



**Thursday, May 19th, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**“Rome in Ruins – Archeological Sites along the Aurelian Wall”**  
**Linda Gorski and Louis Aulbach**



Houston Archeological Society President Linda Gorski and HAS Vice President Louis Aulbach will present a program highlighting portions of their latest book, *Along the Aurelian Wall – Rome in Ruins – A Self-Guided Walk*, at the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the HAS. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the MD Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas and is free of charge and open to the public.

Most travelers who visit Rome as tourists have a limited amount of time to see Roman archeological sites. They tend to do the “Caesar shuffle” – see the Colosseum and the Roman Forum – and think they have seen it all. This talk will highlight a number of the archeological sites of ancient Rome that are found adjacent to the

third century AD wall built by Emperor Aurelian. These sites illustrate aspects of over 1200 years of the cultural history of Rome from the city’s founding in 753 BC to the end of the Roman Empire in 476 AD. The program will feature photos of many of these ancient sites that are off the beaten tourist track.

Louis F. Aulbach is vice president of the Houston Archeological Society. A native Houstonian, he is a graduate of St. Thomas High School and Rice University. He received his master's degree from the University of Chicago. Aulbach has been interested in Roman archeology since he was a Classics scholar at Rice.

Linda Gorski is president of the Houston Archeological Society. Her interest in archeology was sparked when she took a class in Roman British archeology at the University of Kent, Canterbury, England, in the 1970s. She has since participated in several excavations at Roman sites in England – and many here in Texas! Aulbach and Gorski recently published their first walking guide to Rome entitled *Along the Aurelian Wall – Rome in Ruins – Self Guided Walks*. They recently returned from Rome where they conducted research for their second volume in the series.

For a campus map, go to [www.stthom.edu](http://www.stthom.edu) and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20, MD Anderson Hall. Street parking is available as well as paid parking at Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program, please contact [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com).



## President's Message

HAS Members and Friends!

Emergency Salvage Archeology – What is it?

I've often used the term "Emergency Salvage Archeology" to describe some of the projects the Houston Archeological Society has undertaken recently. By definition, and unlike traditional survey and excavation, rescue or emergency salvage archaeology must be undertaken at speed, ahead of imminent construction or land development. And that's what faced HAS members earlier this year when two historic buildings in downtown Houston were demolished to make way for construction of a parking lot.

The emergency salvage archeology project was directed by our Texas Historical Commission (THC) regional archeologist Jeff Durst and undertaken by several members of the HAS (who are also THC Archeological Stewards) on extremely short notice. Photos of the buildings were taken before they were demolished and historical records were studied to determine the background of the buildings which dated to 1906. Land records were also scrutinized to understand what was on the site before the two buildings were erected on one of the most historic blocks in the city of Houston.

The small crew from HAS had exactly three days to conduct an archeological survey of the site. Jeff's plan was to divide the site up into 38 units and to conduct shovel tests to a depth of 60 cm to quickly analyze the site and collect artifacts. The team also hand dug a trench in an area where many, many bottles starting emerging. In addition, a backhoe put in a larger trench across the entire site to a depth of approximately 14 feet and revealed the historic gully that early maps indicate across the site. We discovered that one of the demolished buildings had actually been constructed on pier and beam to span the historic gully! The stratigraphy that showed up when the larger trench was dug showed an amazing cross-section of Houston's history!

The emergency excavations also revealed early cisterns, brick and concrete piers that supported the pier and beam building, a privy, and also many artifacts including building materials, bottles and personal items. Interestingly, and according to historical documents, that area was the site of several "female boarding houses" (aka brothels) and many of the bottles recovered included female medications and tonics! And ALL OF THIS knowledge would have been lost if the property owner had not allowed this archeological survey to be conducted!!!! HAS is currently in the process of cataloguing the artifacts recovered from the site and writing a report on this emergency salvage archeology project which will add so much to the early history of Houston.

Wouldn't it be great if we could conduct emergency salvage archeology on many of the sites that are being developed across Houston and Harris County? Just think of the history we could save by simply doing 38 shovel tests in three days on each site that is being destroyed. If you know of any sites that are in the process of being developed and are owned by historically responsible individuals, please let me know. You can email me at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org). We'd love to show them how we can quickly and efficiently dig up Texas history – one trowel full at a time!

