



Thursday, August 15th, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

“Recent Developments in Conserving and Restoring Historic Properties Near the San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site”

Cecil Jones, President, San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy

This presentation will discuss the history of the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy and its involvement and sponsorship in acquiring historic properties related to the Battle of San Jacinto, and past and future potential archeological projects related to the battle.

Major focus will be on the acquisition of 23 acres along Buffalo Bayou between the berth of the Battleship TEXAS and the Lynchburg Ferry. This property was saved from industrial development by SJBC and has been transferred to Texas Parks & Wildlife to be included in the North Shore Restoration Project. TPWD has acquired a grant to restore the North Shore to its 1836 condition, and SJBC has a Memorandum of Understanding with TPWD and will be a consultant on the project.



These 23 acres are historically important for the following reasons:

- It is the last remaining accessible area of the Harrisburg-Lynchburg Road used by Texas colonists in the 1830s and 1840s and the scene of the Runaway Scrape in March and early April 1836;
- Prior to the battle of San Jacinto on April 16, 1836, Mexican Col. Juan Almonte and 50 cavalymen took this route from Harrisburg to Lynch's ferry in a failed attempt to capture the Texan cabinet and secure boats to cross the San Jacinto River.
- Almonte backtracked across the property to New Washington the same day.
- The Texas army under Sam Houston marched on this road to Lynch's ferry on the morning of April 20 before backtracking to a wooded area on Buffalo Bayou for a campsite.
- Later that day, a detachment of the Texas army at Lynch's ferry landing captured a flatboat loaded with flour and several Mexican soldiers as the boat approached the landing from New Washington, now Morgan's Point.
- After the battle, colonists traversed this property to visit the Texan camp and the graves of the slain Texans, and was used as the route to return home.
- This property became part of the historic townsite of San Jacinto which was established several months after the battle.
- A sawmill constructed in the 1840s later served as a Confederate armory, and a fort was constructed in 1862.
- Two shipyards constructed in the 1850s allowed the area to become a staging ground for the Confederate Navy prior to the battle of Galveston on January 1, 1863.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston with our monthly Show and Tell, snacks and visiting so please join us before the presentation which begins at 7:00pm.

Parking at the Trini Mendenhall Center is free of charge. For more information about this program or about the HAS, please contact Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message – Linda Gorski

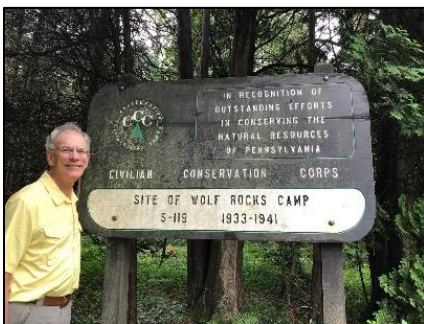
As most of you know, I've been on a month-long road trip from Houston to Canada and then down the east coast and across the south back to Houston, making many stops to see family and interesting places along the way. During this trip, Rick and I went on a quest to find a bit of his family history – the CCC Camp where his dad was stationed in the 1930s building structures in a state park in Pennsylvania. Many of you have visited other CCC-built parks here in Texas including Big Bend National Park and Palo Duro Canyon State Park. More than 50,000 CCC enrollees served in Texas. They worked six days a week under National Park Service and Army supervision. The CCC constructed parks from the ground up across the state, creating the Texas State Park system. Today, TPWD manages 29 CCC-built parks. The cabins, shelters, trails, bridges and refectories create these parks' distinctive character. CCC parks offer outdoor beauty and recreation, while reminding us of the men and conditions that built them. But what was the CCC?

The **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** was a voluntary public work relief that operated from 1933 to 1942 in the United States for unemployed, unmarried men. Originally for young men ages 18–25, it was eventually expanded to ages 17–28. The CCC was a major part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal that provided unskilled manual labor jobs related to the conservation and development of natural resources in rural lands owned by federal, state, and local governments. The CCC was designed to provide jobs for young men and to relieve families who had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression. Maximum enrollment at any one time was 300,000. Through the course of its nine years in operation, 3 million young men participated in the CCC, which provided them with shelter, clothing, and food, together with a wage of \$30, about \$570 in 2017, per month (\$25 of which had to be sent home to their families).

The American public made the CCC the most popular of all the New Deal programs. Sources written at the time claimed an individual's enrollment in the CCC led to improved physical condition, heightened morale, and increased employability. The CCC also led to a greater public awareness and appreciation of the outdoors and the nation's natural resources, and the continued need for a carefully planned, comprehensive national program for the protection and development of natural resources. By 1942, with World War II and the draft in operation, the need for work relief declined, and Congress voted to close the program.

