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**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Virtual Only  
Featuring Rebecca Shelton, Regional Archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission**

Hello HAS Members,

The March meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will take place on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be held virtually only, via Zoom. A link to the meeting will be sent via email as we get closer to the date.

As our March speaker, we welcome Becky Shelton, Texas Historical Commission archeologist, who will be discussing the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) and the dedicated volunteers who have assisted the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in bringing public archeology to life in their communities for over forty years. Shelton received her Master's in Anthropology from the University of Texas, Arlington, in 2008. While completing her degree, she began working at AR Consultants, Inc., in Dallas, Texas as a Field Technician, then served as a Project Archeologist and Principal Investigator. Shelton conducted desktop evaluations, surveys, and testing for projects in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Before developing a passion for Texas archeology, her background in fine art, art conservation, and collections management fostered an interest in Maya ceramics. From 2009-2013, she participated as the Lab Director/Ceramicist for the Caves Branch Archaeological Project Field School in Belize, teaching artifact identification and analysis.



Since 2014, Shelton has served as a regional archeologist for North-Central and Northeast Texas with the Texas Historical Commission Archeology Division. She provides technical reviews on state and federal development projects related to the Antiquities Code of Texas and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Within the Archeology Division, she works with landowners and consultants to preserve significant archeological sites, and assists with providing protective designation. In addition, she handles public inquiries and requests concerning archeological issues and coordinates with regional archeology societies. As part of public outreach, Shelton delivers presentations, writes articles and web content, provides updates to electronic media, and conducts onsite training. She also participates in archeological investigations, conducts site evaluations and analysis, and prepares reports on the results of these investigations.

Shelton serves as the Coordinator for the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN), the group of highly motivated avocational archeologists, including many HAS members, who assist the THC with the mission of the public archeology program. Within TASN, she manages membership, annual training and workshops, and coordinates with landowners and communities. The Archeology Division of THC is entrusted with the monumental task of maintaining a program dedicated to preserving and interpreting the vast archeological landscape of Texas. Thankfully, archeology is multidisciplinary by nature, and the various opportunities found in the stewardship network appeal to history buffs, cemetery guardians, museum docents, high school educators, master naturalists, and others. Initially, stewards assisted private landowners with identifying archeological sites and provided public outreach and education. However, as the program enters its forty-second year, the breadth of the TASN program has grown. A recent symposium at the Society for American Archeology highlighted the unique and successful collaborative nature of the TASN and provided a forum for discussion on how to grow volunteer networks in the twenty-first century. In Texas, as well as in other rapidly growing states, there continues to be huge need for landowner and community assistance, which usually outpaces our program's ability to address everyone's needs. To meet these increased requests, TASN will continue to collaborate with national and regional organizations, developing and strengthening the program through identification of other preservation partners. More information at [Texas Archeological Stewardship Network](http://Texas Archeological Stewardship Network).

We hope that you will join us via Zoom for this informative lecture. I look forward to seeing you online at the meeting or in the field at our various projects. For more information about this program or the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org).

*See you in the field! Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President*





## President's Message – Bob Sewell



Over the weekend of 2/28-3/1, HAS collaborated in hosting the TAS Zooarcheology and Osteology Academy at Rice University. The Academy was led by Dr. Mary Prendergast, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Rice, and her team. Over forty folks participated during the two-day workshop and it was a great success.

In February, with hunting season over, we recommenced our investigations at the Walnut Tree Hill site near Alleyton. We were pleased to have two new members join us, Brian Cheatham and Scott Bier. Since it had been a while since we had been onsite, in addition to excavations, we carried out a fair amount of cleanup activities.

Our involvement with the First Lego League initiative is continuing, with several HAS members supporting some of the FLL teams by meeting with student groups and offering advice.

Each spring, HAS performs an annual financial audit. An auditing committee is appointed, and this year, HAS members Beth Kennedy, Larry Golden, and Muriel Walker have stepped up to serve. They have met to review the HAS financial records and will be reporting their findings at the March meeting.

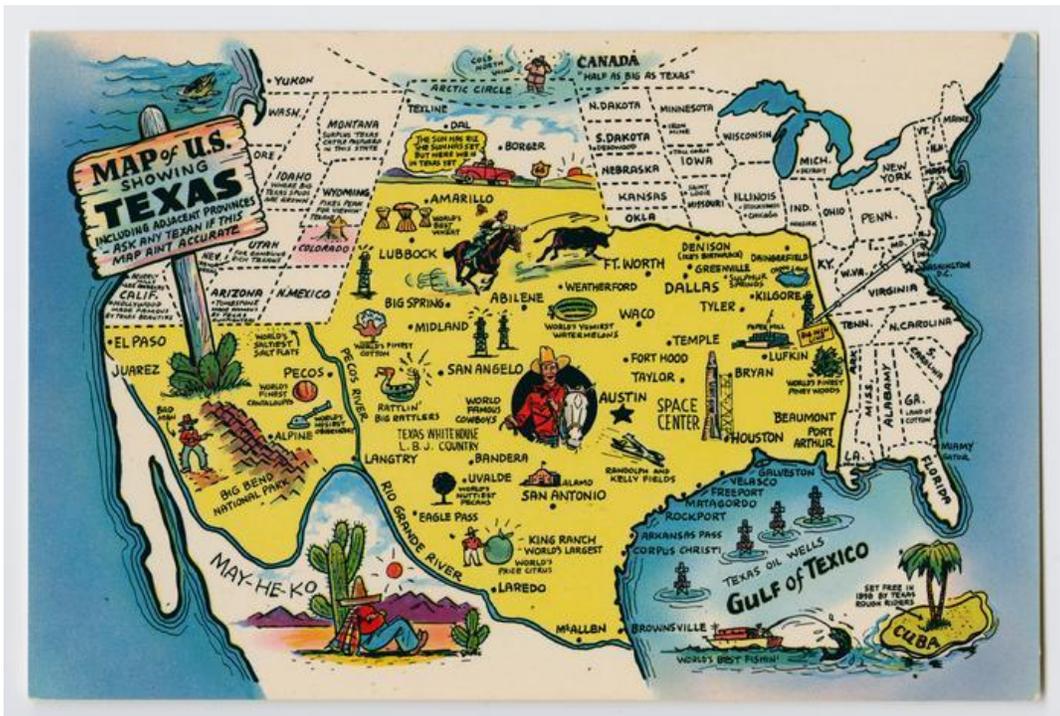
We have planned a laboratory session to continue to clean and process the artifacts recovered from the Lone Oak site. We are pleased to see that this has been heavily subscribed, so we plan to schedule other sessions so that more members can participate. We will be cleaning, categorizing, and recording the artifacts. Watch your email for notices, since these gatherings are restricted to relatively small numbers due to space constraints and the nature of the work.

Reminder - HAS membership renewals for 2026 are now due and will expire at the end of March. We give this grace period, but we hope you will take care of your membership renewal promptly so that you don't miss out on participating in our excavations and other activities. You receive many benefits as a member, such as invitations for our excavation activities, lab sessions, and monthly meetings, both in person or via Zoom. You can easily sign up again using a credit/debit card by going to our membership page at [www.txhas.org/membership.html](http://www.txhas.org/membership.html). If preferred, you may print the form, complete it, and mail it in with your check to the mailing address on our website. Unfortunately, those who have not renewed by April 1, 2026, will be removed from our membership list. I look forward to welcoming you back to HAS for 2026 and seeing many of you out in the field or at our monthly meetings. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, then contact [treasurer@txhas.org](mailto:treasurer@txhas.org). If you are interested in becoming more involved with our public outreach activities, then please contact me at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org).



I look forward to seeing you in the field.  
*Bob Sewell, President*

Right: Postcard of an illustrated map of the United States with Texas being exaggerated in size and filling the majority of the map, UNT Libraries, Knowles Family Postcard Collection (AR0920), University of North Texas Special Collections Special Collections; [ark:/67531/metadcl781595](http://ark:/67531/metadcl781595).  
Below: Globe, free clip art.





## Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2026

**Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.** – Bob Sewell, President. Welcome to all existing and new members. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

**Membership** – Bob Sewell, President. Membership stands at 125 members so far for 2026. Please don't forget to renew your membership before the end of March! Yearly dues are \$15 for students, \$25 for individuals, and \$30 for families. Memberships can be renewed quickly and easily on the HAS website: <https://txhas.org/membership.html>.

**Treasury** – Bob Sewell, President. Funds are looking good.

**HAS Audit Committee** – Bob Sewell, President. The 2026 HAS Audit Committee, consisting of Beth Kennedy, Larry Golden, and Muriel Walker, met recently to conduct an annual review of the books. The results will be announced at next month's meeting.

