



Thursday, February 13th, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.
**“Digging Colonial Texas: Past, Present, and Future Archeology at
San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site”**
Dr. Sarah Chesney

Calling all avid Texas historians and archeologists!!!! The February meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held on **Thursday, February 13, 6:30pm.** at the **Trini Mendenhall Community Center** located at **1414 Wirt Road** in West Houston. **(Please note this is a week earlier than our normally scheduled third Thursday meetings!).** Professional archeologist, Dr. Sarah Chesney will present a program on archeological excavations at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, just west of Katy, Texas. Snacks and social including our popular Show and Tell features kick off at 6:30pm. with the program beginning at 7 pm. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public and there is plenty of free parking.

First designated as a State Archeological Landmark in 1983 and subsequently added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2016, San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site is one of the most significant archeological sites in colonial Texas history. The first formal archeological survey on the site dates to 1964, and several subsequent surveys have indicated the presence of significant archeological resources below ground. This presentation will discuss the work that has been done on the site in the past, the results of the most recent testing done over the past year (with lots of help from HAS) and some of the plans for future work beginning this spring.



Founded in 1823 by Stephen F. Austin as the capital of the recently established Austin Colony in Mexican Texas, the town of San Felipe de Austin was a melting pot of ideas, people, and languages from across Mexico and the United States. Settlers and residents of Austin’s colony came to San Felipe de Austin to receive their land grants, enter into building and settlement contracts, purchase supplies, and learn of the latest news from Mexico and the frontier. Although small by modern standards – at its height there were approximately 50 buildings in town and about 600 residents – the town of San Felipe de Austin was the second largest in Mexican Texas and served as the *de facto* seat of local government.

As tensions between Anglo settlers and the Mexican government escalated in the 1830s and talk turned toward revolution, San Felipe de Austin became a flashpoint, and both a real and a symbolic target of General Santa Ana after the fall of the Alamo. On March 29, 1836, the town of San Felipe de Austin was burned to the ground, and residents fled north as part of a larger movement known as the Runaway Scrape. After the end of the fighting, the government of the newly formed Republic of Texas moved west, and the town of San Felipe de Austin faded into memory. Today 70 acres of the original town comprise San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, and it remains one of the most significant archeological sites in colonial Texas history.

A native Texan, Dr. Sarah Chesney was born and raised in Austin, and has wanted to be an archeologist since she was 8 years old. She earned her BA in Anthropology and Classical Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in 2005 and her MA (2009) and PhD (2014) from the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Sarah has worked as a professional archeologist for over a decade across the Mid-Atlantic in Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania including as a member of the archeological crew at Colonial Williamsburg. She moved back to Texas in 2017 and was hired as the first site-specific archeologist for the Historic Sites Division of the Texas Historical Commission in January 2018. She is an active member of the Houston Archeological Society and the Texas Archeological Society, and currently serves on the Executive Board of the TAS as the President-Elect. As the onsite archeologist at San Felipe de Austin, Sarah is developing a permanent public archeology program that will honor both the significant archeological resources of this important site while using those resources to educate visitors about the importance of this place and the value of preserving the past for future generations.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact HAS president, Linda Gorski at lindagorski@cs.com.

President's Message – Linda Gorski

It's that time of year again when I give my appeal to all our members who have not yet renewed their memberships in the Houston Archeological Society to do so as soon as possible.

The new membership year began in January, but we extend a three-month grace period to our members to renew. That grace period ends in March and I hope by then YOU will have renewed your membership. HAS offers (by far) the most "bang for your buck" compared to similar organizations. Here's what your membership will cost:

Student - \$15 Year
Individual - \$25 year
Family - \$30
Year Contributing - \$35+ _____



And here are just a few of the benefits of your membership include:

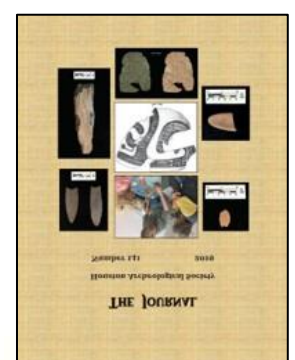
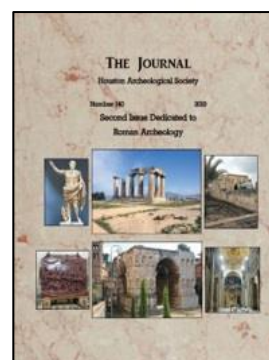
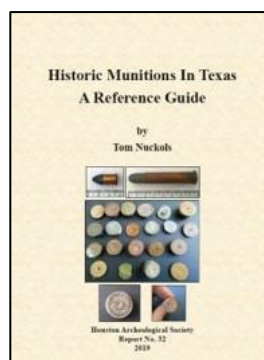
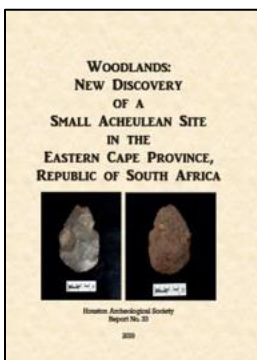
Being a part of the largest regional archeological society in the state of Texas. We will keep you informed about historical and archeological events and activities both local and statewide thanks to our unique networking opportunities.