But back to my own connection to the CCC. My father-in-law was assigned to build structures in Black Moshannon State Park in Pennsylvania. The location of the camp, if you can find it by following a maze of dirt logging roads through the forest (carry a good topo map) is marked by a sign indicating it is the CCC's Wolf Rock Camp near Phillipsburg, PA. According to the park ranger most of the structures built by the CCC in the park including cabins, bridges, pavilions, etc. are still standing and in use by visitors to the park today. It was very exciting to stand in the place where he stood and worked so many years ago.

There are many good websites highlighting the parks built by the CCC, and especially those in Texas. Have a look! It's part of our heritage!



Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting
July 16, 2019

Welcome New Members and Guests to our meeting location at Trini Mendenhall Community Center (Dub Crook 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): We have 221 members so far in 2019, plus two more who joined tonight!

The fourth shipment of hats has arrived, and Bob has them after meeting tonight if you signed up to purchase one last month.

New Business:

Announcement of Nominating Committee (Dub Crook): Sharon Menegaz, Frank Kozar, Geoff Mills will serve as the Nominating Committee for the upcoming Board elections in September. Next month, the committee will present the slate of officers for next year. In September, after taking any nominations from the floor, we will conduct the voting.

Reports and Journals (Dub Crook and Louis Aulbach): Journal 140 is available tonight for members to pick up (if you join tonight, you may take your copy home). This journal is 143 pages in length and includes 10 articles on topics such as Roman legions and early Constantinian structures found in Rome.

Show and Tell: This month's Show and Tell was presented by Geoff Mills, who displayed his collection of maps dating from the 1770's to 1909. Thanks to Geoff for sharing these!

Projects and Events:

Lunch & Learn: This event was held June 19th as an education outreach in Spring area for underprivileged children.

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project (Ashley Jones): No report tonight.

San Felipe de Austin (Sarah Chesney & Bob Sewell): Shovel testing has been on-going at San Felipe on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Upcoming dates include this coming Wednesday, July 24th, and next Saturday, July 27th. After these two dates, we may be finished for a while.

Lone Oak Site in Frelsburg, Texas (Larry Golden and Bob Sewell): We are continuing to conduct shovel testing and excavation at the site. Our next dates will be this Saturday, July 20th, and Monday, July 22 (we are alternating with San Felipe de Austin). Currently, we are attempting to locate the extent of this site, located on private property. So far, artifacts date from the Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric.

Houston Museum of Natural Science: Dr. Leslie Bush is coming to Houston on October 1 to give a presentation on Native Texas plants at HMNS. Her talk is entitled "Sustaining Texas: 5 Crucial Native Plants from Pleistocene to Present Day." The event will be held October 1. Tickets may be purchased from the HMNS website (Early Bird prices prior to 9/24).

August Program: Cecil Jones will present on "Recent Developments in Conserving and Restoring Historic Properties Near the San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site." This will include the Almonte Surrender Site and the San Jacinto Townsite

July Program: The HAS Field School Team discussed TAS Field School at Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

- Beth Kennedy, Secretary

ARCHEO CORNER: What is a Trinomial?? by Linda Gorski, Louis Aulbach and Dub Crook

You often hear archeologists talk about “trinomials”. Frequently at our monthly society meetings you will see a slide with a combination number and letter designation such as 41LB15. These are trinomials; but just what is a trinomial? Here’s what our research turned up.

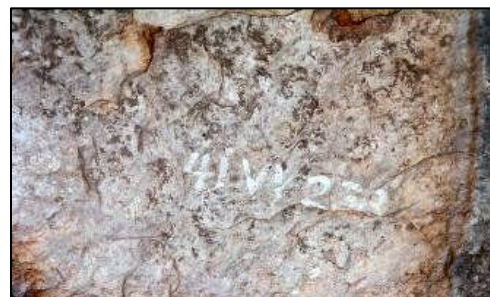
Trinomials or, officially, **Smithsonian trinomials** are unique identifiers assigned to archeological sites across the United States. They are composed of a one or two digit code for the state, a two or sometimes three letter code for the county or county equivalent within the state, and then a sequential number which represents the order in which the site was listed in that county. The Smithsonian Institution developed the site number system in the 1930s and 1940s (Trinomials are now assigned by the individual states). The 48 states then in the union were assigned numbers in alphabetical order. When Alaska and Hawaii were admitted to the Union in 1959, rather than force state institutions to renumber literally tens of millions of artifacts, Alaska was assigned number 49 and Hawaii was assigned number 50. There are no Smithsonian trinomial numbers assigned for the District of Columbia or any United States territories. Here in Texas, our state number is 41.