*- Linda Gorski, President Houston Archeological Society*

# **Minutes**

## **Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting**

### **April 21st, 2016**

Due to the incoming bad weather and already treacherous road conditions the HAS Board decided to cancel the HAS meeting for April, 2016. Our speaker Lauren Cook has agreed to reschedule her talk on McFaddin Beach for Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Thanks to Dub Crook for giving up his slot to Lauren. We'll reschedule Dub's talk to another date.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th, 2016.

*Bob Sewell, Secretary Houston Archeological Society*

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### **TAS FIELD SCHOOL June 11 – 18, 2016**

#### **Tait Huffmeyer Ranch, Columbus Texas**

A reminder that the 2016 TAS Field School will once again be held at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas, from June 11 - 18. Investigations will continue at the Cotton Field and Bluff sites on the Ranch. The kids program will be held at the Tait House in Columbus. Camping this year will be at the beautiful 75-acre Colorado County Fairgrounds. This site includes a covered pavilion for our activities and real bathrooms! Note that a new activity this year will be the TAS Field School Archaeolympics!!! Glynn Osburn is coming up with a series of games and activities designed to test knowledge of tasks that prehistoric people relied on for daily survival including throwing atlatls and rabbit sticks. Start practicing now for this prehistoric skills competition!

You can find complete information about the 2016 TAS Field School including a comprehensive article by Dr. Barrett, registration forms, maps, camping and lodging information, and rules and regulations on the Houston Archeological Society website at [http://www.txhas.org/field\\_school\\_2016.html](http://www.txhas.org/field_school_2016.html) or the Texas Archeological Society website <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/fschool/fs2016/>

## Notes on Munitions: The Wanda Cartridge Company Plastic Shotgun Shells By Tom Nuckols

In 1967, the Wanda Cartridge Company of Manvel, Texas began manufacturing reloadable red clear (see through) plastic shot gun shells in 12 gauge. In 1968, a yellow clear plastic 20 gauge shot gun shell was introduced. In 1970, the 20 gauge yellows were changed to green.

Pictured is a green clear plastic Wanda 20 gauge shot gun shell. It has a battery cup primer and a cone shaped black plastic overshot plug. The headstamp reads: WANDA PAT. PEND. 20. The white lettering on the tube reads: 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -1-9 20 GA. ONLY.



The meaning of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -1-9:

2 $\frac{3}{4}$  – Refers to the length of a shot gun chamber in inches that this shot gun shell can be fired in. The length of the shot gun shell pictured is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

1 – Indicates that this shot gun shell contains 1 ounce of lead shot.

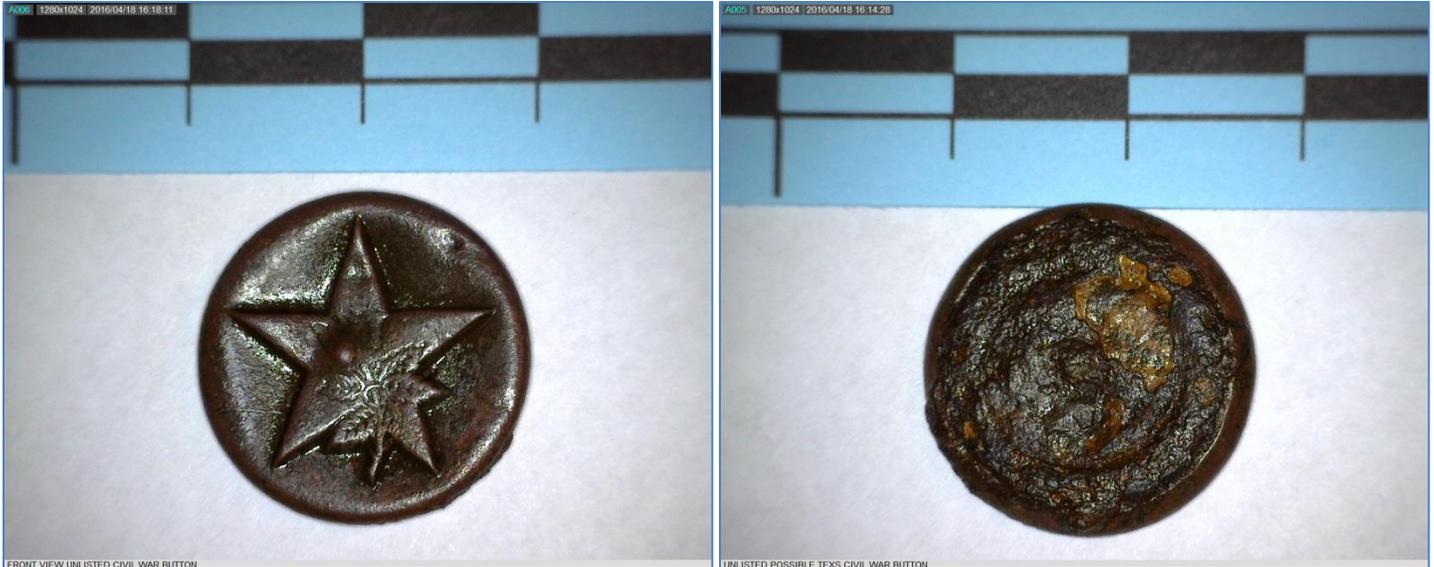
9 – Indicates shot size; 0.08" diameter. There are approximately 585 pellets of shot inside this shot gun shell. #9 shot is generally used for skeet shooting.