The opportunity (and privilege) to dig with us at archeological sites such as San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, Kleb Woods Nature Center, the Frost Town site in downtown Houston, the Houston Arboretum and others. You will also be given the opportunity to work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites.

You will receive advanced notice of our monthly meetings where extremely knowledgeable speakers give presentations on topics that cover both prehistoric and historic archeology. (See my President's message in the January 2020 HAS newsletter for a complete list of programs for 2020)

Receiving our fantastic monthly newsletter, The Profile, that is full of timely and relevant information.

Complimentary copies of professionally written Journals and Reports that HAS publishes each year. Below are the reports and journals we published in 2019 alone!!! (these Journals and Reports sell on Amazon.com for \$20.00 or more – each!!! But as an HAS member you receive them for FREE!)



And these are just a few benefits of your membership in the Houston Archeological Society. You can download a copy of our membership form here <https://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>

I hope you'll join us for what promises to be an exciting New Year!!! If you have any questions at all about membership in HAS email me at lindagorski@cs.com

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting

January 16, 2020

Happy New Year, and welcome to all new members and guests (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.

Budget for 2020 (Bob Sewell): Bob presented the proposed budget for 2020 to the membership. A proposal was made to place some of the money in our savings account into another interest-bearing account such as a CD. This item will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting. After discussion, Louis Aulbach made a motion to accept the budget and Mike Woods seconded it. The vote to accept the budget as presented was unanimous. If any member is interested in seeing a copy of the budget for 2020, please contact Bob Sewell.

Membership (Bob Sewell): It is time to renew memberships! So far this year, we have 95 members, with about a dozen folks renewing theirs tonight

Bob still has HAS hats available for a \$10.00 donation.

Proposed changes to Constitution (Beth Kennedy): The new amendment that will replace the current HAS Pledge in our Constitution was displayed to the audience. Additionally, all members received the amended pledge in an email from Linda Gorski. A motion to change the Constitution to reflect the new Pledge was made by Louis Aulbach. Mike Woods seconded the motion. Voting was taken by a show of hands, and the new Pledge was adopted unanimously.

New Business:

Reports and Journals (Dub Crook and Louis Aulbach): If you have not picked up your new publications, please see Louis at the table before you leave. Dub stated that in 2020, there will be four new publications, including 2 special reports and 2 journals.

Monthly Show and Tell: For tonight's "Show and Tell" Jack Farrell displayed his collection of various types of points and ornaments dating from the Bronze Age through the Iron Age from countries such as Japan, Greece, Rome, China and Pakistan. Also, Betsy Wittenmyer displayed artifacts she collected while "mudlarking" on the Thames River foreshore during Low Tide in December of 2019. Thanks to Jack and Betsy!

Projects and Events:

Emergency Salvage Archeology Project at The Arboretum (Linda Gorski): HAS has been screening 21 dirt piles from the Camp Logan site at the Arboretum. The PI on this project is Mike Quennoz of Gray and Pape. Please watch for emails from Bob about future work days. Also **Important:** February 1 will be Public Outreach Day at the Arboretum. We need volunteers! Please see Bob if you are interested!

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site (Sarah Chesney): The spring plan is to continue shovel testing, as well as to carry out full excavations during March and April. Sarah is working on getting approval for this project which will entail having Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays as work days, with one day being designated HAS Day. Members may work on other days as well. The TAS Academy 101 will be held at San Felipe de Austin for the second time in May. Also, please see Sarah's poster on the work at San Felipe that was presented at the 2019 Society for Historical Archeology conference in Boston.

February 29th: TWO public outreach events will be held, one at the Spring Creek Heritage Festival and the other for the Boy Scout event in Liberty, Texas. We will need volunteers!

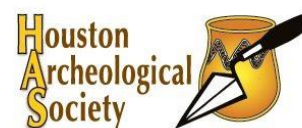
February Program: Dr. Sarah Chesney will present an update on archeology at San Felipe de Austin on **February 13!**

Tonight's program, "An Update on the Peopling of the Americas," was presented by Wilson "Dub" Crook, who for the past several years has opened up our presentations in January! Many thanks to Dub, HAS Board Member, whose presentations are always interesting and informative!

Beth Kennedy, Secretary

**TAS 2020
Annual Meeting**
October 23 - 25
Houston, Texas

*Sponsoring
Local
Societies*



91st Annual Texas Archeological Society Meeting, October 23 – 25, Houston, Texas

As most of you already know, the Houston Archeological Society is hosting the 91st Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting October 23 – 25, 2020. Known as “The Gathering of the Clan”, we expect 400+ avocational and professional archeologists from across Texas and from surrounding states to attend. The Fort Bend Archeological Society and the Brazosport Archeological Society will join us in sponsoring what we hope will be the most successful TAS meeting ever. You will be receiving much more information about this important meeting in the coming months in each issue of the Profile. We have also set up a page on our website about this meeting and the link is www.tas_annual_meeting_2020_main

Here are some things you need to know **NOW** about this very important meeting:

Special Rate Hotel Reservations at the Omni for October 22 – 25 now available!