**Projects** – Bob Sewell, President.

- **Walnut Tree Hill**
  - We recently to this site on February 7 and were joined by some new members, Brian Cheatham and Scott Bier.
- **Lone Oak (41CD168)**
  - Our last visit to this site was on Thursday, February 12.
- **Goloby Site (41WL3)**
  - We will be visiting here again soon; details TBD.
- We are regularly cycling through visits to all three of our active sites. Members interested in participating in site visits may look out for invitations from [fielddirector@txhas.org](mailto:fielddirector@txhas.org).

**Outreach** – Bob Sewell, President.

- The youth robotics competition FIRST Lego League (FLL) has selected archeology as their theme for this year's event. HAS members have been working with a few of these teams, including CFISD's Smith Middle School, who are in the demonstration phase of their robotics project.

**TAS Academy** – Bob Sewell, President. The Texas Archeological Society's upcoming Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy takes place February 28 and March 1 at Rice University. HAS will be helping to host this event. Although registration is full at this time, interested members can still join the waitlist at <https://txarch.org/Academies>. There are two other upcoming Academies: Rock Art in El Paso on March 21-22, also full with a waitlist available, and Archeology 101 in San Angelo on April 10-12, which still has spaces left.

**March 2026 Monthly Meeting** – Our March 19 meeting will feature speaker Becky Shelton with the Texas Historical Commission.

Tonight, Sammi Burke, a New Mexico State University Graduate Assistant, will discuss Insect Imagery in the Mimbres Culture.

**The business meeting was concluded at 6:45 p.m.**

*Noah Newland, HAS Secretary*



Houston, Texas, 1891. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, [www.loc.gov/item/75696598/; http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4034h.pm009150](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4034h.pm009150).



Tramalgon and District Historical Society | History of Traralgon

*The spring season brings numerous conferences and events ~ mark your calendar for these educational opportunities taking place over the next few months.*



**Reminder: TSHA 2026 Annual Meeting, March 4–7 in Austin**  
**Featuring HAS Friends Tiffany Osburn, Sarah Chesney, Brad Jones, Tamra Walter, and Olive Talley**

The 130th TSHA Annual Meeting takes place in Irving, Texas, beginning Wednesday, March 4, through Saturday, March 7, 2026. The schedule includes presentations by HAS friends Tiffany Osburn, Sarah Chesney, Brad Jones, Tamra Walter, and Olive Talley.



Tiffany Osburn (Texas Historical Commission), Sarah Chesney (University of Texas), Brad Jones (Texas Historical Commission), Tamra Walter (Texas Tech), Olive Talley, writer and director, *The Stones Are Speaking*.

The work of the four archeologists reveals how archeology complements and challenges written history. Through studies spanning missions, frontier forts, forgotten cemeteries, and early settlements, the panel will demonstrate how material evidence enriches our understanding of our state’s past and deepens public engagement with its stories. Writer and director Olive Talley will present a 56-minute version of her documentary, followed by a Q&A session. The film follows the remarkable story of Austin archaeologist Mike Collins and his efforts to preserve the Gault Archaeological Site—one of the most significant prehistoric discoveries in the Americas. Collins and his team uncovered evidence of human life in Central Texas dating back 20,000 years, rewriting the timeline of human arrival in North America. HAS members have worked at this site over the years. Information and registration at [TSHA Annual Meeting](#).



**Reminder: Biennial Oklahoma Archaeology Conference, March 5–7 in Norman, Oklahoma**



The conference will feature a Thursday evening opening reception, a Cultural Resource Management fair, Oklahoma Native artists, papers, posters, and indigenous textile workshops presented by University of Arizona PhD candidate Jennifer Byram. Registration is \$15. Conference registration is free for students. [More information](#) and [registration here](#).



**2026 Texas Revolution Rendezvous Symposium ~ San Antonio ~ April 17- 19, 2026**

This symposium will be held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio from Friday, April 17, through Sunday, April 19, 2026. The 1835 Dinner features a menu based on historic foodways and a lecture on the Runaway Scrape presented by historian Stephen L. Hardin. Additional opportunities include tours of historic San Antonio and the Alamo, visits to local museums, artisan vendors, a guided riverboat ride, thought-provoking lectures, panel discussions, and interactive sessions led by esteemed historians and experts. More information at [2026 Texas Revolution Rendezvous](#).





## Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference, April 8-10 in Austin ~ Featuring Carolyn Boyd



Join preservationists, educators, interpreters, historians, archeologists, and heritage tourism professionals at the 2026 Real Places Conference to get inspired, gain practical tools, and connect with people shaping preservation across Texas and beyond. HAS friend Carolyn Boyd will be a featured presenter this year. More information may be found at [Real Places Conference 2026](#).

The many interesting events include a guided [Tour of the Texas General Land Office Archives](#), home to over thirty-five million documents, maps, sketches, and drawings. The tour highlights the GLO's role in managing public lands, preserving historical records, and supporting educators. It features documents from Spanish and Mexican Texas, the Republic era, and statehood, including original land records signed by Stephen F. Austin, James Bowie, Sam Houston, Lorenzo de Zavala, and freedmen, among others who made an impact on Texas history. A variety of maps on display illustrate 500 years of Texas history—from the hemispherical perspective to individual land grants—alongside an exhibit of antique surveying

equipment that preserves Texas' pioneering legacy. The tour also includes the agency Scan Lab, where ongoing digitization efforts help preserve and provide digital access for future generations.

[Digital Mapping of an Old Chinatown as a Preservation Strategy](#) – This session will discuss work preserving the legacy of Houston's Old Chinatown. Once a thriving cultural hub, decades of redevelopment demolished its buildings and pushed its stories to the margins. This session will walk participants through the process of mapping Old Chinatown with GIS technology and community-based research, showing how digital tools can help recover histories. Presenters will also highlight strategies for building partnerships that amplify awareness, deepen public understanding, and inform preservation planning. Attendees will leave with practical insights for combining archival research, oral histories, and digital mapping to tell more inclusive stories, as well as examples of how nonprofit partnerships can strengthen the impact of preservation projects.

[Collaborations in Archeology Education in Brazoria County](#) - Panelists with backgrounds in archeology and education will share successful collaborations in teaching, research, and public outreach. This will include an overview of visits and documentation of Brazoria County plantations conducted by the Brazosport Archaeological Society since the 1980s; the production of research reports on the plantations; a Rice University project that has made these valuable reports available online; the partnership between Rice University and the Texas Historical Commission's Varner-Hogg Plantation and Levi Jordan Plantation state historic sites that has taught students about archeological stewardship; and the creation of an intro-level digital course that has taught Texas archeology to a global audience.

[Volunteering at Olivewood—The Role of Volunteers in Restoring and Preserving a Historic African American Cemetery](#) – A presentation about Houston's historic Olivewood Cemetery, the final resting place of many notable political, religious, and business leaders. In 2003, Descendants of Olivewood Inc. was founded to protect and restore the cemetery. Note: See page 22 of this newsletter to learn more about this Houston landmark, where many HAS members have volunteered. And don't forget that the Texas Historical Commission seeks applications for historic Texas Cemetery designations year-round at [Historic Texas Cemetery Designation Texas Historical Commission](#). A cemetery is eligible for designation if it is at least fifty years old and is deemed worthy of recognition for its historical associations. The very nature of a cemetery being a landmark of a family's or community's presence is considered to validate the criteria of historical associations. Any individual, organization, or agency may submit a request for designation. Content from Texas Historical Commission.