Most states use trinomials of the form "nnAAAnnnn", but some specify a space or dash between parts of the identifier, i.e., "nn AA nnnn" or "nn-AA-nnnn". California is an example of a state that uses the dash system whereas in Texas, we simply run the state-county-site number designation together. For instance, the trinomial for the Frost Town project we recently completed is 41HR982. HR designates the county (Harris) and the number is the sequence in which that site was registered. At San Felipe de Austin where we are currently doing shovel testing, that trinomial is 41AU2 (AU=Austin County) – it was registered a good while ago!

Here in Texas, the Texas Archeological Research Lab or TARL maintains the inventory and trinomial numbering system for archeological sites in Texas. The Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) of the University of Texas at Austin is a nationally recognized archeological research facility and the largest archeological repository in the state. To register a site, TARL requires that a digital site data form and an ArcGIS shapefile of the site location be provided before a site number can be assigned. Additional attachments (sketch maps, daily journals, etc.) are encouraged but not required.

With the advent of TexSite, a free program developed by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for site data recording, TARL asks that the site data form be provided to TARL as a digital file (.csv) exported from the TexSite software. The digital file is needed for the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, which makes the basic site information available to qualified researchers over the internet. The digital data sent to TARL as well as the digital data generated at TARL is transferred to the Texas Historical Commission periodically to update the archeological portion of the Texas Historical Sites Atlas. This portion of the Atlas is restricted to approved users only.

When Louis and I were hiking in Val Verde County several years ago, we noted that trinomials had been painted on several of the rock art shelters that contained pictographs and petroglyphs. This is probably discouraged today but here are a couple of photos that will give you a good visual of a trinomial in situ.



HAS EMBROIDERED HATS

The fourth shipment of HAS embroidered hats has arrived and will be available for purchase by HAS members at 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.

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Ceramics Program by Bayou Bend Docents and tour of Bayou Bend Ceramics Collection for HAS Members

Larry Golden, HAS Vice President, has put together an amazing program and tour of Bayou Bend for HAS members on Saturday, September 28, 2019. This program will specifically feature a presentation on historic transferware, sherds of which we find at almost every historic site we excavate, and a tour of Bayou Bend's world famous ceramics collection. This workshop will be held to a maximum of 30 participants. Cost to each person will be \$20 to cover the cost of using the Barnhart Room at Bayou Bend for the program and for the tour. Fourteen HAS members already signed up for this program at our July HAS meeting, so we have about 16 slots left. Please email Larry Golden at goldenlarry58@gmail.com to make your reservations for this important workshop. Larry will send more information to those who sign up for the trip.



The Maynard Tape Primer System

By Tom Nuckols

In 1845 dentist and inventor Dr. Edward Maynard (1813-1891) patented a muzzle-loading gun lock with a mechanical tape priming system (U.S. Patent no. 4,208). The Maynard Tape Primer or the Maynard System, as it became known, was designed to replace percussion caps used on U.S. military muzzle-loading firearms equipped with the percussion lock ignition system.

The Maynard System operated like a roll of caps used in a child's cap pistol. It consisted of thin shellacked paper tape that contained fulminate of mercury primers imbedded in its surface. When a gun's hammer was cocked, a single primer would automatically advance over its percussion lock nipple, eliminating the need to prime the gun with a percussion cap, and thus reducing one of the steps in the muzzle loading process.

Although the Maynard System attracted the attention of the U.S. government, the U.S. Army's Ordnance board was initially hesitant to adopt this design. However, it got the enthusiastic backing of the then Secretary of War and future Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Before and after manufacturing began on new firearms equipped with the Maynard System, large quantities of military flintlock firearms were converted to the System, such as the .69 caliber U.S. Model 1816 Musket¹ and the .69 caliber U.S. Model 1840 Musket².

The first firearm to be manufactured by a national armory and equipped with the Maynard System integral with its lock was the Model 1855 U.S. Percussion Rifle-Musket. A total of 59,273 of these were manufactured by Springfield and Harpers Ferry Armories during the years 1857 to 1861. The Model 1855 was the first U.S. military arm to fire the .58 caliber Minié Ball³.

The .58 caliber Model 1855 U.S. Percussion Rifle was the second firearm to be equipped with the Maynard System. A total of 7,317 of these rifles were manufactured by Harpers Ferry Armory in the years 1857 to 1861. Flayderman (1998: 457) states that this model is historically of interest as the final product by a national armory in the category of officially-adopted rifles of muzzle-loading type.

The third firearm equipped with the Maynard System was the .58 caliber Model 1855 Percussion Pistol Carbine. This gun had an attachable stock and was intended for use on horseback as a pistol and as a carbine when on foot. In the years 1855 to 1857, Springfield Armory manufactured 4,021 of these pistol carbines.