Many plans are already in the works for this meeting which will be held at the Omni Hotel Westside, at I-10 and Eldridge Parkway. We sponsored the 2015 TAS meeting at this location and it was a huge success. We hope to repeat that in 2020. The cost of the hotel rooms this year will be \$119 which includes free parking in over 600 spaces at the hotel. The Omni has set up a direct link for reservations to the TAS meeting. You can access the link here to make early reservations at <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/houston-westside/meetings/tas-91st-annual-conference-10232020>

First Call for Papers

Professional Archeologists Dr. Jason Barrett and Dr. Gus Costa have already started collecting abstracts of papers and poster presentations for this meeting and have published their First Call for Papers. See their complete article on page 10 in our January 2020 HAS newsletter at <https://www.txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2020/2020%20January%20Profile.pdf> Abstracts must be submitted through the online web form available at the 2020 TAS Meeting Page <https://forms.gle/spW25x6eKKDBRtJz7>

Four \$500 Scholarships available for Students

The Houston Archeological Society had planned to offer two \$500 scholarships to college students attending the meeting who will also present a paper or a poster presentation. However, thanks to a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous we are now able to offer FOUR \$500 scholarships! These scholarships should pay for meeting registration including lunch on Saturday and the Saturday night banquet, two night's accommodation at the Omni, and an annual membership to TAS. If you'd like to apply for this scholarship please contact HAS Education and Scholarship Coordinator Sharon Menegaz at smenegaz@rcseaglesonline.org

Public Forum and Banquet Speakers Announced

We are very excited to announce our two major speakers for the event. Friday night's Public Forum will feature professional archeologist Doug Boyd with Prewitt and Associates who will give a presentation on the exciting excavations at the Frost Town site in downtown Houston where over 250,000 artifacts were recovered. The Saturday night Banquet speaker will be noted rock art expert and founder of the SHUMLA School for Rock Art Research, Dr. Carolyn Boyd. Watch this space next month for complete information on both these speakers and their presentations.

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact co-chairs Linda Gorski at lindagorski@cs.com or Bob Sewell at robert-sewell@att.net.

Houston Arboretum and Nature Center Archeology Day Saturday, February 1st, 2020 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Attention HAS members! We need **YOU** to volunteer for this important Public Outreach program on Saturday, February 1st, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. We need HAS members to man the screens and show the public how we screen dirt to recover artifacts. Sharon Menegaz and Linda Gorski will be running the show and tell and educational tables and could use some help there, too. Many of you have already signed up to volunteer for this project but if you have not and you'd like to participate, please email robert-sewell@att.net. HAS members who participate will receive a free Arboretum parking pass. Volunteers should arrive around 8:00 a.m. to help set up before visitors arrive. Here are all the details from the Arboretum's media release.

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2020 (Weather permitting)

Time: 9am – 12pm

Ages: All ages are welcome

Cost: FREE

Discover history's secrets as we take a glimpse into the past. Join the Houston Arboretum and Houston Archeology Society as we present Arboretum Archeology Day! Learn about tools of the trade, see prehistoric and historic artifacts, and examine real bones and skulls from native animals. Put your archeology skills to the test with pottery measuring and ceramic reconstruction.

Soil Screening Lab

Ready to get your hands dirty? Join our team of archeologists as they screen soil for artifacts* in a real archeology salvage site! Learn more the about the archeology process from screening to bagging and tagging!

Cost: \$5 per person

Ages: 5 and up. Parents must register and accompany children at all times.

Time: 30 min time slots are available from 9am-12pm

Registration is required.

What to bring: Please dress for the out of doors, including closed-toe shoes. For safety reasons participants wearing sandals or flip-flops will not be admitted to the site. Gloves will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own pair.

*Participants will not be allowed to keep any items they recover.



Notes on Munitions

Rimfire and Center-fire Cartridge Basics, Part 2

The History of the Rimfire Cartridge

By Tom Nuckols

INTRODUCTION

A rimfire cartridge has its primer sealed internally around the rim of its base. A gun's firing pin striking any part of the cartridge's base will crush it and ignite the primer (Figure 1 & 2). Unlike the reloadable center-fire cartridge, the rimfire cartridge cannot be reloaded, and it is considered a single use form of ammunition. The cartridge is designed to be used once.

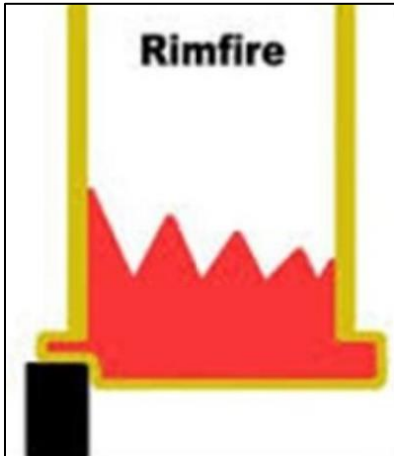


Figure 1. The black square represents the firing pin of a gun striking the base of a cartridge. GUNADVICE.



Figure 2. Firing pin imprint on the base of a .22 caliber rimfire cartridge. RIMFIRECENTRAL.COM.

HISTORY

In 1845, Louis-Nicholas Flobert (1819-1894), a Swiss gunsmith living in France, invented a copper rimfire cartridge that was about the size of a musket percussion cap. The cartridge had a case length of 0.284 inches and a hollow rim that contained a percussion sensitive priming compound. A spherical lead bullet of .22 caliber with a grain weight of approximately 18, was crimped to the mouth of the cartridge to hold it in place (Figure 3). The cartridge did not contain any gun powder. When fired in a gun, the priming compound alone contained enough power to propel the bullet at sufficient velocity for short range shooting. Flobert's cartridge became known as the "6mm Flobert" or the "BB Cap."