## 2026 Alliance for Texas History Annual Conference, May 27-29, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth



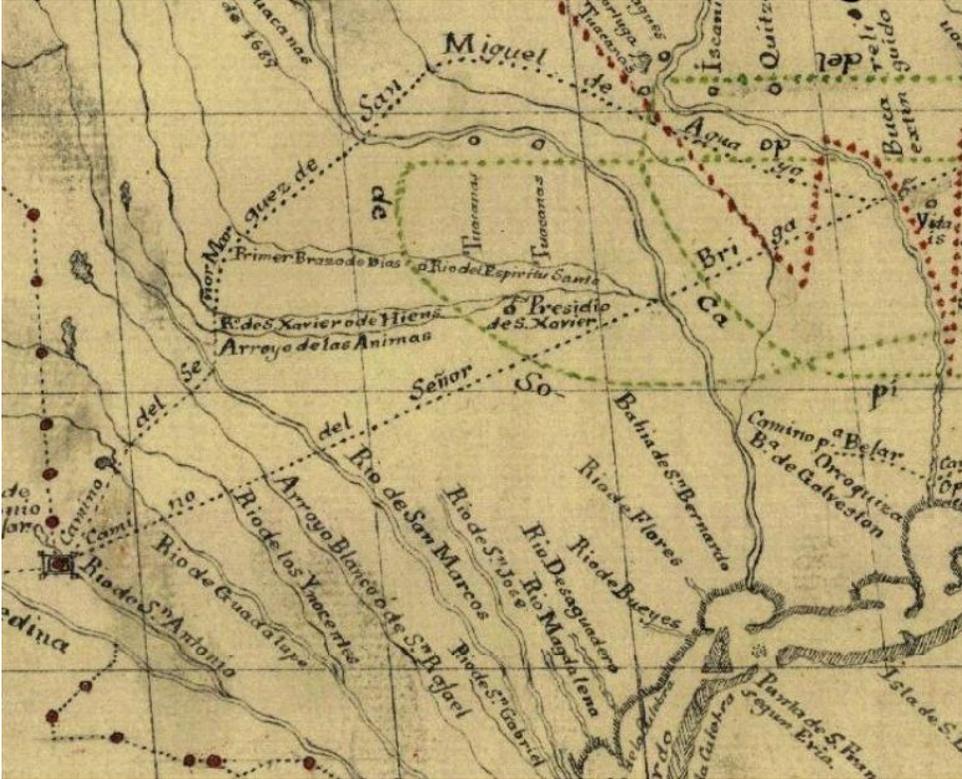
The Alliance for Texas History (ATxH), founded in March 2024, focuses on a twenty-first-century approach to historical analysis, dialogue, and perspective. The second annual conference of the Alliance for Texas History will be held at the Neeley School of Business on the TCU campus. Sponsors, advertisers, and exhibitors are invited to actively participate in this event and be integral to its success. Thanks to a grant from the Summerfield G. Roberts Foundation, ATxH is able to offer stipends of \$500 for twenty graduate students of history to attend. [Click here](#) for more information and please note that the **submission deadline is March 15**. For more information about the 2026 Conference, see <http://www.atxh.org/2026-conference>.





Frank Kozar

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) is accepting registrations for its annual field school. This year, the event will take place at the site of Presidio San Xavier (41MM18) in Milam County from June 13 to 20. Dr. Tamra Walter will serve as Principal Investigator. Test excavations during the 2025 field school likely identified the location of the presidio, which was occupied by the Spanish from the late 1740s until it was abandoned in 1755.



Above: Artifacts recovered during TAS 2025 Field School; TAS Field School. Left: Pichardo, José Antonio. *El Nuevo México y Tierras Adyacentes Levantado Para La Demarcación de Los Límites de Los Dominios Españoles y de Los Estados Unidos*. Map, 1811. Manuel Orozco y Berra Map Room, Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mexico City. <https://historictexasmaps.com/object/94445>; [mapoteca.moyb@agricultura.gob.mx](mailto:mapoteca.moyb@agricultura.gob.mx).

Additional excavations are needed to confirm those results, and survey and lab work will also be offered. If you have not attended a TAS field school previously, be advised that you must be a TAS member or join upon registration, and you are not obligated to attend for the entire week. Most attendees tailor the days they stay to accommodate personal work and school schedules. Camping will be available at the Apache Pass RV park and campground, located right next door to the field school site. A campsite without electricity is included with your field school registration. A spot with a 20-amp outlet is \$25 per night (sign up on the registration form). Should you wish to arrange other accommodations, several motels are located in nearby Rockdale. You can learn more about the history of Presidio San Xavier, as well as nearby Rancheria Grande and the sacred Tonkawa Red Mountain (also known as Natan Samox or Sugarloaf Mountain) at <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/san-francisco-xavier-de-gigedo-presidio>; [Sugarloaf Mountain](https://www.nps.gov/sugarloaf/); [nps/texas.htm](https://www.nps.gov/texas.htm); [Walk the Ranchería Grande](https://www.statesman.com/tonkawa-tribe-sacred-sugarloaf-mountain); [statesman.com/tonkawa-tribe-sacred-sugarloaf-mountain](https://www.statesman.com/tonkawa-tribe-sacred-sugarloaf-mountain). Register at <https://txarch.org/2026-Field-School>.



**Call for Papers ~ American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) Annual Conference, June 25-29**



The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) will be hosting its annual conference in Great Falls, Montana on June 25-29, 2026, at the Holiday Inn. Events include two days of field trips, two days of presentations, the annual business meeting, an auction, vendors, awards, and a banquet. Click here for more information. ARA will be seeking abstract submissions for in-person talks and posters regarding rock art research, preservation, documentation efforts, and education topics: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conf-Call-For-Papers-2026/>. Please direct any questions to the Program Coordinator Jenny (Huang) Rilk at [araraprogram@rockart.us](mailto:araraprogram@rockart.us).





# March Map Madness



Source: [Globe, free clip art](#).

In the spirit of March Madness, the HAS team hits the court with Map Madness, thinking about archeology and history as communicated through maps. Maps are frequently created or referenced in archeological work, such as site maps, LIDAR, and the review of contemporary or historic maps when interpreting the context of a proposed dig site. We hope you enjoy perusing the various interesting maps and their associated histories that were submitted by our HAS community for this March Map Madness issue.

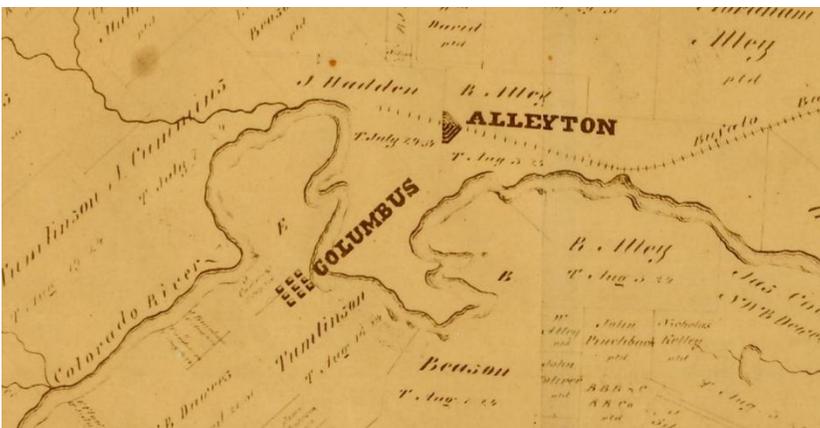
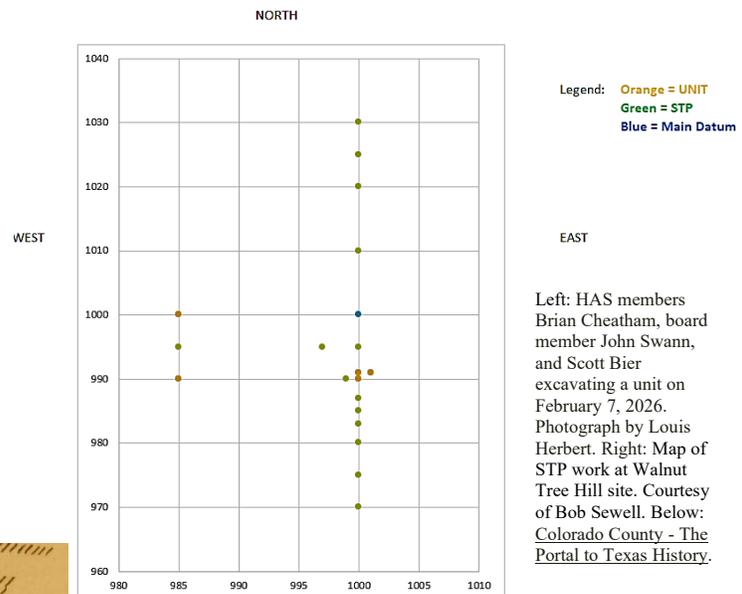


## HAS Workday at the Walnut Tree Hill Site near Alleyton

HAS is working at this site on private property near historic Alleyton. In 1821, Rawson Alley, his brothers, and their families founded this first permanent settlement of Colorado County, which grew in importance when transporting cotton and supplies for the Confederacy by wagon and rail.