The Wanda Cartridge Company ceased operations in 1971. Why the cessation? I'm not sure. According to blogs by cartridge collectors, there is general consensus that Wanda's plastic shot gun shells "never sold well, that there was something wrong with them, due to the perception that the lack of a brass head made them weaker or that the unsupported all plastic rims caused extraction/ejection problems in usually reliable guns."

# IDENTIFICATION HELP NEEDED

Please help identify this button recovered from the townsite of San Jacinto.

**Button description:** Five point star with rose draped across center of star. Two piece, brass front, appears to have a tin back with remnants of a wire shank. Button measures 2 mm.



This button is not listed in either “Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons” by A. H. Albert or “Uniform Buttons of the United States 1776 – 1865” by Warren K. Tice. However, a similar button appears in “Texas Civil War Artifacts, A Photographic Guide To The Physical Culture Of Texas Civil War Soldiers” by Richard Mather Ahlstrom on page 404 - 405, Figure 291. Provenance: Found on the campsite of the “Johnson County Slashers” in Johnson County, Texas.

Other Civil War era buttons recovered from San Jacinto include both Union and Confederate buttons.

Please email [larry.golden@dashiell.com](mailto:larry.golden@dashiell.com) with any additional info.

- Larry Golden

## EXCAVATIONS AT COTTON FIELD, APRIL 2 – 3, 2016

As most of you know, we are continuing archeological excavations at the Cotton Field site at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas, that we began during Texas Archeological Society Field School in 2014 and continued in 2015. The Cotton Field site, located in Colorado County, offers ideal conditions for studying the Late Prehistoric period, spanning both the Austin phase (ca. 650AD - 1200AD) and the subsequent Toyah phase (1150 AD - 1500 AD) in Texas.

We had another fantastic weekend at Cotton Field April 2 - 3 when over 30 visitors from the Glasscock School of Continuing Education at Rice University joined us in the field. These folks recently completed a six week course entitled Houston Archeology taught by several members of HAS and others - and the grand finale was a field trip to Cotton Field!!! If our visitors thought they were just going to observe, they were wrong!!! Check it out - all of them got down and dirty and recovered many artifacts including numerous pieces of bison bone and one of the largest pottery sherds to date! Well done everyone! Thanks to our fantastic PI, Dr. Jason Barrett and to our wonderful landowners Rita Tait Jackson and Ed Jackson for their hospitality - and for spoiling us with porta potties!!! Thanks also to everyone from HAS who came out to work with us - we've gotten rave reviews from the Glasscock School visitors - and several have already joined HAS! You people rock.

We have one more work weekend - May 21 and 22 - scheduled for work at Cotton Field before TAS Field School begins on June 11 - 18. Mark your calendars now!! If you plan to join us, please email me back at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) so I can add you to our Cotton Field contact list and send you directions to the site as well as other important information including cancellation notices in case of severe weather. Remember, you must be a member of the Houston Archeological Society or one of the other regional archeological societies or the Texas Archeological Society to participate. If you are not yet a member of the Houston Archeological Society, please go to our website at [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org) and click on "Membership".

Below are a few photos from the weekend. For a complete photo album, see the HAS website at [http://www.txhas.org/cottonfield\\_bulletins.html](http://www.txhas.org/cottonfield_bulletins.html)



Dr. Jason Barrett conducts orientation at Cotton Field for visitors from the Glasscock School of Continuing Education at Rice University



After orientation the crews got busy digging up Texas history – one trowel full at a time.