The 6mm Flobert was a major development in firearms ammunition because the primer and bullet were combined into a single metallic waterproof case, whereas current flintlock or percussion cap muzzle-loading firearms ammunition at the time consisted of loose gun powder and a bullet.

Flobert also developed breech loading "parlor guns", rifles and pistols that became fashionable for target shooting in homes that contained a shooting parlor or shooting gallery. Indoor residential shooting declined in the early 1900s. However, this activity was replaced by shooting galleries in carnivals, fairs and amusement park arcades.



Figure 3. A .22 BB Cap on the left and a .22 Short on the right. NES

In 1856, Horace Smith (1808-1893) and Daniel Wesson (1825-1906) formed a partnership¹ in Springfield, Massachusetts, called the Smith & Wesson Revolver Company (S&W) to develop and manufacture a new revolver and cartridge combination.

In 1857, Wesson invented a rimfire cartridge based on the 9mm Flobert. Wesson's design consisted of a .22 caliber conical shaped lead bullet with a grain weight of approximately 29, inserted into the mouth of a cartridge case. The case had an expanded length of 0.421 inches and held 4 grains of black gun powder. Wesson's new rimfire cartridge design became known as the "No 1" or "22/100s" pistol cartridge. It is known today as the .22 Short (Figure 3).

Also, in 1857, S&W, began the production of a 7-shot revolver of their invention that used the .22 Short cartridge. The revolver was named the Model No.1, and it would revolutionize the firearms industry. It was also the first of a long line of revolver models to carry the famed S&W name. When production of the Model No. 1 ended in 1881, approximately 260,000 had been manufactured.

During and after the American Civil War, approximately 75 different rimfire cartridge calibers and the guns that fired them were developed in America and Europe. The largest of these was the .58 caliber Miller, used in the 1867 Miller breech-loading conversion system of the muzzle-loading Model 1861 Springfield percussion rifle musket. The .58 caliber Miller rimfire cartridge was manufactured by ammunition companies until 1910.

The demise of the rimfire cartridge began around 1900 due to the increasing popularity of the reloadable and more powerful center-fire cartridge. By 1918, the number of rimfire cartridge calibers manufactured had declined to 32, and by the 1930s, the number was 17. After World War II, fewer than 10 rimfire cartridge calibers were being produced. By the 1950s, only several types of 22 caliber rimfires were available. Today, most of those .22s are still commercially available, including the BB Cap and the .22 Short. In 2002, a new rimfire, the .17 caliber HMR (Hornady Magnum Rimfire) was introduced to the shooting public.

Next month: Part 3, The History of the Center-Fire Cartridge.

1 This was their second partnership. Their first, called the Smith & Wesson Company, was in 1852 in Norwich, Connecticut, when they began manufacturing a lever-action repeating magazine handgun called the Volcanic. The Volcanic used Rocket Ball ammunition that consisted of a deeply hollowed out lead bullet containing black gun powder and a percussion cap. The percussion cap was blown out of the bore upon firing. In 1855, Smith and Wesson sold their shares of ownership in the company to the newly organized Volcanic Repeating Arms Company. In 1857, the company entered bankruptcy after being taken over by Oliver Winchester and renamed the New Haven Arms Company, which evolved into the Winchester Repeating Arms Company in 1866.

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2020 RWS Ammunition Flobert 6mm Ball Breech Caps (BB). <https://www.rebelgunworks.com.au/products/rws-flobert-6mm-ball-breech-caps-100pk>. Accessed January, 2020.

ARCHEO CORNER: Analytical Archeology: How X-Rays Can Be Used in Archeology

Part I: X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)

Wilson W. "Dub" Crook, III

All inorganic substances are composed of minerals, which in turn are composed of crystals. Each crystal is made up of atoms which are arranged in a specific regular order called a lattice. Like a fingerprint, the arrangement of the atoms in a crystal lattice is unique for each mineral.

X-rays are a form of high energy electromagnetic radiation which occurs in waves. When X-rays encounter crystalline substances, the atoms in the crystal lattice scatters the X-ray waves. Just as an ocean wave striking a rock produces secondary waves emanating back from the rock, so an X-ray striking an atom produces secondary waves emanating from the atom. This phenomenon, known as X-ray scattering or elastic scattering, can be measured with both the angle of the diffraction (or reflection) and its intensity being characteristic of each atom in a crystal lattice. A regular array of atoms produces a regular array of scattered waves which are unique for each individual mineral.

Machines which produce and measure X-ray reflections are known as X-ray diffractometers. X-ray diffractometers consist of three main components: (1) an X-ray tube, (2) a sample holder, and (3) an X-ray detector. X-rays are generated in a cathode ray tube by heating a filament to produce electrons. The electrons are accelerated toward the target substance by applying very high voltage and bombarding the sample with electrons. These electrons in turn knock electrons out of the atoms in the target sample whose intensity and angle of reflection can be measured using an X-ray detector. The detector is rotated during the analysis in order to pick up all reflections from a substance. To maximize the amount of reflections, the sample being analyzed is ground to a fine powder and placed in a sample holder, typically made of aluminum or glass. The detector records and processes the diffracted X-ray signal and converts the signal to a count rate which is then output to either a printer or a computer monitor. A typical X-ray analysis of a substance takes anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour to complete.