WALNUT TREE HILL SITE - ALLEYTON



As detailed on the Alleyton, C.S.A. Historical Marker, Atlas Number 5089000130, located on FM 102:

*Born as war clouds gathered, Alleyton was a key point on the supply line of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. It was both beginning and end of the cotton road leading to the Confederacy's back door on the Rio Grande River. By 1860, the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos, and Colorado Railroad extended from Harrisburg to Alleyton. As a railhead, Alleyton became the site of an important cotton station and Quartermaster Depot during the war. Cotton came here from north and east Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas on the rails of the B.B. & C. and via wagon roads. From Alleyton, the South's most precious trading commodity*

*was carried to a point on the Colorado River across from Columbus. It was then ferried across for the start of a long, tortuous journey to the Rio Grande. The bales of cotton were hauled on big-bedded wagons and high-wheeled Mexican carts, pulled by mules, horses, or oxen. The Cotton Road led to Goliad, San Patricio, the King Ranch, and finally to Brownsville. Shreds of white stuff on brush and cacti marked the trail of the wagon trains. From Brownsville, the cotton was taken across the river to Matamoros, Mexico, and subsequently placed on board ships bound for Europe. As the only major gap in the Federal naval blockade of the Confederacy, neutral Matamoros was the place of exchange for outgoing cotton and imported munitions, clothing, and medicine. When Federal forces took Vicksburg in 1863, the Mississippi River was sealed off and the Confederacy divided. The Texas-Mexico trade routes became the South's major military supply lines in the trans-Mississippi west. Alleyton was a main destination of the wagon trains returning from the Rio Grande. Rifles, swords, shirts, pants, alum, arrowroot, and other items needed by both soldiers and civilians in the harried Confederacy were unloaded here for new destinations.*

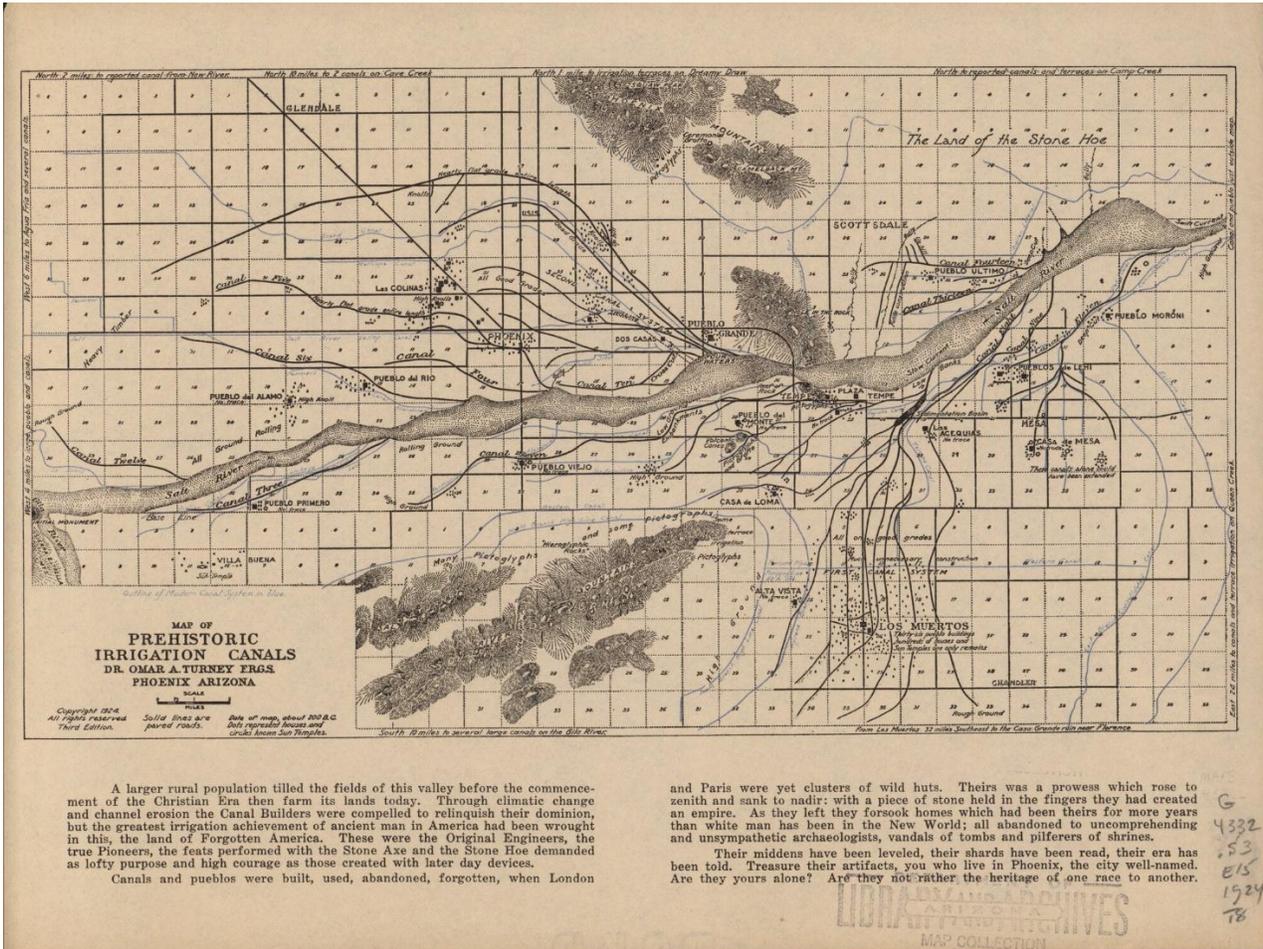
Sources: <https://www.historictexas.net/city/alleyton-texas>; Alleyton, Texas: Back Door to the Confederacy; [map04826.jpg \(5562x7529\)](#); Colorado County Portal to Texas History; Colorado County 1911; Atlas: Texas Historical Commission.





# Ancient Agriculture, Modern Cities

Daniel C. Massey



A larger rural population tilled the fields of this valley before the commencement of the Christian Era then farm its lands today. Through climatic change and channel erosion the Canal Builders were compelled to relinquish their dominion, but the greatest irrigation achievement of ancient man in America had been wrought in this, the land of Forgotten America. These were the Original Engineers, the true Pioneers, the feats performed with the Stone Axe and the Stone Hoe demanded as lofty purpose and high courage as those created with later day devices.

Canals and pueblos were built, used, abandoned, forgotten, when London

and Paris were yet clusters of wild huts. Theirs was a prowess which rose to zenith and sank to nadir: with a piece of stone held in the fingers they had created an empire. As they left they forsook homes which had been theirs for more years than white man has been in the New World; all abandoned to uncomprehending and unsympathetic archaeologists, vandals of tombs and pilferers of shrines.

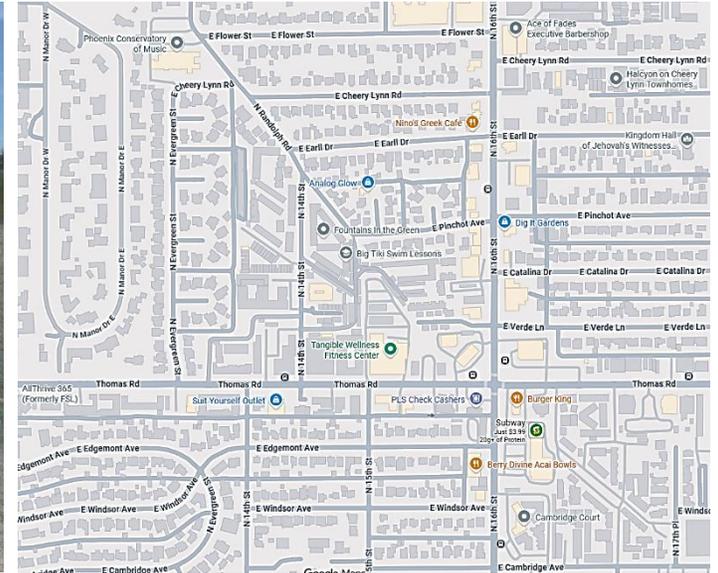
Their middens have been leveled, their shards have been read, their era has been told. Treasure their artifacts, you who live in Phoenix, the city well-named. Are they yours alone? Are they not rather the heritage of one race to another.

Map of Prehistoric Irrigation Canals by Dr. Omar A. Turney, F.R.G.S, Phoenix, Arizona, 1929. Text below drawing reads in part, “These were the Original Engineers, the true Pioneers, the feats performed with the Stone Axe and Stone Hoe demanded as lofty purpose and high courage as those created with later day devices. Canals and pueblos were built, used, abandoned, forgotten, when London and Paris were yet clusters of wild huts.” Dr. Omar A. Turney (November 1, 1866 - December 21, 1929) was an American archaeologist and engineer who worked with the U. S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Reclamation Service, and served as city engineer for Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, and Glendale. [Map of Prehistoric Irrigation Canals, 1924 | Arizona Memory Project](#), [Map of Prehistoric Irrigation Canals by Dr. Omar A. Turney, F.R.G.S – Tempe History Museum](#).

One of my favorite archaeological maps is the 1924 Omar Turney map of the Salt River Valley around Phoenix, Tempe, and Mesa, Arizona. I first encountered this map in the late 1960’s and had it tacked to my bedroom wall as a child growing up in Phoenix.

The canals were dug by the ancestral Sonoran peoples roughly 600-1450 CE. City engineer, archaeologist, and irrigation specialist [Omar Turney](#) surveyed the area when the modern canals watering the valley were being built (modern canals are in faint blue lines on the map). Growing up in the area, I could hike through canal ditches deeper than I was tall, of which only a few remnants still exist. One publicly accessible remnant is at [Park of the Canals in Mesa](#), which I recommend next time you go to spring training in the area. The rest have been paved over or subsumed into the modern canal system.

