



Thursday, April 18th, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.
“The Discovery and Recovery of a 14th Century Dugout Canoe”
with Jeff Girard

The April meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will feature a presentation by well-known Louisiana archeologist, Jeffrey Girard, who will discuss the recent exciting discovery and recovery of a 14th Century Dugout Canoe on the Red River. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center located at 1414 Wirt Road in the Spring Branch area. A social hour will begin at 6:30 with our monthly “show and tell”, snacks and conversation. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public. Please join us!!

Early in June 2017, a remarkable prehistoric dugout canoe was discovered on the banks of the Red River north of Shreveport, Louisiana. At 10.2 m (about 34 ft.) in length, it is the largest yet discovered in Louisiana, and one of the largest in the Southeastern United States. A radiocarbon date indicates that the canoe was constructed in the 14th century, contemporary with an extensive Caddo settlement on the east side of the river. This presentation summarizes the challenges that confronted researchers and local volunteers for extracting the canoe from the riverbank and transporting it to Texas A&M University for conservation; and provides information about nearby Caddo village and ceremonial sites whose past inhabitants might have made and used the boat.



Jeffrey Girard (M.A. The University of Texas at Austin) was on the faculty at Northwestern State University of Louisiana and served as regional archaeologist for the Louisiana Division of Archaeology for more than 25 years. He worked with landowners in the identification and preservation of cultural resources on private and state land, carried out research projects, and promoted awareness of cultural resources through public presentations. He has published papers in several edited books and journals, and co-authored the book *Caddo Connections, Cultural Interactions within and beyond the Caddo World*, 2014, Rowman & Littlefield. His book, *The Caddos and Their Ancestors, Archaeology and the Native People of Northwest Louisiana*, was published by LSU Press in the spring of 2018. He currently is working on a grant from the Cane River National Heritage Area to organize collections and records at the Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University.

Parking at the Trini Mendenhall Center is free of charge. For more information about this meeting, please contact lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message – Linda Gorski

Why did you join the Houston Archeological Society? Did you join to learn about archeology? To learn how to excavate a site? Attend meetings? Become friends with folks who share your passion for archeology? With this president's message, I'd really like to generate some feedback about your reasons for joining our Society.

Meetings – Due to circumstances beyond our control, we've moved our meetings to the Trini Mendenhall Community Center at 1414 Wirt Road. This has turned out to be an incredibly good meeting venue for us, offering free meeting space, free and plentiful parking, and an accommodating staff that advertises our monthly meetings to the community – many of whom are attending as regular guests! Are you happy with the new location of our meetings? Please let me know at lindagorski@cs.com

Speakers – Did you join the Society to attend our monthly meetings and hear about archeology from speakers who are experts in a variety of archeological topics? Frankly, I think our speakers this year have all been incredibly interesting and we've had terrific turnouts each month. However, with 232 members in 2018 and about 190 so far in 2019 I always look forward to seeing more members at our meetings. What sorts of speakers/programs would you like to see in the future? Please email our vice president Larry Golden at goldenlarry58@gmail.com and give him some suggestions.

Fieldwork - In 2019 we'll offer HAS members several field work options, including our current opportunity to do shovel testing at San Felipe de Austin, one of the most important historic sites in the entire State of Texas. These shovel tests are in an area of the historic site that will soon become a walkway. We need to ensure that there are no historic features or cultural resources in the path of this walkway before construction begins. This shovel testing project offers Houston, Brazosport, Fort Bend and Texas Archeological Society members the opportunity to dig with both professional and avocational archeologists led by Dr. Sarah Chesney, the site archeologist at San Felipe de Austin. We've scheduled both weekday and weekend dates to attempt to accommodate everyone (Wednesdays and Saturdays). If you are a member of HAS, you should be receiving regular emails about this project from Bob Sewell. If you are not receiving updates, email him at robert-sewell@att.net and tell him you'd like to participate.