Applications to Archeology

X-ray diffraction or XRD can be used to identify a small amount of material (typically the size of a pencil eraser or more when ground to a powder). This can be especially helpful in identifying ochres or paints left on stone artifacts, ceramics, or even rock walls. Even if the sample to be measured is a mixture of two or more substances, X-ray diffraction can often decipher the combination of materials used. Knowing the mineral content of such stains or powders can potentially lead the archeologist to its source, which in turn, can help identify patterns of prehistoric movement of people.

For example, at the Sister Grove site in Collin County, I found several small grinding stones (manos) which were covered on one surface with a dark black substance. I carefully scraped some of this material off the sample and further ground it to a very fine powder using an agate mortar and pestle. When submitted to X-ray diffraction analysis, the results indicated that the black material was a combination of the manganese minerals hausmannite, psilomelane, and pyrolusite. The closest place these manganese minerals occurred was near Viola, Oklahoma, 150 km north of the Sister Grove site. Thus, the Late Prehistoric people along the East Fork of the Trinity River were purposefully traveling long distances to obtain (or trading for) black manganese minerals to grind into a black ochre.

Similarly, at the Brushy Creek (41HU81) Clovis site in Hunt County, Mark Hughston and I recovered a Clovis point whose distal end was coated with a red substance. We carefully scraped off some of this material, ground it

to a fine powder, and X-rayed it. The result showed the material to be the mineral hematite, iron oxide, otherwise known as red ochre – a substance found on many Clovis artifacts across North America.

While a strong analytical tool, the negative side to using X-ray diffraction is that the target material is destroyed in the sense that it must be ground to a fine powder prior to analysis. However, once ground, the substance can be preserved and re-analyzed a number of times. Also, X-ray diffraction typically cannot always identify where a material originated. For example, if part of a chert artifact were detached and ground to a powder, X-ray diffraction could tell you that the material was chert but it could not tell you if the chert was from the Edwards Plateau or some other source location. For that information, archeologists must use other tools like X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) which will be the subject of another article in this series.



Small one-hand mano from the Sister Grove site in Collin County showing prominent black staining on the surface which proved to be manganese oxide minerals from southern Oklahoma.

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HAS Memberships for 2020 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!!!!

Announcing Texas Archeological Society's Ceramics Academy, San Angelo, Texas

March 28-29, 2020

In partnership with the Concho Valley Archeological Society and
Fort Concho National Historic Landmark

Join the TAS for this two-day event that provides a comprehensive background and understanding of prehistoric and historic ceramics from archeological sites. Expect a hands-on learning environment! The Academy will be held at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark.



To Register, visit: <https://www.txarch.org/academy02>
Scholarship Opportunities: <https://www.txarch.org/scholarships>
Registration Fee: \$100 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available.

Photos courtesy of Texas Beyond History and Jenni Kimbell

Artifact Recovered at Frost Town named “January Artifact of the Month” at Conservation Research Lab at Texas A & M

One of the artifacts that HAS members recovered during work with Doug Boyd, archeologist with the CRM firm Prewitt and Associates, at the Frost Town Archeological site in Houston has been chosen as the artifact of the month by The Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A & M. The “Frost Town Cowboy” has an interesting history! It was recovered by HAS members screening fill from Cistern Feature 1092 in Block C at Frost Town. Thanks to Karen Martindale at the CRL at Texas A & M for sharing this article and photos with us and for telling us “the rest of the story”.

Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A&M - January 6 at 11:55 AM

January’s artifact of the month is a diecast cowboy from Frost Town, an early 1800s settlement named after the Frost family, in what is now Houston, Texas. The Frost Town project is a collaborative effort between the TxDOT's Archeological Studies Program, Prewitt and Associates, Inc., and the Houston Archeological Society.

The term “diecast” refers to a method of casting where a molten mixture of metals called “Zamak” or “Mazak” (zinc, aluminum, magnesium, and copper) were cast in a mold under pressure to create figures with precise surface detail and great strength. Earlier on, a lead alloy may be used instead, and later, plastic would often be injected into the mixture to make the figures more lightweight and cheaper to produce. The first diecast toys were produced in the early 20th century, generally consisting of basic vehicles with no interior. Lead and iron impurities were common in the earliest period (pre-World War II), resulting in “zinc pest”, which would cause the casting to distort, crack or crumble.

The Frost Town cowboy was produced by the Barclay Manufacturing Company, which was founded in 1924 in West Hoboken, New Jersey; the company was the largest manufacturer of toy soldiers in the United States in the 1930s and early 1940s. Two examples of similar figures are shown below – one a match for the figure, but not the paint, and one a match for the paint, but with a hat brim; it is possible that the brim, as one of the thinnest sections, corroded, as the base of the Frost Town cowboy, which would also have been fairly thin, is also missing.