Unfortunately, the Maynard System was unreliable. It was delicate and fouled easily with mud and debris. The primers often misfired, and the springs that fed the tape also suffered problems. Fortunately, the Model 1855's were designed to use either the Maynard System or percussion caps, and so the firearms remained functional even when the Maynard System failed. Model 1855's were used throughout the American Civil War with percussion caps.

The Ordnance Department abandoned the Maynard system and went back to the standard percussion-lock-equipped .58 caliber muskets, beginning with the Springfield Model 1861 U.S. Percussion Rifle-Musket, and ending with the Springfield Model 1863 Rifle Musket Type I and Type II. Flayderman (1998: 462) states that the Type II is the last U.S. martial regulation arm of muzzle-loading design.

Footnotes

1. 625,000 manufactured by Springfield and Harpers Ferry Armories in 1816-1844, 20,000 converted to the Maynard Tape Primer System in 1856-1858.
2. 30,421 manufactured by Springfield and Harpers Ferry Armories in 1840-1846, 2000 converted to the Maynard Tape primer System in 1848-1849.
3. Minié Ball – A type of muzzle-loading spin-stabilized rifle bullet named after its co-developer Claude-Étienne Minié. It came to prominence in the Crimean War and the American Civil War.

References

Flayderman, Norm

1998 *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*. 7th Edition. Krause Publications, Iola, WI.

HL EBOOKS

2019 "Edward MAYNARD tape-primer system US Patent no. 4,208 – 1845."

<http://www.hlebooks.com/patents/maynard/mayn01.htm>, accessed July 2019

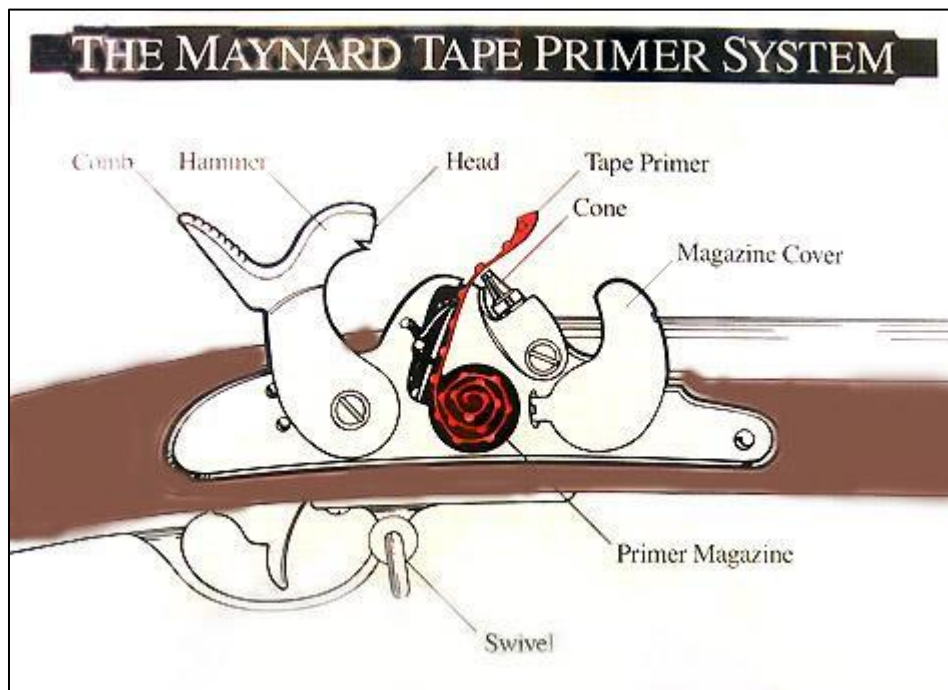
Tumblr

2019 "Maynard Tape Primer". *Historic Fire Arms*, <https://www.historicalfirearms.info/post/167430033734/maynard-tape-primer-in-1845-edward-maynard-a/embed>, accessed July 2019.

Wikipedia

2019 "Maynard tape primer," *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maynard_tape_primer, accessed July 2019.

2019 "Springfield Model 1855". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Springfield_Model_1855, accessed July 2019.



The Maynard Tape Primer System. Public domain image

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

September 19, 2019 – Annual General Meeting. Program by Dub Crook - **The Early Archeology and Paleoanthropology of China”.**

October 17, 2019 – Dan M. Worrall, Late Pleistocene through Holocene paleogeography of the Southeast Texas coast and Charting the development of coastal southeast Texas cultures during a period of rising sea level: an application of paleogeographic maps and GIS-based archeological databases.

November 21, 2019 – Joshua Farrar – Dumped and Forgotten – Civil War Artifacts recovered from Buffalo Bayou at Milam Street Bridge

December 2019 – Linda Gorski - Overview of HAS Activities for the year 2019

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 for the September issue no later than 26th August.

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

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