Public Outreach and Education – We have a very active public archeology outreach and education project ongoing at Kleb Woods Nature Center in Tomball, Texas. For instance, on March 1 we hosted Texas History students from Rosehill Christian School for a dig which included excavating two units, screening the dirt, and learning about the artifacts recovered. Again, we are led by a professional archeologist Ashley Jones from MAC/CEI supported by many avocationalists from HAS. These sessions are like mini-Archeology 101s – come learn with us! If you would like to participate in future outreach programs please email me at lindagorski@cs.com

Finally, a great way to learn about archeology in the field is by attending the Texas Archeological Society Field School held for a week each June in different parts of Texas. This year's field school will be held at Palo Duro Canyon State Park June 8 - 15. Come dig with 300+ other folks who are just as interested in archeology as you! For more information go to the TAS website at https://www.txarch.org/tas-field-school?utm_campaign=cd927b4c-5f3f-4b23-b678-98840134765f&utm_source=so. Several HAS members will be there too so look for one of our friendly faces 😊

Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting or field project. Please email me at lindagorski@cs.com if you have any questions about HAS.

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting
March 21, 2019

Welcome New Members and Guests to our meeting location at Trini Mendenhall Community Center (Dub Crook, Board Director, for Linda Gorski, President).

Treasurer's Report (Bob Sewell): Bob reported amounts in the HAS checking and savings accounts. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob.

Membership (Bob Sewell): HAS membership for 2019 now totals 184!

MEMBERSHIPS for 2019 are now being accepted. Anyone who has joined HAS since August is good for 2019. If you were a member in 2018 and have not yet renewed, your membership will end on March 31st.

The second shipment of hats has arrived, and Bob has them after the meeting tonight for those who signed up to purchase one last month.

New Business

Publications (Dub Crook): In May, we will publish our second journal on Roman and Etruscan archeology, which will include articles of interest about the Roman legion, Roman temples, Corinth, Capernaum, and the Emperor Constantine, among others.

Reports and Journals (Louis Aulbach): The first first publication for 2019 was available! This report is a compendium of munitions articles, all written by our munitions expert Tom Nuckols!

Monthly Show and Tell (Larry Golden): Larry Golden presented a collection of stoneware and crockery!

April Program: Our presenter for April will be Louisiana Archeologist Jeffrey Girard, who will discuss the topic "Discovery and Recovery of a 14th Century Dugout Canoe on the Red River." Early in June 2017, a remarkable prehistoric dugout canoe was discovered on the banks of the Red River north of Shreveport, Louisiana. At 10.2 m (about 34 ft) in length, it is the largest yet discovered in Louisiana, and one of the largest in the Southeastern United States. A radiocarbon date indicates that the canoe was constructed in the 14th century, contemporary with an extensive Caddo settlement on the east side of the river. This presentation summarizes the challenges that confronted researchers and local volunteers in extracting the canoe from the riverbank and transporting it to Texas A&M University for conservation, provides information about nearby Caddo villages and ceremonial sites whose past inhabitants might have made and used the boat.

Our March program was presented by Elton Prewitt. The topic is "Painted Pebbles of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands." This was Mr Prewitt's first time to ever present a program at HAS, and he is currently analyzing approximately 800 painted pebbles in his research, out of approximately 1200 that are accessible in collections.

Sharon Menegaz for Secretary Beth Kennedy

Jean LaDelle Epperson 1927 - 2019



Jean Epperson 1927 - 2019

The Houston Archeological Society recently lost another dedicated member when Jean Epperson passed away on March 7. Jean was an avid historian and avocational archeologist and one of the most interesting women I've ever met.

Jean LaDelle Epperson, 92, of Liberty County in the Old River–Winfree, area was born January 12, 1927 in Houston, Texas to parents Thomas Marvin Epperson and Marguerite Mitchell Epperson. Jean was a longtime resident of the Old River-Winfree area in Liberty County after moving from Houston. She taught special education in Baytown for over 35 years. Mrs. Epperson wrote books on genealogy and history including **Historical Vignettes of Galveston Bay**. Jean was a patron of arts and historical societies in Liberty County and was very active in the DAR