When it arrived at CRL, the figure was coated in a small amount of concretion, but enough of the surface was visible that we could see small sections of paint remaining and so we knew we must proceed carefully. We mechanically removed the concretion, collecting any flecks of paint that chipped off during the process. For most metals, we will treat them using a process called electrolytic reduction, but XRF analysis showed that the cowboy was made using a high amount of lead, and comparatively small amounts of iron, zinc, and copper. Lead tends to be one of the more stable metals in archaeological

sites, whether excavated from land or water, so we decided to chemically treat the surface of the artifact in order to disturb the paint as little as possible. After conservation, it is now possible to see not only the yellow on the vest and red on the lips and scarf, but also the blue shirt, green shoes, black eyes, and brown face.

References:

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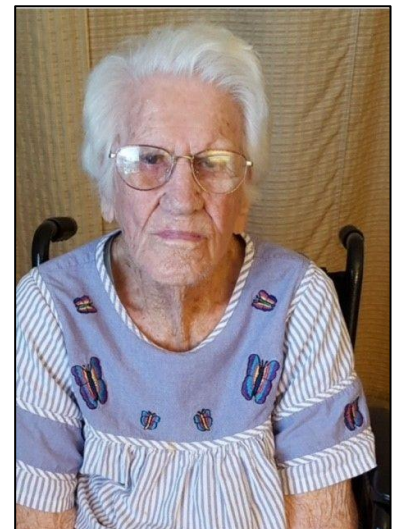
The Orphan Train

By Sarah Hudgins and Beatrice Fojtik

Recently the Houston Museum of Natural Science hosted a fantastic program on a piece of Texas history that most people have never heard of – the Riders of the Orphan Train. We are honored that Sarah Hudgins, daughter of longtime HAS members Joe and Merle Hudgins, submitted this wonderful story about Beatrice Fojtik, a child who was transported to Texas on the Orphan Train.

Beatrice Fojtik of East Bernard, Texas was born in Bellevue Hospital New York, New York April 25, 1921 to Josephine Flanagan, an immigrant from Ireland. Per New York Foundling Hospital operated by the Catholic Church’s Sisters of Charity, one of the oldest and largest child welfare agencies at that time: during this period the influx of very poor Western European immigrants and the numerous social disruptions were among conditions that led to an epidemic of infanticide and child abandonment.

The end of WWI in 1918 welcomed a new era in New York where, during the 1920’s, mobsters, jazz, illegal booze and commerce was in full force in the city hidden behind lots of glamour and glitz coining the era as “The Roaring 20’s”. In contrast was the poverty of Irish immigrants living in close knit tenement conditions. Per the *Irish Times*, Irish were relegated to densely packed hovels in the urban shanty town of Five Points on the Lower East Side of New York City. It was not uncommon for five families, about 20 people, to share one room that measured 12 ft by 12 ft having no ventilation nor sanitation conditions. By 1860, over 300,000 people lived in one square mile of NYC Five Point area. Per *History of the National Crime Syndicate*: Five Points Gang dominated the streets of Lower East Side and run by notorious mobster Paul Kelly who recruited prominent criminals, including Al Capone. The streets of this Irish community were not only unlivable but unsafe.



Beatrice Fojtik of East Bernard, Texas

Per a letter from New York Foundling Hospital: Beatrice’s biological mother was 29-year-old Irish immigrant Josephine Flanagan, single and employed as an elevator operator. The letter states Beatrice’s biological mother abandoned her at birth. After the required waiting period for someone to claim the newborn, New York Foundling Hospital accepted the unnamed infant May 9, 1921; a priest named her Beatrice for her Irish heritage. In June 28, 1922 Beatrice was baptized in the NYFH Chapel; age 14 months, Beatrice, in the arms of a nun, began her long journey to East Bernard, Texas on the “Orphan Train”.

Orphan Trains were the idea of Charles Loring Brace, a minister who was troubled by the enormous number of homeless and impoverished children in New York City. Per history of “Orphan Train”: 1854-1929, an estimated 250,000 orphaned, abandoned, and homeless children were placed throughout the United States and Canada via the Orphan Train Movement. When the orphan train movement began, it was estimated 30,000 abandoned children were living on the streets of New York City surviving as best they could to find food and shelter.

Roman Catholic parishioners in destination regions were asked to adopt these children; parish priests provided applications to approved families who would be designated as the adoptive parents of New York Foundling Hospital's infants and toddlers.

"I was 14 months old when I boarded the Orphan Train to travel to my new family and home in East Bernard. Monseigneur Kuntz was the priest at East Bernard Holy Cross Church. When he received notice from NYC Foundling Hospital looking for families to adopt orphans, he reached out to his parishioners. Mary Kubes Polak, a widow, and her 18-year-old son Frank said they would like to adopt an orphan. Frank wanted to adopt a boy to help him with the farm, but Mary said no, as she always wanted a little girl to love and raise. Frank said fine but he was going to raise me as a boy, and he did! Monseigneur Kuntz arranged with the Foundling Hospital to finalize an adoption for a 14-month old girl in their care. I am so blessed that little girl was me! The only thing I recall, as I think back about my trip to Texas, was sitting on a Nun's lap and the train's whistle blowing all the time. The train traveled from New York to New Orleans, to Galveston and then to Sealy, Texas. I was picked up in Sealy by my new family and taken to their farm on the Bernard Prairie north of East Bernard, Texas.

