



Thursday, December 15th, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.
“HAS 2016 Review”
Louis Aulbach

Celebrate the Holidays with the Houston Archeological Society

Please join us for the Houston Archeological Society’s final meeting of the year on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. at MD Anderson Hall, at St. Thomas University. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public. The meeting will also include a special holiday themed snack buffet for members and guests. Please bring a holiday snack to share!



Louis Aulbach, HAS Vice President, will present a review of the many projects that the society has been involved in during 2016 including archeological surveys, excavations and other activities in and around the Houston area. The presentation will include overviews of the Cotton Field Project in Columbus, Texas, surveys and fieldwork at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, the shovel testing project at the Charley’s 517 site in downtown Houston, HAS participation in International Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Public Archeology Dig at Kleb Woods Nature Center, the research project at the Wallisville Heritage Center, excavations at the Providence Street Cistern Site, and our continuing participation with TxDOT and Prewitt and Associates at the Frost Town Project in downtown Houston. Photos of many HAS members will be highlighted in this presentation so come and see yourself on the big screen!

Louis Aulbach, a native Houstonian, is a graduate of St. Thomas High School, Rice University and the University of Chicago. Aulbach is the author of five best-selling river guides to the rivers of West Texas, including three guides to the Rio Grande, a guide to the Pecos River and a guide to the Devils River. His publication called *The Fresno Rim* is a hiking guide to the Big Bend Ranch State Park in West Texas. His publication, entitled *Buffalo Bayou, An echo of Houston's wilderness beginnings*, is a guide to Buffalo Bayou in Houston, which delves extensively into the local history along the city's most famous stream. Another recent publication, *Camp Logan, Houston, Texas, 1917-1919*, co-authored with HAS President, Linda Gorski, is a detailed account of the activities of the military regiments that trained at Camp Logan during World War I. His latest publications, also co-authored with Linda Gorski, are entitled *Along the Aurelian Wall* and *Campus Martius and its Ancient Monuments*. These volumes are the first two in a series of self-guided walking tours to archeological sites in Rome, Italy.

For a campus map of St. Thomas University, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20, Anderson Hall. Street parking is available as well as paid parking in Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program or about the HAS, please contact Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message

Happy Holidays, Y'all!

It has been another banner year for the Houston Archeological Society! We have accomplished so much this year and we owe those accomplishments to YOU - the 225 terrific members of HAS. Thanks to all of you we enjoy an incredible reputation for excellence in archeology across the State of Texas. I hope you will be at the December 15th meeting when our HAS Vice President, Louis Aulbach, will present a program highlighting what **YOU** have done this year! Come see yourselves on the big screen at MD Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas.

We are certain that 2017 will be another record-breaking year for HAS. We have several exciting projects lined up including excavations at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve in Tomball where we will be digging for foundation features of early structures on the site. We will also continue our project at the Frost Town site in downtown Houston with TxDOT and Prewitt and Associates where we continue to recover remarkable artifacts from the earliest days of Houston. It's going to be another busy year!

We hope you will renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society and maybe even give a membership as a gift to someone you know will enjoy digging up Texas history with us - one trowel full at a time. You can download a membership form here <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>

Our membership is the best deal in town:

- \$25 Individual membership
- \$30 Family Membership
- \$35 Contributing membership
- \$15 Student membership

Remember that the benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area as well as receiving copies of our academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!!

As all of us head out to visit family and friends in December, I wish you a safe and happy holiday and can't wait to work with you again in 2017. It's going to be another great year – please join us for the ride!



Minutes

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting

November 17th, 2016

Linda Gorski, President: Welcome New Members and guests. Four new members in attendance!

Treasurer's Report – Bob Sewell: Bob reported checking and savings account numbers to HAS members.

Membership: Bob Sewell reported that HAS membership is now 227. Membership Drive for 2017 begins tonight! Membership fees due January 1, 2018. Membership forms at back. All new and renewing members get a bumper sticker and copy of the newest HAS Report and Journal.

New Business:

Lab Report: We will not have lab at Rice for the rest of 2016 due to busy schedules. We will begin labs and workshops at Rice in 2017. Dates/times will be sent out to members. Linda will host labs for the Civil War collection at her house over the next two weeks. She will send out dates/times to members.

HAS Journals and Reports: Dub Crook gave status update on the Rice special edition journal. Dub just received the proof copy yesterday (October 19). The journal should be available for everyone by the December meeting. If anyone has anything to publish (doesn't have to be local project), please send it to him. Every member gets copies of journals with membership dues.