Jean left her lasting mark on southeast Texas archeology through her field investigations and articles she wrote for Houston Archeological Society publications. Her Journal articles focused on a variety of subjects including **Early Custom Houses of Galveston; Sydora: The Ruin at Lost Lake**; a four part series entitled **Trinidad De Salcedo: A Lost Texas Town**; an article on the early 1800s French fort in Liberty County, **Champ d' Aisle**; an article entitled **Who Was John Andrechyne Lafitte?**, and another on **Joseph Blanpain's French Trading Post**.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents Thomas Marvin Epperson and Marguerite Mitchell Harris; step-father, Morgan Harris; daughter, Desiree McGinty Powers and brother, Roland Harris. She is survived by her husband of 3 years Sheldon Kindall of El Lago, Texas (also a longtime member of HAS), children, Mia Colleen McGinty Cummings and Marla McGinty Trahan and husband Joe; grandchildren, Shannon Tilton, LaDelle Maez, Clay Cummings and Charles Drost; six great-grandchildren; brother, Jon Harris; also numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Her funeral service was held on March 9 at the Pace-Stancill Funeral Home in Dayton.

Those of you who knew Jean will mourn her passing and reflect on the void she has left in the Texas archeological community. Rest in peace, Jean.

- Linda Gorski

Shovel Testing at San Felipe de Austin

In preparation for the construction of new walking pathways, HAS members continue to carrying out shovel testing at the San Felipe de Austin Museum. The new pathways will trace some of the original lots and roads in the town. Having tested on the east site of the museum, we have now progressed north and west. Our next work days are planned for the 10th and 13th April. Keep an eye on your emails for updates.



Screening the dirt from a shovel test



Some of the San Felipe de Austin crew

HAS Member Dub Crook to Present talk on Archeology in Ancient Jericho at Houston Gem and Minerals Society April 4

If you missed the fabulous presentation by HAS member Dub Crook on archeology in ancient Jericho at the January 2019 HAS meeting, you're in luck!!! Dub will be presenting this talk again to the Archeology section of the Houston Gem & Minerals Society at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 4. Their "clubhouse" is located at 10805 Brooklet Drive which is essentially at the corner of Beltway 8 and Hwy 59.

Tell Es-Sultan or Ancient Jericho is one of the most excavated sites in the Middle East and yet it remains one of the most controversial. British archeologist John Garstang excavated the site between 1930 - 1936 and concluded that the city had indeed been destroyed in a single massive conflagration in the manner as described in the Biblical book of Joshua. Later in the 1950s, his protégé, Dame Kathleen Kenyon, continued his work on the site but instead concluded that Jericho had been destroyed about 150 years before the time of Joshua and thus the Biblical account was largely a myth. In the 1990s, Dr. Bryant Wood, himself an expert on Canaanite ceramics, relooked at Kenyon's data and concluded that she had deliberately misinterpreted her own evidence and that Jericho had been destroyed by the Israelites in the manner Garstang originally concluded. Most recently, a joint Italian-Palestinian excavation has attempted to show that Kenyon's conclusions were correct. While the interpretation of archeological excavations should be a matter of pure science with the data leading to the conclusion, unfortunately in a politically charged environment such as the Middle East, conclusions are often strongly influenced by regional politics.

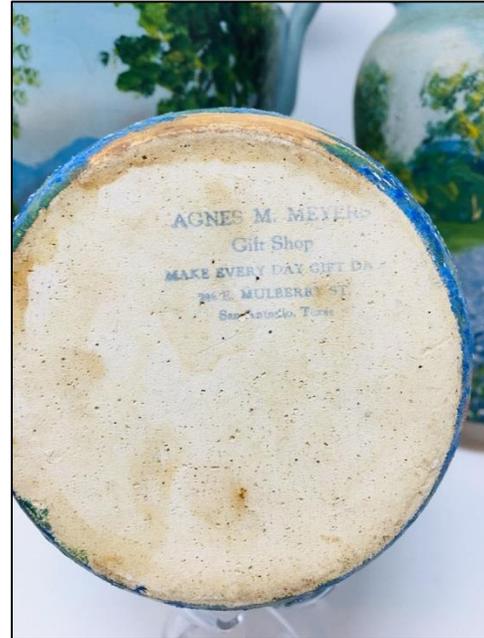
Dub will discuss the history of all the previous work conducted at Ancient Jericho and then conclude with his own interpretation as to the date of the destruction of the city. As part of this work, Dub will talk about the two artifacts he recently uncovered at Jericho and their implications regarding a final occupation in the early part of the Late Bronze Age.

