

February Program: "Arms of the Texas Revolution"

Flem Rogers will present "Period Arms of the Texas Revolution," at the monthly HAS meeting on Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 pm. Mr. Rogers, a nationally recognized weapons historian, will examine period arms that were common during the time of the Texas Revolution. The lecture will be highlighted by materials on loan for the lecture.

Flem Rogers, owner/operator of Flem Rogers Photography, has a long history of working with period weapons, specializing in pre-cartridge materials. Mr. Rogers shows his devotion to history by working with several historic groups in his home in Brazoria County and by using living history as a means of educating and entertaining those who have an interest in weapons of the past.

Mr. Rogers is a longtime supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, providing resources and time for the education and enjoyment of Scouts. He is also a member of the American Society of Arms Collectors.

This month we will be returning to our usual meeting place in the Carriage House at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004.



Flem Rogers as Major Shadrac Maness,
US First Regiment Foot

New Schedule for HAS Lab

For the months February thru May, lab is scheduled for the following dates: **February 22, March 22, April 19, and May 24**, from 7-9 p.m. Lab is held in Room 103, located on the lower level of Sewall Hall, at Rice University. There is no free parking near Sewall Hall; entrance into the parking lot requires use of a credit card. The scheduled dates are for the Monday night following the monthly HAS meeting. Please visit www.houstonarcheology.org for a map.

At each session, members will examine and verify identification and numbers of artifacts from various sites; one of the first steps performed prior to analysis of historic and/or prehistoric artifacts. Powell site authors will continue to finalize their articles for Part 3 of the Elizabeth Powell report.

So, mark your calendars and we'll see you in the lab.

--Beth Aucoin



President's Message

How valuable are you as an avocational archeologist? In an exchange of information from a reliable source, I received some interesting Bernardo cost facts concerning the work that was done during the week of August 17-21, 2009. It was estimated the THC had contributed about \$12,000 to the project which included staff salaries, travel expenses, report preparation, etc. And recently the Houston Chronicle (December 27, 2009) reported that an effort to raise \$100,000 to cover the project's cost was underway. Wow!

That got me to thinking (a rare phenomenon). I was wondering how much the volunteer effort for that same time period (August 17-21) cost each volunteer out-of-pocket and what was our "donated" time worth. Participating in the Bernardo work during that same period of time, we had an average of 10 volunteer workers per day on site. I know I spent an average of \$35-\$40 per day just on gasoline, and I know some volunteers came from as far away as Dallas and some had hotel expenses to factor in. So just using my \$35.00 per day gas expense as a bare minimum figure, that would mean the volunteers' out-of-pocket expense would amount to \$1,750 for the week. On top of that, the work hours "donated" by the volunteers amounted to 400 hours for the week. Even at minimum wage rates (Wal-Mart greeters make more) it would suggest that the volunteer contribution (donation) to the Bernardo project during that week was over \$4,000 including out-of-pocket expenses.

So what is my point? Well, value is not only calculated in dollars and cents. If the knowledge of Texas' past that lies buried is to be retrieved, we need all the help we can get from historians, anthropologists, technologists, physicists, geologists, microbiologists, engineers, and scores of other people of any trade or profession who are willing to wield a trowel or carry a bucket of dirt. That last group; *the scores of other people*, fall mostly into the category of **volunteers** representing their associated archeological societies such as the Texas, Houston, Brazosport, and Fort Bend Archeological Societies. Without that last group of people and their society affiliations, I dare say that Texas' past would remain buried, if not forever, at least until you and I are gone from this earth. Surely a subdivision would be developed, or some other profitable venture would emerge on the lands before enough donations or grant money could ever be collected to save all the important historical sites in Texas. The paid professional archeologists would indeed be too busy with "rescue" archeology just to stay ahead of the bulldozers opening the ground for pipelines, highways, shopping centers and subdivisions. Sites like Bernardo would more than likely disappear without archeological interpretation.

That, my fellow volunteers, is how valuable you are as a volunteer avocational archeologist. Our archeological societies are important to Texas even though by reading most media reports the general public is not made aware of that. Anyway, we will keep up the good work!

-- Charlie Gordy, President

Buffalo Soldier's Face to be Reconstructed in Special Exhibit

The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum here in Houston is teaming up with the Smithsonian Institution, the US Department of Reclamations, and forensic sculptor Amanda Danning for an exhibition/performance of "The Forgotten Faces of Fort Craig." The exhibit debuts in Houston during the month of February. It will feature ongoing demonstrations by Ms. Danning, who will use a precisely engineered cast produced by UH Professor Ali Kamrani to perform a live progressive reconstruction of the face of US Army Pvt. Thomas Smith, a Buffalo Soldier. Artifacts from Fort Craig and The Civil War will be on display.