What I find fascinating is how many of the streets and the modern property lines in Phoenix, Tempe, and Mesa are still to this day affected by the path of the original—now invisible—canals. When the first European settlers came to the area, they re-dug and reused ancient canals for agriculture, because they worked perfectly.



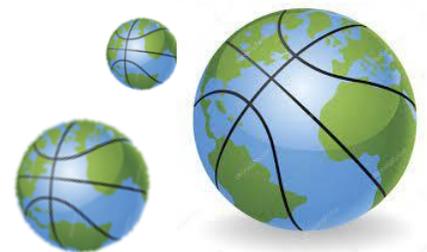
Left: [Park of the Canals-1875 Mormon Canal](#), Wikimedia Commons. Right: Street patterns of modern Phoenix, map copyright Google 2026, Fair Use Policy.

In modern street maps, you can easily see diagonal or arcing streets following the grade, not the strict square grid system laid down in the early 1900s. Crossing several of these canal lines is modern Turney Avenue, named after the map’s creator, three streets down from my first home.

The building housing Arizona State University’s [Institute of Human Origins](#), one of the premier paleoanthropology schools, rests on top of a settler canal that followed the path of an ancient canal. The university integrated the waterway into the architecture to honor this ancient engineering achievement. Recently, an important [Va’aki village](#) (<https://www.tempe.gov/eighth-street-archaeology-report>) was excavated just steps from the Institute. The opportunity to excavate came in part as an old rail line was removed—a rail line that had followed the path of an ancient canal.



Left: Institute of Human Origins, photograph by Dan Massey. Above and below left: City of Tempe, Eighth Street Multi-Use Path and Streetscape Project Archaeological Investigation Executive Summary Nov. 1, 2022. <https://www.tempe.gov/government/community-development/planning/historic-preservation/eighth-street-archaeology-report>. Below right: [Globe](#), free clip art.





## The Enigmatic Piri Reis Map

Louis Hebert

My family recently inherited a reproduction of the Piri Reis map, the history of which I didn't fully appreciate until I wrote this HAS newsletter article. Compiled in 1513 by the Ottoman military admiral, occasional corsair, and cartographer Piri Reis, the map is one of the oldest to depict the Americas. Unfortunately, only one-third of the original survives today, housed in the Topkapi Palace Museum in Istanbul, once the administrative center of the Ottoman Empire and the main residence of its sultans. After the Ottomans conquered Egypt in 1517, Piri Reis presented the world map to Sultan Selim I. Although its existence was known through references and later copies, the initial map disappeared for centuries, until a fragment was rediscovered in 1929 by German researchers. The document includes information first collected by Christopher Columbus during his early voyages to the Americas, a realization that garnered international attention. Piri Reis also produced a second world map and authored a navigational atlas, the *Kitab-ı Bahriye* (Book of the Sea).

### Who was Piri Reis?

Born Muhiddin Piri in 1470 in Gallipoli, an Ottoman naval base, from a young age, Piri served aboard the galleon commanded by his uncle Kemal Reis, and eventually rose to the rank of captain (the title *Reis* denotes a Turkish Naval officer). Conquests included the Venetian-Ottoman wars and raids along the coasts of Spain. A Spaniard who had sailed with Christopher Columbus was captured near Valencia and likely provided vital information in the form of an early map of the Americas. Seafarers of the Mediterranean communicated across cultures through a common pidgin *lingua franca*. Throughout his life, Piri Reis created and gathered notes and charts of this sort, which eventually informed his cartography. Piri Reis would later use this map and a collection of some twenty other maps of Arab, Spanish, Portuguese, and Greek origins to prepare his representation of the known world. During the 1516–1517 conquest of Egypt, Piri Reis commanded the Ottoman fleet blockading Alexandria. At this time, Piri Reis presented his world map to Sultan Selim I (1470–1520).

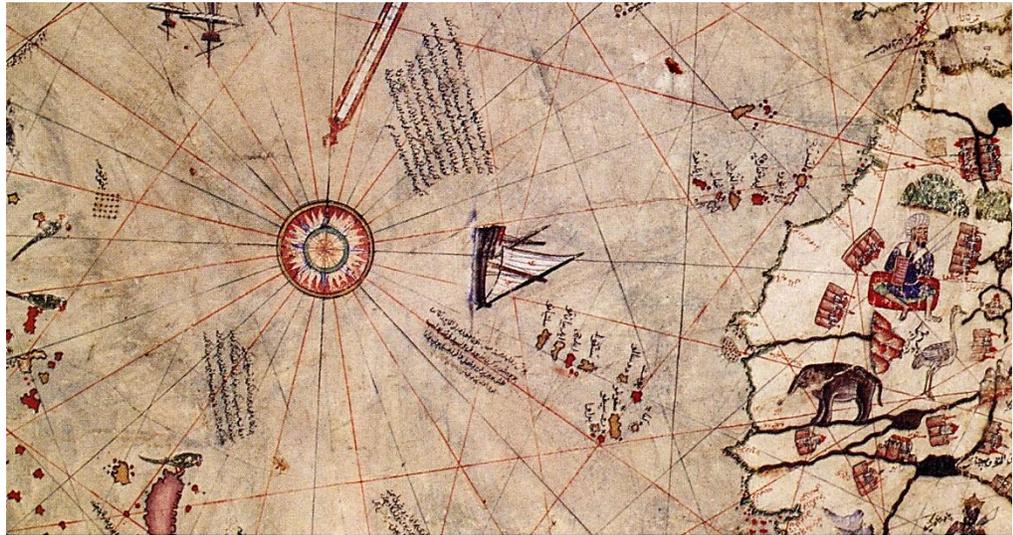
In 1552-1553, Piri Reis, now an eighty-three-year-old admiral, led Ottoman campaigns against the Portuguese in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, where the two powers struggled for control of maritime trade routes. As the destruction and pillage of Hormuz, Muscat, and Qeshm unfolded, Piri Reis was accused of bribery and of plundering over a million pieces of gold. Piri Reis failed to thwart the Portuguese or capture Hormuz and instead hastily retreated to Egypt with two ships full of treasure, abandoning the rest of his fleet. These actions and charges resulted in his execution by beheading in Cairo, as ordered by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent (1494-1566).



Fragment of the World Map by Piri Reis, 1513. Topkapi Palace Museum, Istanbul. [Piri Reis world map for annotations.png](#); [Topkapi Palace Müze İstanbul: The Piri Reis World Map \(1513\) - Memory of the World.](#)

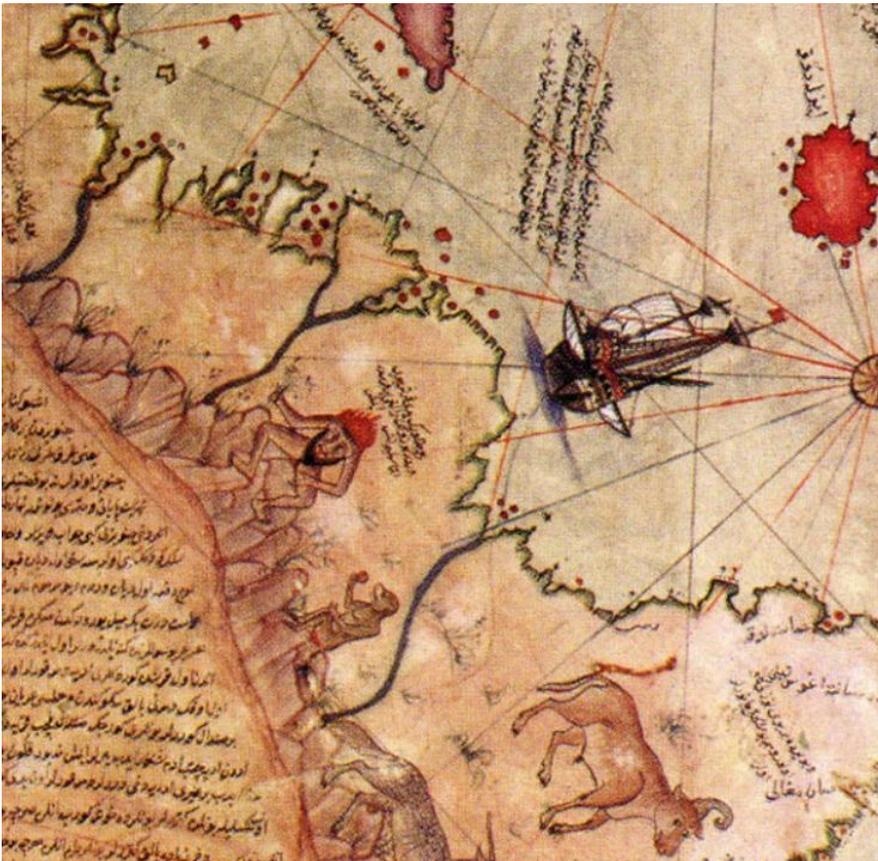
## Piri Reis Map Features

During the 1929 renovation of the Topkapi Palace into a museum, visiting theologian Adolf Deissmann came across an artifact of gazelle-skin parchment in a collection from the library of Sultan Mehmed II (1432–1481). Deissmann consulted with German scholar Paul Kahle, who concluded the fragment must be an authentic western portion of the famed Piri Reis 1513 world map, dated to the equivalent Islamic year 919 AH. A caption in the map's left margin described the capture of the Spanish crewmember, who perhaps was specifically involved in Columbus' second voyage of 1493-1496 (McIntosh).