If you need more information about this talk, email Dub at dubcrook@kingwoodcable.com

IT'S BLUEBONNET TIME! SOUVENIR BLUEBONNET POTTERIES OF TEXAS

AGNES MEYERS GIFT SHOP

Agnes M. Meyers (1878-1947) operated a gift shop at 706 E. Mulberry in San Antonio, Texas. Meyers painted and sold bluebonnet scenes on clay wares, she had purchased from the Meyer Pottery Co. She also painted bluebonnet scenes on framed canvas and board. Her souvenirs were sold both at her gift shop as well the Alamo and possibly other tourist attractions during the 1930s and 40s. Her wares and paintings can be found marked on the base and backs "AGNES M. MEYERS" "Gift Shop" "MAKE EVERY DAY GIFT DAY" "706 E. MULBERRY ST." "San Antonio, Texas"



SAN JUAN ART POTTERY and MEXICAN HAND CRAFT

San Jose Potteries produced two lines of souvenir bluebonnet pottery crafts, hand painted by the local artisans. "SAN JUAN ART POTTERY" "SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS" can be found impressed in the base of larger vases, flower frogs, etc. "MEXICAN HAND CRAFT" is typically found stamped on the side of smaller vases and clay wares. Vessels were produced at this location as well by other local potters. Produced primarily during the 40s and later, these pieces were sold at the San Jose Mission. San Jose Potteries has a great history of pottery and tile art in San Antonio for more information see the book "COLORS ON CLAY" by SUSAN TOOMEY FROST.





MEYER POTTERY CO.

Meyer Pottery Co. took the souvenir bluebonnet pottery industry to another level, producing thousands of pieces for the Texas Centennial as well as all of San Antonio's and the hill country region's tourist hot spots and beyond. Meyer pieces were not marked, but typically had foil tags or hand painted names of their tourist destinations on their wares. Meyer's souvenir pieces were produced in many shapes including miniature jugs, large vases, sombreros, etc. Meyer in the later years of production would also cold paint imported items such as cups, plates, pitchers, etc. Meyer produced souvenir pottery from the 1930s to their closing in the 1960s.



These are not all of the Texas souvenir pottery producers, but covers the top three. Look for bluebonnet souvenirs in your local antique shops.

- Larry Golden

Notes on Munitions: Archaeology of Firearms By Tom Nuckols

Last month I flew to Springfield, Massachusetts and took a three-day class on the *Archaeology of Firearms* held at the U.S. Department of the Interior's Springfield Armory National Historic Site. The class was held to discuss and demonstrate methods for studying firearms, firearm parts and ammunition components found in archaeological contexts. On the last day of class, students were given the opportunity to shoot an American Revolutionary War era flintlock musket, American Civil War (called War of the Rebellion in New England) era percussion rifle musket and a Plains Indian War "trapdoor rifle." The primary instructor for the class was Douglas D. Scott, Ph.D., co-author of the book *Archaeological Perspectives on the Battle of the Little Bighorn* (Scott, et al 1984).

Springfield Armory

Located in the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Springfield Armory was the primary center for the manufacture of United States military firearms from 1777 until its closing in 1968. It was the first federal armory and one of the first factories in the United States dedicated to the manufacture of weapons. The Springfield Armory National Historic Site was created in 1974, and the Main Arsenal Building is the focus of the park and contains the Visitor Center and the Springfield Armory Museum. The only other building that is within the park boundary is the Commanding Officer's House, but it is not open to the public.



The eight major firearm models produced at the Springfield Armory were (model/caliber, ammunition type/war used in):

- Model 1795 Flintlock Musket/.69, lead musket ball/War of 1812 (1812-1814).
- Model 1842 Percussion Musket/.69, lead musket ball/Mexican American War (1846-1848).
- Model 1861 Percussion Rifle Musket/.58, lead Minie ball/U.S. Civil War (1861-1865).
- Model 1873 "Trapdoor Rifle"/.45-70, center-fire cartridge/Plains Indian Wars (1865-1886).
- Krag-Jørgensen Bolt Action Rifle/.30, center-fire cartridge/Spanish American War (1898).
- Model 1903 Bolt Action Rifle/.30-06, center-fire cartridge/World War I (1917-1918).
- M1 Garand Semi-automatic Rifle/.30-06, center-fire cartridge/World War II (1941-1945) & Korean War (1950-1953).
- M14 Semi-automatic Rifle/7.62 mm or .308, center-fire cartridge/Vietnam War (1961-1975).