HAS Merchandise –High Viz vests with HAS logo (\$5.00) while supplies last. See Linda after meeting.

Projects:

Frost Town/Elysian Viaduct Project: Our next scheduled dates at Frost Town are tomorrow, Friday, November 18, at 7:30 – 11:00 A.M, and Saturday, November 19, 7:30 – 11:30 A.M. Phase 1 of the TxDOT/PAI archeological project is finished, but we are continuing to screen dirt from piles C, D, E, and F, and are continuing to recover some remarkable artifacts and learning a lot!

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project: The October 22nd event was a huge success! Now we are looking forward to Kleb Woods being our next large excavation project. Ashley Jones will be our PI, and she is currently getting permits for the project. Probably we will start with GPR/magnetometer surveys of the site in late January/early February 2017. The park is interested in locating structures!

87th Annual TAS Meeting: The event was held in Nacogdoches at Stephen F. Austin State University 10/28-10/30 and was a huge success! Dr. Jason Barrett was the Friday night Public Forum speaker, and we are delighted that he will present that program tonight at our meeting!

Cotton Field Project: Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11 are the LAST DATES FOR THE PROJECT at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, TX. Dr. Barrett then will start writing his report. Lab work on artifacts will continue in 2017!

Program for November: Dr. Jason W. Barrett gave the presentation for HAS that he gave for the 87th Annual TAS meeting entitled *Rising in the East: The Changing Epicenter of Texas Archeology*. The presentation includes an update on archeological projects in the Greater Houston Area and how the Houston Archeological Society has grown from 39 to 227 members in the past four years, thanks in part to its partnership with TxDOT and the opportunity to excavate several sites locally!

Next meeting will be 15th December, 2016

-Beth Kennedy, Secretary, Houston Archeological Society

Update on Excavations at the Cotton Field Site in Columbus, Texas

Attention HAS members! Many of you have been working with us out at the Cotton Field site on the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas, for the past three years. The fieldwork portion of that project is coming to an end. **December 10 and 11** are our last scheduled dates to work at the site. Make plans now to come out and join us at this expansive site with remarkable stratigraphic integrity that features multiple, discrete, occupation episodes spanning the Late Prehistoric period including both the Austin phase (ca. 700AD-1200AD) and the subsequent Toyah phase (1150AD-1500AD) in Texas.



As most of you know, in 2014, the Texas Archeological Society chose Columbus, Texas, as the site for the annual TAS Field School, initiating the first large-scale data recovery excavation ever to be undertaken in Colorado County. Field School was held in Columbus for three years, 2014 – 2016 and by far the most exciting discovery was the Cotton Field site (41CD155).

Following each year's TAS Field School, members of the Houston Archeological Society continued excavations at the Cotton Field site once a month - for three years!!! Artifacts recovered and features that have been revealed at the site have been nothing short of remarkable and the latest weekend at Cotton Field, November 5 and 6, was no exception. Members of TAS, HAS and other regional societies excavated even more features including one huge rock feature that remains a mystery. All the pedestalled rocks were removed, revealing an interesting feature in the soil that will be excavated the weekend of December 10 and 11. Who knows what we will find when we dig a little deeper??

So if you can join us Saturday and/or Sunday, December 10 and 11, we will meet at the front gate to the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday and work until approximately 2:00 p.m. each day. If you've never been to the site before but would like to join us, please email me at lindagorski@cs.com and I'll send you all the details.

- Linda Gorski

Frost Town: A Hidden History in Houston

Many of you have participated with HAS in the enormous archeological project that is underway in downtown Houston known as the Frost Town project. In advance of the replacement of the Elysian Viaduct, archeologists from TxDOT and Prewitt and Associates (PAI), a CRM firm in Austin, have unearthed the remnants of Frost Town, Houston's first neighborhood, which dates to the 1830s. What began as a community of predominantly immigrant German laborers became home to many African American families following Emancipation and later a vibrant Hispanic neighborhood during the early decades of the 1900s.