Bureau of Reclamations anthropologists discovered the remains of 39 individuals in 2007 at Fort Craig, New Mexico in a cemetery which had been the object of looting for decades. Federal officials shipped the remains to the Smithsonian Institution, where scientists were able to positively identify three of the soldiers, including Pvt. Smith. The remains were then re-buried with full military honors in Santa Fe.

This special theater-style performance is held at 4816 Main Street next to the Museum of Contemporary Crafts (not at the Buffalo Soldiers Museum on Rosedale) . Show times are Monday-Saturday: 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm & 4:30pm, Sunday: 12:00 noon, 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm. General Admission is \$15, students with ID \$5. For more information, call 713-942-8920.

Minutes of HAS Meeting January 21, 2010

Charlie Gordy opened the meeting in the Clayton Houston at 7:00 pm welcoming members and visitors. Charlie asked for a volunteer to take charge of coffee and refreshments, and he passed out a sign-up sheet for refreshments at individual meetings.

Journal editor Linda Swift asked members to pick up their copy of the Journal from her this evening.

Beth Aucoin announced the Elizabeth Powell marker has been re-set in concrete by the new land owner, Jack Wendt. The marker's star has been missing for some time, but a new one is now on order. When the replacement star for the marker has been received a dedication ceremony will be held.

Fred Kelly spoke on the Archeology Institute Annual Meeting held recently and efforts to promote cultural heritage in Iraq. The U.S. Embassy is helping with conservation and training.

Don Keyes, new Director for TAS Region 5, asked about projects going on in the area and any other news to report at the TAS Directors meeting.

Charlie Gordy asked if there were any changes to the previous minutes. There being none, minutes were approved.

Treasurer Ed Masten reported on the new budget. Ed reported a projected income of \$2380, expenses of \$4200, with a budget deficit of \$1820. The majority of the expenses were for the printing cost of the Powell Report, which was \$1800. Fourth quarter operating expenses for 2009, income \$82, miscellaneous items expenses \$363, and an operating fund of \$4,477. The savings began with the sum of \$9,433 with interest accumulated of an additional \$2.38. The total treasury of HAS is \$13,913. Ed recognized Sheldon Kendall for the savings endowment from the Clear Lake Society which was disbanded many years ago.

Diane Baird asked about membership forms. Ed responded there were forms on the table in the library, and Linda Swift announced there would be a membership form in the next issue of the Profile.

Michael Bailey introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Brian McAuley, Texas Historical Commission Site Manager, who spoke on the Levi Jordan Plantation, a project which has been ongoing for about 25 years, and the colonial history of San Felipe. Questions regarding these projects from members were answered by Mr. McAuley.

President Gordy announced the February 18 meeting would be back in the Carriage House. Meeting adjourned.

-- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

Time to renew your membership! Fill out this form and mail it in with your dues now.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Houston Archeological Society, P. O. Box 130631, Houston, TX 77219-0631

Please complete this form and mail it, with your check for the correct amount, to the above address.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (home) _____ (work) e-mail: _____

Type of membership: New Renewal Please circle one: Student (\$10/year) Single (\$20/year)
Family (\$25/year) Contributing (\$30+/year)

ALL MEMBERS MUST SIGN THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE: "I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any present or future federal, state or local statute concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques."

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

TAS GeoArchaeology Academy Scheduled for March 20-21

"GeoArchaeology: Recognizing and Evaluating the Archaeological Potential of the Landscape" is the third TAS Academy of the year, scheduled for March 20-21 in Killeen.

All academies include a CD manual, lectures and hands-on exercises, along with lunch and tasty snacks, and the opportunity to hang out with new

friends and old, talking about archaeology. Credit will be received by teachers attending the workshops. Register online at <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2010/index.php> or download the registration form there to mail in. If you have any questions, contact Lynn at Lynn.Yakubik@utsa.edu, or 210-521-0091.

Friends of Archaeology: San Jacinto Tour, Saturday February 20, 10:00 am. To car pool, meet in the parking lot of the Little Gallery at University of St. Thomas at 9:00 am. Otherwise, meet in the parking lot of the Battleship Texas. Call Rita Marsales to sign up for the tour, mamarita@sbcglobal.net or 713-681-9373. **Lecture by HAS member Jack Ferrell** on March 14 at 5:00 pm at UST. **Video lectures on ancient Rome** on February 14 and 28 at 4:00 pm in Robertson Hall, UST campus.

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

Submit articles no later than March 2 for the March 2010 issue.

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

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The Profile

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