Trip to Springfield

Springfield, Massachusetts is the farthest "north" I have ever been in the "lower 48". As my jet descended out of the clouds to land at Hartford, Connecticut (the nearest airport) I saw that the landscape was covered in snow. Once inside the airport terminal, I was amazed to find that the natives spoke English! A light snow was falling upon my arrival at Springfield by car service. However, the next day the skies cleared and for the duration of my stay I experienced a Houston like winter. In my spare time I visited the Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum, Toytopia Museum, a utopia for toy lovers, the Esta Manthos Indian Motorcycle Collection and the Springfield Science Museum. All these museums are centrally located in downtown Springfield and just a few blocks from The Springfield Armory. Also located downtown is a portion of the original Smith & Wesson revolver factory, built in 1860. It was converted into apartments.

References

Scott, Douglas D., Richard A. Fox, Melissa A. Connor and Dick Harmon
1984 *Archaeological Perspectives of the Battle of the Little Bighorn*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman & London.

THE FACE OF BRAZOSPORT'S PAST:

Forensic Facial Reconstruction of Ancient Brazosport Native Forensic science will bring 3,500 year old woman face to face with Freeport Historical Museum visitors. Internationally recognized forensic sculptor, Amanda Danning will use the skull as detailed, step by step instructions to model the face of the Archaic Era woman in an interactive exhibit open to the public. Visitors will be able to watch and discuss the process during the interactive exhibit at the museum April 3rd through April 6th.

The skull of a woman was discovered in the Oyster Creek area of Brazoria County in 2009. The discovery was made while pumping water from the bottom of a sandpit approximately 30 feet deep. Dr. Michael Collins, of the Gault School of Archaeological Research visited the site with a team to record and research possible associated materials. While other Archaic artifacts were found, none could be positively associated with the skull. In 2010 Dr. Douglas Owsley, Head of Physical and Forensic Anthropology, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and Dr. Richard Jantz, Director of Forensic Anthropology Center University of Tennessee examined the remains. The forensics detail proof of a robust, hard working woman of about 32 years of age from 3,500 years before present.

Ms. Danning has performed similar public facial reconstructions for the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Buffalo Soldier National Museum, Sam Houston State University and others. She travels extensively speaking about the science, the history and the lives of the cases on which she has worked.

Freeport Historical Museum will be open to the public Wednesday-Saturday, April 3-6 from 10am - 4pm. Reservations for private presentations are available can be made for April 1-2 from 10am - 4pm. Call LeAnn Strahan at (979) 233-0066 to schedule a school group or a group of private reservations.

FREEPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
THE CONNECTION WITH THE PAST

LIVE EXHIBIT

Forensic Facial Reconstruction of
Ancient Brazosport Native

**THE FACE OF
BRAZOSPORT'S
PAST**

APRIL 3-6, 2019 10AM-4PM

www.writteninbone.com
PRIVATE TOURS AVAILABLE

Freeport Historical Museum
311 E Park Ave
Freeport, TX 77541
For additional information, please call (979) 233 0066

HAS EMBROIDERED HATS

The second batch of HAS embroidered hats has nearly sold out. We have ordered another batch that should arrive before the next monthly meeting. They are \$10 each and are only available for purchase by and for HAS members. If you are interested in purchasing one of them then please contact Bob Sewell robert-sewell@att.net.

HAS Memberships for 2019 Are Now Due

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 benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area, work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites, and your FREE copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!!

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2019
6:30pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road

May 16, 2019 - Dr. Jason Barrett, Trade Trails and Meeting Locations in SE Texas Prehistory

June – No meeting due to TAS Field School

July 18, 2019 – Report on TAS Field School at Palo Duro Canyon

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS then 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/>

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Please submit articles no later than March 26th for the April 2019 issue.

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

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