The crew gathers round to view the day's collection of artifacts



Examples of transferware found at the Frost Town site

The features and artifacts recovered from this site have been nothing short of remarkable. One discovery shows how the German community got rid of trash. Archeologists discovered several upside down bottles buried in rows in the ground outside of house foundations and learned that these bottle features were used by the Germans as lawn ornaments. Archeologists have also excavated several brick sidewalks, many house foundation features and several cisterns including one that members of HAS helped excavate. That cistern, dating from the 1880s, was especially interesting because the interior wall actually bears the signature of its builder! The principal investigator on the Frost Town project, Doug Boyd, wrote a great article about HAS participation in the project on pages 5 - 7 of the October 2016 HAS newsletter at <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2016/2016%20October%20Profile.pdf>

Phase 1 of the active excavation of the site is complete but the work goes on for Houston Archeological Society members! We continue to screen dirt that was excavated from foundation features and placed in discreet piles around the site. Every week (usually Friday and Saturday) we recover important artifacts that are adding to the history of this remarkably early site in downtown Houston. Watch for weekly emails about dates and times that we will be working at this site. Come on out and dig up Houston history with us, one trowel full at a time! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email Linda Gorski at lindagorski@cs.com or Bob Sewell at robert-sewell@att.net.

Notes on Munitions: A Possible 577/450 Martini-Henry Cartridge Case From Frost Town (41HR982)

By Tom Nuckols

In October, archaeologists with Prewitt and Associates working the historic site of Frost Town excavated a wooden barrel cistern (Feature #805). One of the artifacts inside the cistern was a badly corroded center-fire bottleneck cartridge case. I did a cursory examination, and it appears to me that this cartridge case is from a 577/450 Martini-Henry center-fire rifle cartridge.

The cartridge name 577/450, pronounced “five seventy seven forty five”, is short for 577 Snider and 450 Martini-Henry. The 577/45 was Great Britain’s first bottlenecked center-fire military rifle cartridge (Logan 1959: 93). The 577/450 evolved from the 577 Snider; the 577 cartridge necked down to .45 caliber.

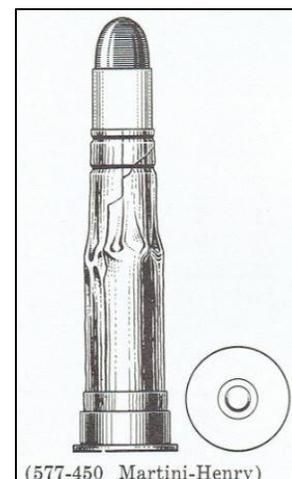
577 SNIDER

The 577 Snider was a straight wall center-fire cartridge containing a .577 caliber lead bullet and loaded with black gun powder. It was adapted by the British military in 1867 and used in the breech-loading “Snider System” conversion of the muzzle-loading Enfield rifle. The Snider System was invented by Joseph Snider an American who was turned down when offered his system to his home country. Originally, the 577 Snider cartridges were made similar to that of a paper hulled shotgun shell. It had a paper body and a metal base. Later, the case was made of brass.

Snider Enfield rifles were sold in the U.S. by the seller of military surplus, Francis Bannerman & Sons at Bannerman’s Castle, Pollepel Island, New York. In the 1950s, surplus arms dealers also imported the rifles. The 577 Snider cartridges became obsolete circa 1930 (Barnes 2006: 374).