Piri Reis, Map of 1513. Detail of compass rose and radiating mesh network of navigational lines. Note the whimsical elephant in Africa. [Piri\\_Reis\\_world\\_map\\_for\\_annotations.png](#) (2094×2706)

Instead of latitude and longitude, this type of medieval portolan map (related to ports or harbors), featured a compass rose anchoring a radiating mesh network of lines intended for navigation via a fixed bearing. First appearing in the thirteenth century assisting travel in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, portolan charts tended to provide details of coastlines, ports, and harbors while the interior landmasses were typically blank or embellished with imagery. Piri Reis' continents depict beasts, monsters, mythical features, as well as some critical information and commentary written in the complex Ottoman Turkish alphabet. Interestingly, the general Turkish population did not understand this elite language and used a more simple dialect.



Scholarly analysis of placenames indicates that Piri Reis likely did indeed reference an earlier map composed during one of Columbus' early voyages to the Americas. For example, on the mainland in the northwest, a stretch of coast is labelled *Ornofay*, a term recorded by Columbus but not found on other maps. The details of Brazil are accurate for the time. Central America and Cuba meld into a single body of land, attributed to a now-lost map from Columbus that merged Cuba and Hispaniola into the Asian mainland as influenced by Marco Polo's description of Japan. This reflects Columbus's mistaken belief that he had located a route to Asia. Terra Australis (Southern Land), placed at the bottom of the Atlantic, represents a hypothetical continent based not on any survey or direct observation, but rather on the idea that continental land in the Northern Hemisphere should be balanced by land in the Southern Hemisphere (antipodes). This concept appears as early as the fifth century with Roman Macrobius Ambrosius Theodosius, who used the term *Australis* on his maps of a spherical earth.

Piri Reis, Map of 1513. Segment of South America with depictions of animals and a version of mythical headless people, whose eyes and facial features appeared on their chests. Believed in antiquity to live in remote lands, the fable may have stemmed from encounters with dried, misshapen carcasses of hammerhead sharks (Brandt 37). [Piri\\_Reis\\_world\\_map\\_for\\_annotations.png](#) (2094×2706).

## Some Peculiar Controversies

In the twentieth century, the map caused debate due to the claim of Professor Charles Hapgood that the illustration of the Antarctic coastline appeared free of ice, therefore suggesting the possibility of prehistoric or even extraterrestrial knowledge of paleogeography. Pseudoscientist Erich von Däniken championed a legend in which an alien god-like entity from the cosmos delivers a map to a priest. These speculations are readily dismissed by the explanation that the purported depiction of Antarctica was actually a distorted representation of the Patagonian coast, bent eastward to accommodate the physical shape and limited space of the parchment, and additionally, the commentary script within that landmass describes the area as having a warm climate and fauna such as exotic birds and monkeys. However, these conjectures are still sometimes referenced by conspiracy theorists.

## Ottoman Technology and Knowledge

Not only is the work of Piri Reis a testament to the insightful cataloging and synthesis of broad and emerging knowledge by its maker, but the manuscript also demonstrates the technical skills and genius of the sixteenth century Ottoman Turks in the fields of maritime exploration, communication, trigonometry, cartography, and portolan techniques. The document binds the eastern known world and the western New World, and significantly, Piri Reis captured and preserved the nascent discoveries mapped during the expeditions of Christopher Columbus.

I encourage you to learn more about Piri Reis, his influential 1513 world map, and his other works of cartography through some of the resources listed below, or perhaps you might even travel to Istanbul and visit the Naval Museum and Topkapi Palace.

Knowledge is infinite. By no effort can its end be found.

~ Piri Reis, *Kitab-i Bahriye* ([Dukes](#))

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Dukes, Hunter. "'Knowledge Is Infinite': Manuscript of Piri Reis' Book of Seafaring (ca. 17th Century)." *The Public Domain Review*, 8 Aug. 2011. "[Knowledge Is Infinite](#)": Manuscript of Piri Reis' Book of Seafaring — The Public Domain Review.

McIntosh, G. C. (2000). *The Piri Reis Map of 1513*. University of Georgia Press. <https://archive.org/details/gregory-c.-mc-intosh-the-piri-reis-map-of-1513>.

Piri Reis. World Map of 1513. Library of Topkapi Palace Museum, No. H 1824 Bilkent University. [Piri Reis world map.png](#).

*Piri Reis Map*. Istanbul, Naval Forces Command Hydrography Publications, 1966. Booklet.

[Khanmurzaev and Idrisov/ Piri Reis' Map of the Caspian Sea: Historical-Geographical Analysis](#); [Özsoy, Emin/ Piri Reis: A Pioneer of Marine Knowledge and Marine Science Heritage in the Seas of the Old World](#); [Piri Reis and Ottoman Discovery on JSTOR](#); [The Piri Reis Map of 1513: A Comprehensive Cartographic and Historical Analysis](#); [The Piri Reis Map of 1528: A Comparative Study With Other Maps of the Time](#); [Piri Reis Map at Topkapi Palace Atlas Obscura](#); [Piri Reis - Füsün Kavrakoğlu](#); (PDF) [The Piri Reis Map of 1513](#); [Piri Reis map](#); [Piri Reis: A Genius 16th-Century Ottoman Cartographer and Navigator/Muslim Heritage](#); [Azerbaijan Geographic Society/Famous Piri Reis map on display again at Topkapi Palace](#).



Statue of Piri Reis in Karaman, Türkiye. [Piri Reis - Füsün Kavrakoğlu](#).





## Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria, Texas

The city of Guadalupe Victoria was founded in 1824 along the Guadalupe River as part of Martin De León's colony. The town grew in importance due to trade along La Bahia Road, ranching, farming, and river navigation. The diversity of settlers arriving in the area included populations with German, Bohemian, Italian, Jewish, and Mexican heritage, creating a vibrant culture. However, the Guadalupe River terraces have been a center of human activity for thousands of years. The alluvial stratigraphy is rich in Paleoindian artifacts, as excavated at the McNeil (41VT141), Johnston-Heller (41VT15), and J2 Ranch (41VT6) sites.



[Lungkwitz, Herman](#) (1813 – 1891), [Map of Victoria County](#). Magnified inset of a cadastral map of Victoria County, Texas, showing the city including the Gulf Coast region, c. 1873. [GLO Historic County Maps](#), [Texas General Land Office](#), [The Portal to Texas History](#), [UNT Libraries](#).

The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team, based in Victoria, is working at the McNeil Ranch site (41VT141) in a collaborative agreement with the landowner and the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant Paleoindian site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.



Packing Up the Archeology Lab

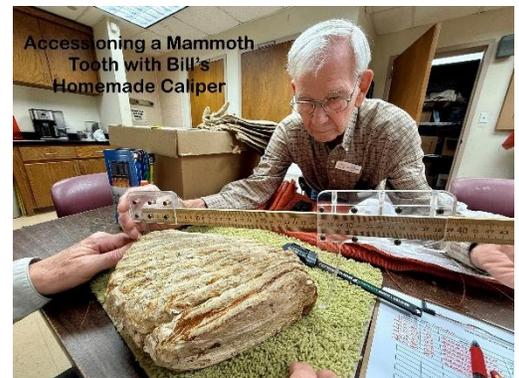


Measuring Bison antler horn

Over the next few months, CoBALT's schedule will shift while moving the archaeology lab to another building on the Victoria College campus. Our team is working hard to pack up the lab ahead of the demolition of the old Victoria College Library building.

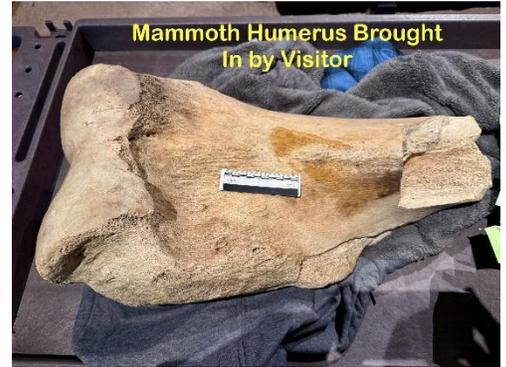


Job Done!!