I loved my brother Frank and would follow him everywhere. My adoptive Mother was very protective of me and was always on Frank to not let anything happen to her little girl. I remember her saying "Frank don't let anything happen to my girl!"



Beatrice Fojtik as a child

My new Mother and brother wanted to provide me with the best life possible and wanted to make sure I was properly educated. Back then if you lived in the country there was no way to get back and forth every day to the Catholic School in town. Monseigneur Kuntz decided to open a boarding house with the Nuns so that I would have a place to stay in town during the week and go to school. He also opened it up to any other country kids whose parents wanted them to go to school. There were about 10 of us kids who boarded in town during the week with the Nuns. When I was not staying at the boarding house, I would walk the 5 miles to school with other kids from the neighboring farms.

One day at the Catholic school the kids started teasing me saying, that my Mother was not my real Mother. By then I had no recollection of not being anywhere else but at my home on the farm with my Mother Mary and my brother Frank, so I did not know what they were talking about. I got in a fight with those kids. The Nuns showed up and told them their behavior was not good and straighten them out. It was after this episode at school I was told I was an orphan from New York City adopted by my Mother Mary. I learned about the orphan train and how it was arranged for me to come to my new home in East Bernard. How blessed I felt that everyone did all that for me so I could be given such a wonderful life. Goodness knows what would have happen to me if I had not been adopted by my Mother Mary.

Frank taught me everything he knew about farming and raising animals. We had a beautiful garden where we grew our own food. My favorite pet was my mule. I loved plowing the fields with my mule. I also liked riding all over the farm on my horse. I learned to milk cows, take care of the farm animals, how to plant and grow cotton and corn. The only thing I learned to cook was sweet rolls and strudel. Every Saturday, I would sit with my Mother Mary in the kitchen while she made them. I even taught the Nuns at the boarding house how to make sweet rolls and strudel. However, I preferred to be out working in the fields of the farm than inside doing housework and cooking.

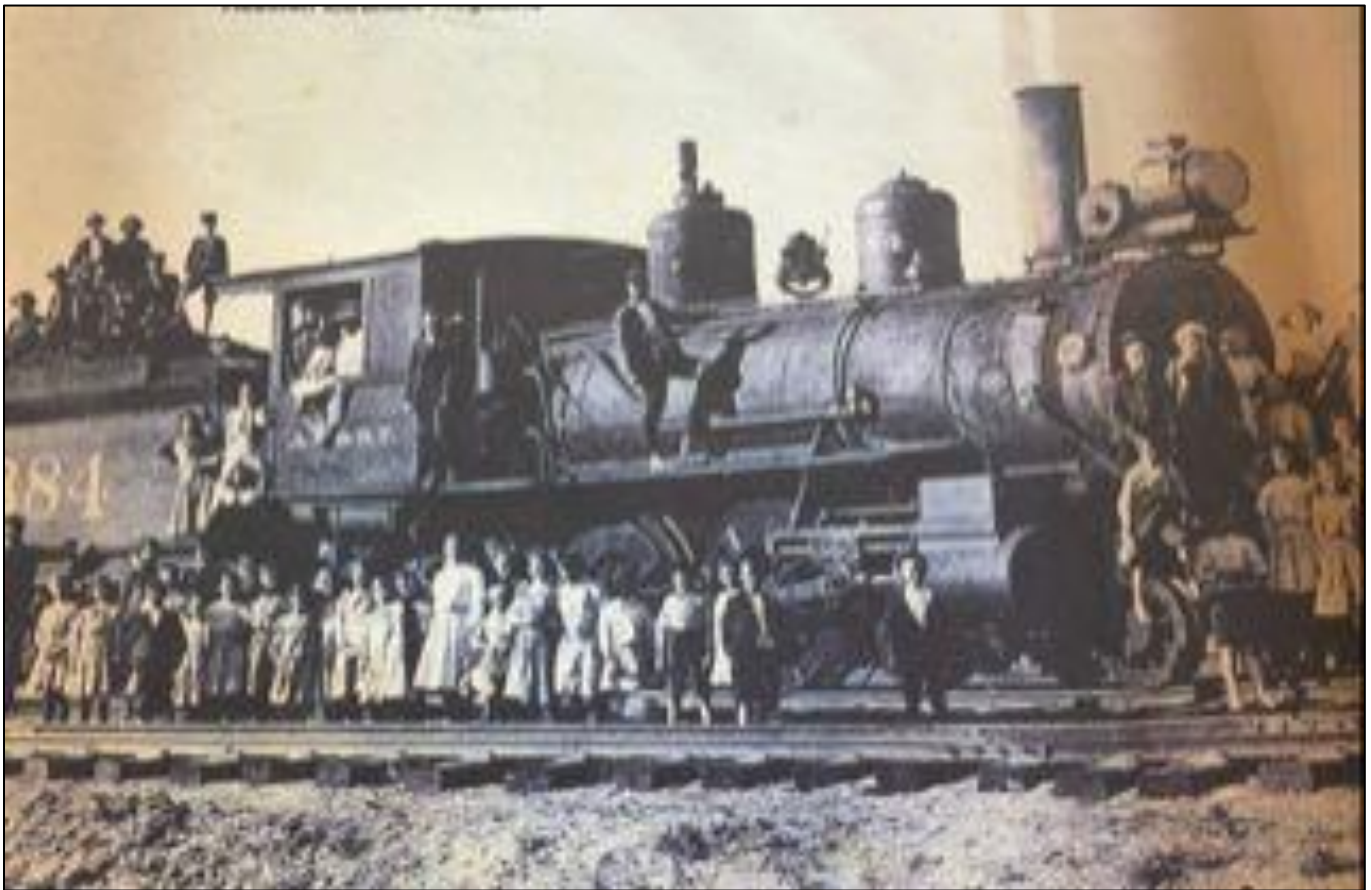
The Catholic school went up to the 7th grade. After that I went to Bernard Prairie School for 8th and 9th grades where the walk was only one mile. After I graduated the 9th grade, I worked on the farm with my brother Frank until I married George Fojtik, Sr., a rice farmer. We had five children. Together we grew cotton, corn and rice. Since I never learned to cook anything but sweet rolls and strudel, George had to teach me to cook. He must have taught me to cook well as I went on to