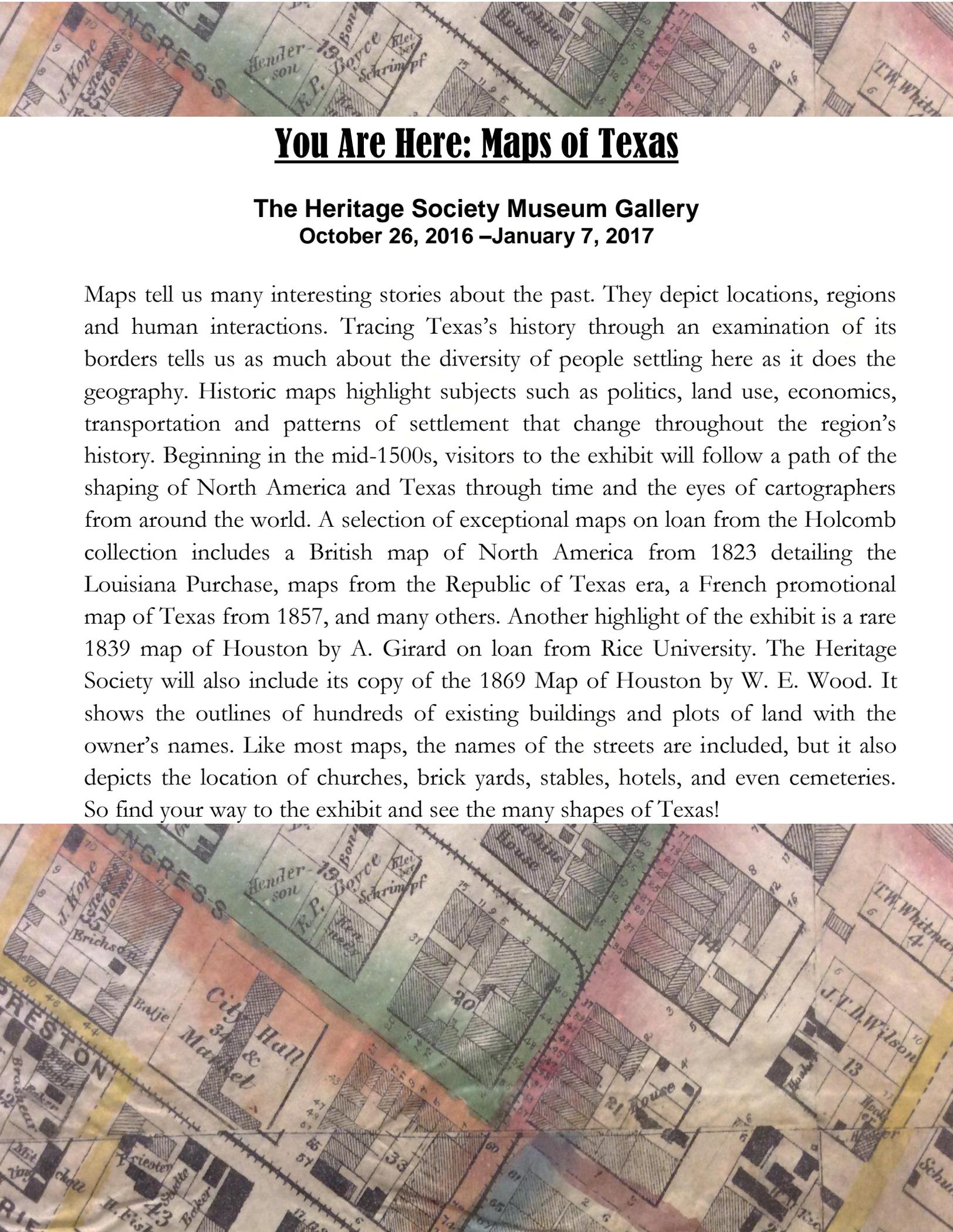
577/450 MARTINI-HENRY

The 577/450 Martini-Henry center-fire rifle cartridge replaced the 577 Snider as a British military cartridge in 1871. The cartridge had a brass case, a .45 caliber lead bullet and was loaded with black and later smokeless gun powder. The cartridge was used in the Martini-Henry falling block single shot rifle, designed by Swiss engineer Frederich Martini in the 1860s (Miller 2011: 252). Both gun and cartridge made history by 140 men of the 24th Regiment, B Company of the British Army in January 1879. Approximately 20,000, 577/450 cartridges were fired successfully defending the mission station of Rorke’s Drift in South Africa against 4000 Zulu warriors. Martini-Henry rifles became popular as sporting guns and were imported into the U.S. (Barnes 2006: 371, Miller 2011: 252). The .303 British center-fire rifle cartridge replaced the 577/450 in 1888. However, the 577/450 was commercially sold by the British ammunition manufacturer Kynoch until the late 1950s (Kynoch 2016, Wikipedia 2016).



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- Kynoch
2016 *Kynoch Ammunition home page.* <http://www.kynochammunition.co.uk/>
- Miller, David
2011 *The Illustrated Directory of Guns, A collector’s Guide to Over 1500 Military, Sporting and Antique Firearms.* Pepperbox Press, Ltd., United Kingdom
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.577/450_Martini%E2%80%93Henry



You Are Here: Maps of Texas

**The Heritage Society Museum Gallery
October 26, 2016 –January 7, 2017**

Maps tell us many interesting stories about the past. They depict locations, regions and human interactions. Tracing Texas's history through an examination of its borders tells us as much about the diversity of people settling here as it does the geography. Historic maps highlight subjects such as politics, land use, economics, transportation and patterns of settlement that change throughout the region's history. Beginning in the mid-1500s, visitors to the exhibit will follow a path of the shaping of North America and Texas through time and the eyes of cartographers from around the world. A selection of exceptional maps on loan from the Holcomb collection includes a British map of North America from 1823 detailing the Louisiana Purchase, maps from the Republic of Texas era, a French promotional map of Texas from 1857, and many others. Another highlight of the exhibit is a rare 1839 map of Houston by A. Girard on loan from Rice University. The Heritage Society will also include its copy of the 1869 Map of Houston by W. E. Wood. It shows the outlines of hundreds of existing buildings and plots of land with the owner's names. Like most maps, the names of the streets are included, but it also depicts the location of churches, brick yards, stables, hotels, and even cemeteries. So find your way to the exhibit and see the many shapes of Texas!