Accessioning a Mammoth Tooth with Bill's Homemade Caliper

In addition to research reports, books, field records, osteology samples, maps, tools, and measuring equipment, we have boxed and moved hundreds of other items. This included many heavy containers filled with debitage, organic artifacts, and stone tools, all carefully transferred to our storage facility. We are excited to be reopening in the Victoria College Academic Building in a few months, where we will have more space and an improved layout to support our work. Until then, we are unable to process excavation materials or conduct detailed artifact analysis. Instead, we will be focusing on archaeological site surveys, accessioning collections, and continuing to assist visitors with identifying and preserving the artifacts they bring to us.



And speaking of artifact identification—recently, a visitor walked into our temporary location with a mammoth humerus fossil! While little is known about where it was originally found, it is remarkably well preserved and did not require any conservation treatment. Be sure to follow [CoBALT Facebook](#) for updates as we share our day-to-day activities during this transition. HAS members are always welcome to join us when we are onsite or in the lab.

~ O.C. Garza

All photographs courtesy of CoBALT and O.C. Garza; [CoBALT Facebook](#).



## HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, paleontology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions about interesting archeology and history links.

Maps about Texas history: [Texas Historical Maps - Perry-Castañeda Map Collection - UT Library Online](#); [Home Texas GLO](#); [Texas Maps Collection | Texas State Library & Archives](#); [Search - Atlas: Texas Historical Commission](#); [Mapping Texas History | The Alamo](#); [Houston - David Rumsey Historical Map Collection](#); [Old Houston Maps | Houston Past](#); [Harris County Map Collection 1900 thru 1959](#); [Texas - David Rumsey Historical Map Collection](#); [Maps - Houston Public Library Digital Archives](#).



Sketch illustration stock vector free images

[America's Field Trip](#) invites young people to share their unique perspectives on what America means to them. Winners will visit some of the country's most iconic historical landmarks.

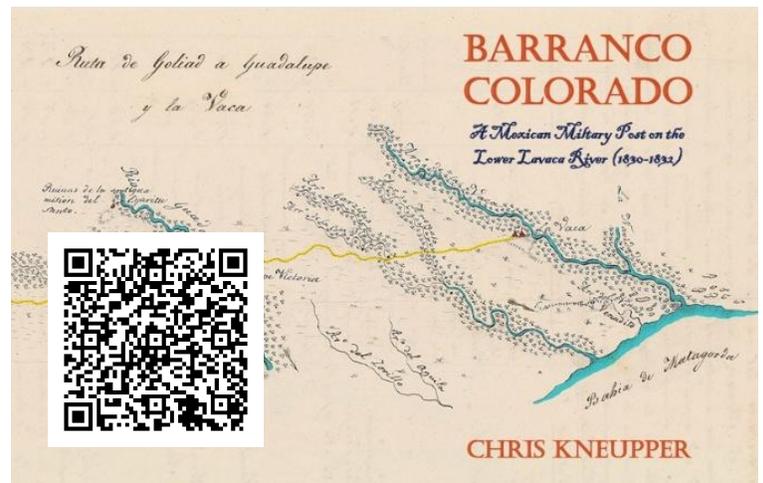
Archive of Romano-British newsletter articles: <https://associationromanarchaeology.org/newnewsletter.htm>; [Sensational finds in the MiQua - City of Cologne](#); [Deweyville Terraces and Deposits of the Texas Gulf Coastal Plain](#); <https://www.click2houston.the-dark-history-behind-sugar-land-convict-leasing-and-the-legacy-of-the-sugar-land-95/>; [Texas Historic Sites Atlas](#); [Texas-City-museum-welcomes-new-piece-black-cowboy-history/18593435/](#); [Rare Roman altars acquired for the nation will go on display in the autumn](#) [Scotland](#); [Ancient palazzo on Rome's Palatine Hill reopens to tourists](#); [independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/viking-mass-grave-strange-giant-skeleton](https://independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/viking-mass-grave-strange-giant-skeleton); [Viking Age mass grave holds mysterious mix of dismembered human remains and complete skeletons, including a 'giant' who'd had brain surgery | Live Science](#); <https://uofupress.com/Talking to the Rain: Paintings and Carvings on Stone in Chihuahuan Desert Landscapes>; [Cracking the Code of Peru's Serpent Mountain - Archaeology Magazine](#); [French archaeologists uncover 'vast Roman burial area' with cremation graves 'fed' by liquid offerings | Live Science](#); [4th-Century Mosaic Floor in Cyprus Depicts Thrilling Roman Chariot Race - GreekReporter.com](#); [A Farmer Was Working In His Field—and Found a 1,700-Year-Old Roman Mosaic](#); [1,400-year-old Zapotec tomb discovered in Mexico features enormous owl sculpture symbolizing death | Live Science](#); [Unusual, 1,400-year-old cube-shaped human skull unearthed in Mexico | Live Science](#); [Subterranean tunnel, possibly used for medieval cult rituals, discovered in Stone Age tomb in Germany | Live Science](#); [Archaeologists Find an Unusual 2500-year-old Stylus in Sicily](#); [Features - Return to the River - Archaeology Magazine - January/February 2021](#); [Hiker accidentally discovers a 1,500-year-old device with tragic implications](#).



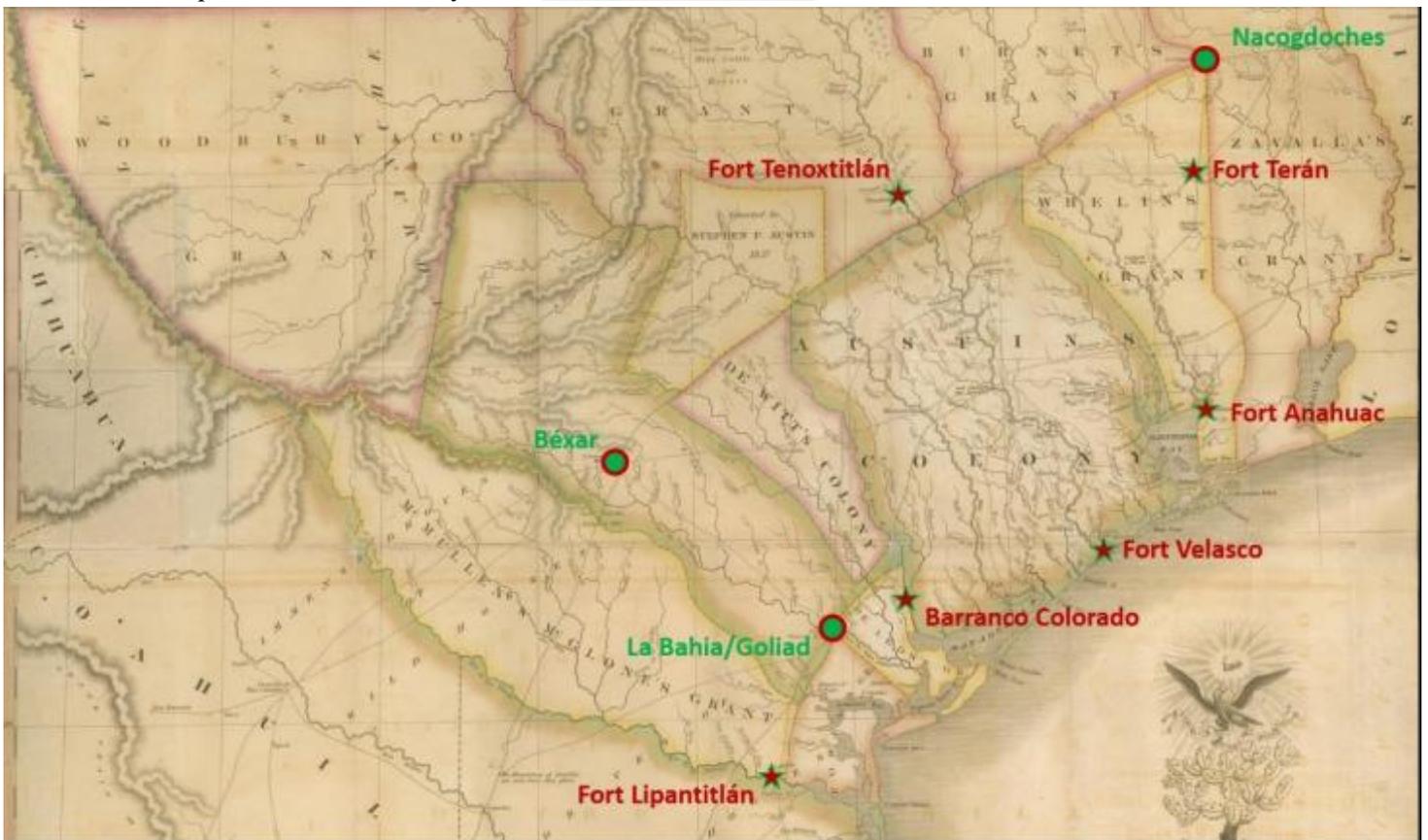


similar failures of other forts in east and southeast Texas that same summer of 1832, was an important but poorly remembered antecedent to the Texas Revolution of 1835-1836.

