Plantation (a typical small agricultural holding), the Jackson Plantation (a traditional southern plantation), and the Darragh House in Galveston.

This fast-paced academy will give everyone the opportunity to think like an archeologist and will supply the tools to tackle research in the field of historical archeology.

We are fortunate this workshop is in our area this year, because it's going to be well worth our time to attend. Many HAS members participated in the projects cited in class. Go to www.txarch.org to register, or call 800-377-7240.

Archeology. . . Life in the Past Lane

Black History Month: February is Black History Month, an ideal time to visit the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum in the Historic 3rd Ward, 1834 Southmore, 713-942-8920. Open daily except Sundays; admission \$2. Another site of interest is the Rutherford B.H. Yates Home and Community Archaeological Program, 1314 Andrews, in Freedman's Town.

Seminole Canyon State Park, SHUMLA, and Amistad National Recreation Area announce the 2nd annual Archeolympics on February 7, 2009. The Archeolympics primitive skills competition is open to all and focused on having fun and learning about ancient lifeways.

Other activities include demonstrations of ancient tools, weapons and techniques and various Seminole Canyon tours of spectacular rock art sites, including the famous White Shaman site nearby.

Registration and fees - all park visitors (including Archeolympics competitors) must pay the park entry fee of \$3 per person at the park office upon arrival. The Archeolympics individual registration fee of \$5 registers one adult or youth competitor for all individual events. For more information contact: SHUMLA School at (432) 292-4848, Jack Johnson at jjohnson@shumla.org, or Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site (432) 292-4464.

Please submit articles for publication to Linda Swift, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net
Submit articles no later than February 28 for the March issue.

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

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