be a cook for many many years at East Bernard ISD cafeteria. I was so determined though to learn how to make Kolaches, I taught myself and got so good at it that I became a judge for the East Bernard Kolache-Klobase Festival.

What a journey my life has been, from being an Irish orphan in New York City where chances of me surviving were slim, to being raised by a Czech farming family in East Bernard. I grew up with my first language being Czech and became a cotton farmer. I was blessed to have grown up in such a loving family for which I have been thankful for all my life.”

Come All you broken hearted, come and lay your burden down; come kings and queens, come royalty surrender up your crown, come empty handed, come with nothing of your own to claim, come naked, poor, come like a child to ride the Orphan Train. Come you abandoned, you forsaken friendless and alone, come refugees left homesick for some place you've never known; here princes, paupers, criminals and saints are all the same no more or less than God's beloved child aboard this train. It'll take you all the way home, it's gonna take you all the way home. [Excerpt of song *Orphan Train* by Lee Ann Womack]

Mrs. Beatrice Fojtik will celebrate her 99th birthday April 25, 2020. She is still very active and enjoys a good game of dominos. Beatrice is thought to be the last surviving orphan who was part of the Orphan Train movement.

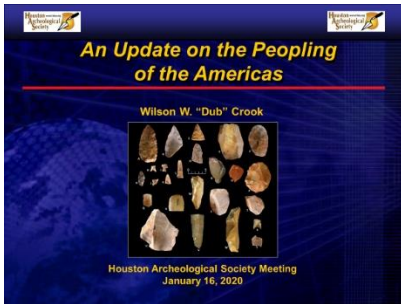


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**UPDATE ON PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS – DUB CROOK’S PRESENTATION
AT THE JANUARY 16 HAS MEETING
By Linda Gorski**

The Houston Archeological Society is blessed with some extraordinarily talented members. One of those is our board member Wilson W. “Dub” Crook. If you attended our first meeting of the year on January 16 you witnessed this firsthand. Dub gave the most amazing talk entitled An Update on the Peopling of the Americas.

He began his lecture by stating that one of the most enduring debates in American archeology centers on the Peopling of the Americas. He then posed the following the following questions:



When did the first settlers arrive?

Where did they come from?

How did they travel here?

What did their toolkit look like?

How did they spread across the continent?

Dub proceeded to discuss the “Clovis Culture” (based on early fluted points) which for years has been the most widely accepted First Americans with their arrival almost becoming a scientific law known as the “Clovis First” theory. He pointed out that recent work at several sites in Texas including Gault, Pavo Real, Brushy Creek and others is changing our view of the Clovis culture and he provided dates for the Clovis culture - 13,500 – 12,700 years BP (before present).

He then discussed artifacts recovered from no less than 19 “Earlier than Clovis sites” around the Americas and, in particular, the Older-than-Clovis artifact assemblage from the Gault site (ca. 13,800-18,000+ B.P.) including large bifaces, stemmed points, cores, blades, scrapers, perforators, etc.



Pre-Clovis artifacts from the Gault site in central Texas.

After the presentation, many of us encouraged him (begged him?) to write a paper on his fantastic talk ... and he has agreed to do so. So, if you missed the presentation, you’ll soon be able to read all about it in a future HAS Journal or Special Report. And, if Dub tells me where he’s giving this lecture in the future, I’ll let you know.

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Fort Bend Archeological Society - Upcoming Meetings:

February 18: Dr. Michelle Marlar will present “The Osiris Temple: An offering which the king gives.” This presentation is based on previous and on-going work Dr. Marlar has conducted in Egypt.

March 17: Dr. Tom Williams will present on the Gault Site in Texas.

April 21: Jason Barrett will present on the lithics collected near Smither’s Lake in Fort Bend County, as well as Diamond Knoll.

All meetings are held at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, Richmond, Texas.

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Programs for 2020

**6:30pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road**

March 19, 2020 – Gary Pinkerton – **Trammels Trace: The First Road to Texas from the North.**

April 16, 2020 – Jeff Girard – **The Caddos and Their Ancestors**

May 14, 2020 – Amy Borgens, Texas State Marine Archeologist – **Boca Chica shipwreck**

June –Normally no meeting TAS Field School activities.

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 March 2020 issue no later than 21st February 2020.

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