And after digging, they got busy screening!



John Rich and Lynne Hester show off one of the largest pottery sherds ever recovered at the Cotton Field site.



Jim DePitts, one of the visitors from the Glasscock School screens with HAS member Adela Franco.



Tom Williams carefully excavating bison bone.



Lots of turtle shell was recovered from Tom Nuckols unit over the weekend.

## HAS Lab Sessions at Rice University

Dr. Gus Costa, HAS lab director, hosted a lab at Rice University to wash artifacts recovered from the Cotton Field site on Tuesday, April 12. The lab was very well-attended and several bags of artifacts including lithics, shell and bone were washed and left to dry.

When field work at Cotton Field was cancelled the weekend of April 23 and 24 due to wet conditions at the site in Columbus, an impromptu Saturday lab was organized at Linda Gorski's home in the Montrose. The team set up canopies and tables in the driveway and screens on the sidewalk and washed, dried and sorted several buckets of artifacts. Our wonderful landowners, Rita Tait and Ed Jackson even traveled over from Columbus to join us.



Dr. Costa will announce future labs when they can be scheduled at the lab at Rice University. Currently the lab is being used by Rice students as the academic year comes to a close. More photos of the Cottonfield lab activities can be found on the HAS website at [www.txhas.org/PDF/lab%20activities/cottonfield/cottonfield.pdf](http://www.txhas.org/PDF/lab%20activities/cottonfield/cottonfield.pdf)

**Houston Archeological Society**  
**Monthly Meeting Programs for 2016**  
**7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)**  
**M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University**

**June 16, 2016 – No Meeting** – We'll see you at TAS Field School June 11 – 18 in Columbus, Texas!

**July 21, 2016** – Dr. Jason Barrett Report on the **2016 TAS Field School at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas**. Dr. Barrett, HAS member and Field School PI, will lead a program highlighting excavations and artifacts recovered at the Cotton Field and Bluff sites at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch and reports from the youth group excavations at the Tait House in Columbus.

**August 18, 2016** – Ashley Jones, RPA “**Archaeological Investigations of the Treviño-Urbe Rancho (41ZP97), San Ygnacio, Zapata County, Texas**” - In November 2015, Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc. conducted archaeological investigations of GPR anomalies and of architectural features of the Treviño-Urbe Rancho (41SP97), in San Ygnacio, Texas. San Ygnacio, located along the northern banks of the Rio Grande, was initially settled as part of the Nuevo Santander colony. In the 1820's, Jesús Treviño purchased land in the area and established a ranch. The initial structure - a fortified, one-room shelter constructed in 1830 – reflects the dangers faced by the early colonists of Nuevo Santander at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. By 1871, the ranching complex, including a multi-room home and walled courtyard, was completed. New colonists arriving in the area led Treviño to plan the town of San Ygnacio. The Treviño-Urbe Rancho is the one of the few remaining standing structures from this time period north of the Rio Grande. Archaeological investigations of the property identified three possible features and approximately 5,000 artifacts, including ceramics, faunal remains, personal items, and architectural materials were recovered. Jones will discuss the history of the property, and how the cultural materials and architectural features identified during the investigation of the ranch provide insight into the lives of the Treviño and Uribe families.

**September 15, 2016** – Lauren Cook, Ph.D. candidate at Texas A & M University **Geoarchaeological Investigations of the McFaddin Beach site, Texas**. McFaddin Beach (41JF50), in Jefferson County, Texas is a 32 kilometer-long beach, stretching from High Island in the west to Sea Rim State Park in the east. Since the 1950s, artifacts from almost all periods of Texas pre-history have been recovered on this beach. The projectile points found on McFaddin Beach are redeposited materials from offshore, submerged locations. Results indicate that projectile point distribution is significantly correlated to longshore drift and hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico. Recent studies have been performed to test whether artifact distributions along the beach are correlated with sediment grain size patterns and distributions along the coast. This paper discusses the results from these studies and the role currents, longshore drift, and hurricane activity have on artifact distribution and implications they may have for identifying the offshore site locations of these artifacts. This paper will also review further research plans and studies to better understand the presence of Paleoindian peoples on the Texas continental shelf and throughout Texas. We will also set a date for a field trip to McFaddin Beach for HAS members.

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](http://www.txhas.org) or email [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com). You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

Note: There will be no *Profile* in June due to TAS 2016 Field School Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org). Submit articles no later than June 25th for the July 2016 issue.

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