TAS 2017 ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMIES 2017 TAS

Homepage: <http://txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2017/index.php>

[Registration fee \\$100 plus TAS membership required](#)

Scholarships are available, please apply! <http://www.txarch.org/scholarships/index.php>

Lower Pecos Canyonlands Academy - Jan. 14-15, 2017 registration deadline Jan. 2

Texas State University's Ancient Southwest Texas Project is offering an opportunity to see and hear the results of their excavations in Eagle Nest Canyon near Langtry. The project investigated six sites within the canyon (Eagle Cave, Kelley Cave, Skiles Rockshelter, Sayles Adobe, Horse Trail Shelter and Bonfire Shelter) and three on the uplands outside the canyon. The excavations in Eagle Cave are scheduled to be backfilled in the spring 2017 and this is likely to be the last time in a generation that the deposits of this shelter will be visible. The course combines lectures and field excursions that will describe the methods and results of the excavations, and will examine topics ranging from landscape change, economic botany, flooding by the Rio Grande, rock shelter formation processes, and human use of the landscape during the late Pleistocene and Holocene. Also on view will be a sample of the artifacts uncovered by the excavations that include perishable fiber items as well as stone tools. Instructors: Dr. Charles Frederick, Dr. Steve Black, Charles Koenig, Ken Lawrence, and Arlo McKee.

Take advantage of incredible outdoor opportunities at the nearby Seminole Canyon State Park, Amistad National Recreation Area, and Devils River State Natural Area! Lodging is available in Del Rio, camping and RV hookups at Seminole Canyon State Park, and limited options closer to the academy.

Ceramics Academy – Feb. 25-26, 2017 - At Ft. Richardson St. Park registration deadline Feb. 10

An exciting academy to be held at Fort Richardson State Park in north Texas, this academy will introduce the importance of archeological ceramics in terms of technology, chronology, dating, trade, subsistence, and cultural identity. Definitions and origins of ceramics, decoration and how pottery was embellished, sherd analysis and how pottery is classified and typed, and interpretations including what we can learn from pottery analysis. For the first time in five years, the Ceramics Academy will provide numerous hands-on exercises such as making pottery and identifying vessel types, age, and firing. Instructors: Marybeth Tomka and Dr. Chris Lintz.

This will be an excellent opportunity for participants to enjoy the parks many amenities including hiking, biking, equestrian trails, camping, and fishing. And take advantage of the historic Fort Richardson site tours! <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/fort-richardson>

Lodging options are available throughout Fort Richardson State Park including cabins, RV hookups, and camping. Jacksboro has motel options, with more in nearby Graham and Mineral Wells.

Technology in Archeology - April 29-30, 2017- in Fredericksburg registration deadline is April 14

Another new TAS Academy for 2017, we are very excited to offer for the first time Technology in Archeology in Fredericksburg! Participants will be introduced to exciting methods such as Structure from Motion (SfM) photogrammetry, geophysical survey methods, aerial drone recordation, and 3D scanning are also planned topics. This course will introduce these technologies in an archeological application within a state of the art classroom setting at the Hill Country University Center. Outdoor activities will include SfM, geophysical survey, and drone recordation at the nearby Fort Martin Scott. Instructors: Charles Koenig, Tiffany Osburn, Dr. Zac Selden, and Arlo McKee.

Fredericksburg offers incredible outdoor opportunities such as the nearby Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, shopping, historic sites, wineries, and much more. Lodging opportunities range from nice hotels, an incredible variety of bed and breakfasts, camping, RV parks, and more.

Scholarships are available, please apply! <http://www.txarch.org/scholarships/index.php>

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2017
7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University

Programs for 2017

January 19, 2017 - Wilson “Dub” Crook, “Difficulties in Sourcing Turquoise Using X-Ray Fluorescence”.

February 16, 2017 - Douglas K. Boyd, RPA, Prewitt and Associates, Inc, “Frost Town Archeological Project Update”.

March 15, 2017 - Beth Aucoin, “Reminiscences of Moses Austin Bryan”.

April 20, 2017 - TBD

May 18, 2017 – Kimberly L.Faulk MA, “Underwater Archeology on the Gulf Coast”.

June – No meeting due to TAS Field School

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS visit our website at www.txhas.org or email lindagorski@cs.com. You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

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Note: Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than December 23rd for the January 2017 issue.

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

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