Cover art is based on an interesting map found in the papers of Jean Louis Berlandier (1803-1851), a Swiss-Mexican naturalist and artist. As a young man, he traveled to Mexico to produce botanical collections and then was hired to join the *Comisión de Límites*, a boundary-confirming and scientific expedition to Texas that would take about one and a half years from late 1827 to early 1829, led by General Terán. Rafael Chowell, a geologist and mineralogist, also joined the expedition. The latter two men later play an outsized role in the story contained within this book. Berlandier returned to Texas (Goliad area) in the period of 1834, when this particular map drawing is thought to have been prepared. Today, the original is archived at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Yale University in a bound volume with others of his map drawings, but a high-resolution digital copy has been colorized to reveal key details. Berlandier's journal was later translated and published in 1980 as *Journey to Mexico during the Years 1826 to 1834*. More maps and discussion may be found at my brief summary of the [Chronological and Archaeological History of Barranco Colorado](#) (2022) and on this [YouTube lecture](#).



I hope to support further discussion, education, and research with this self-published paperback, which can be purchased via the QR code link or at [Barranco Colorado - A Mexican Military Post on the Lower Lavaca River](#). Please note that, in collaboration with the Jackson County Historical Committee, we are selling this book just a little above our cost, and any proceeds will go to local historical interpretation projects. I will also be presenting a lecture on this topic on Thursday, March 3, at 6:00 p.m. in Jackson County at the [Historic Texana Church](#).



Mexican Forts of 1830-1832 (based on the 1836 version of the Austin and Terán map), [Chronological and Archaeological History of Barranco Colorado](#).

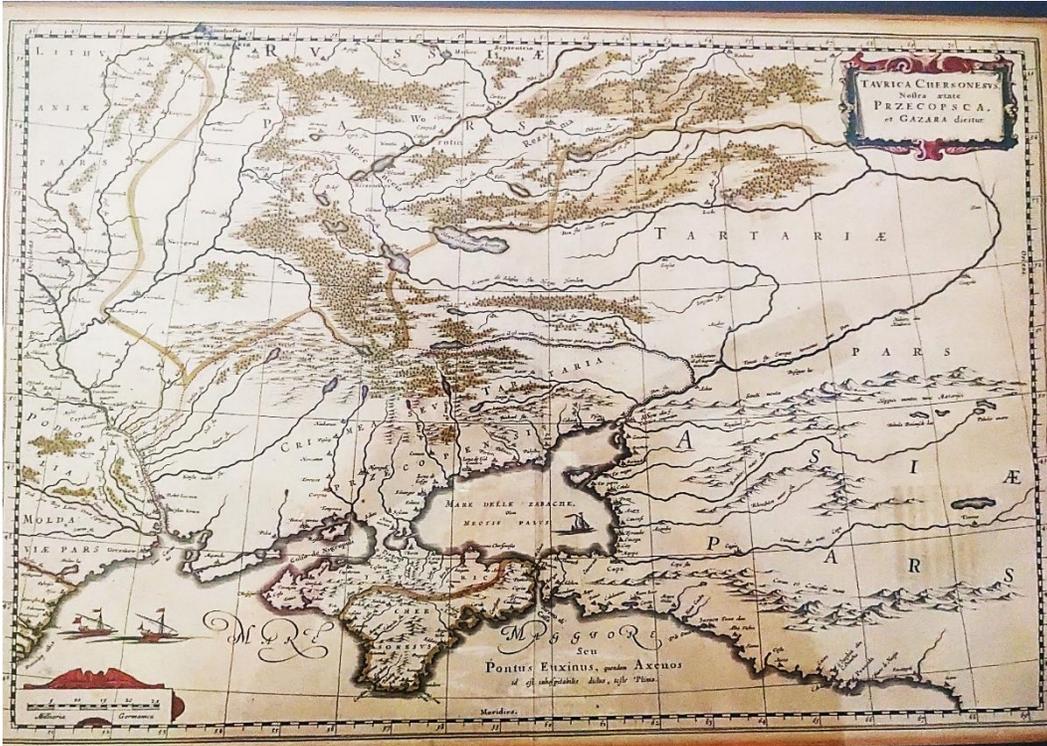




## Antique Map of Ukraine

Geoffrey F. Mills

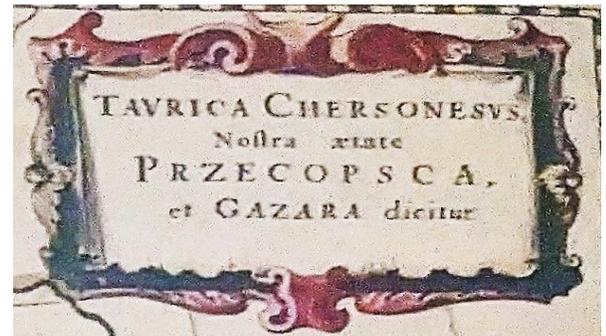
The devastating war taking place on Ukraine soil continues into a fifth year after the initial invasion by Russia in February of 2022. In this article, I discuss an historical map in my collection that depicts the ancient Ukrainian territories within the Pontic and Caspian Steppes, the massive plains stretching across Eastern Europe into Central Asia.



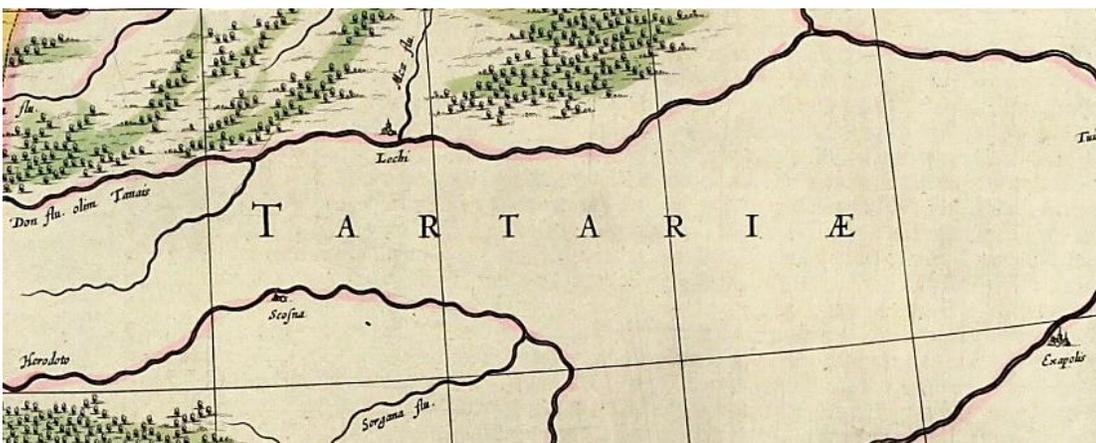
The Latin title, *Tavrica Chersonesus, Nostra aetate Przecopsca et Gazara dicitur*, roughly translates as *Tavrica Chersonesus in our time as Perekop and Gazara*. Tavrica refers to the ancient Greek city-state of Chersonesus. The Perekop Isthmus lies between the mainland and the Crimean Peninsula. The Gazara coast fell under Genoese rule during the Middle Ages.

The original cartographer of this sixteenth-century map was Flemish innovator Gerard Mercator (1512-1594), and Dutch cartographer and publisher Willem Blaeu (1571-1638) probably created this version.

Above: *Tavrica Chersonesus, Nostra aetate Przecopsca et Gazara dicitur*, sixteenth century map of Ukraine credited to Willem Blaeu (1571-1638). A digitized version may be explored at [Blaeu: Taurica Chersonesus, Nostra aetate, Russia, Ukraine, Crimea, 1640](#). Right: Cartouche of the map title. Photographs courtesy of Geoff Mills. Below: Map detail, [Blaeu: Taurica Chersonesus, Nostra aetate, Russia, Ukraine, Crimea, 1640](#).



The rich history of migrations and conquests in the region continues right up to the present day. Historical and archeological evidence of these anthropological fluctuations ranges all the way back from hunter-gathers to the Tartars, Goths, Huns, Greeks, Romans, and into modern annals with the Soviet Union, and now Russia. For a fuller history, see the well-organized overview on [Wikipedia](#) as well as this collection of academic articles, [Ukrainian History Research Papers - Academia.edu](#).



A large heading identifies in Latin a “Tartariae” region. The culturally Turkic Tartars, originally rivals of the Mongols, became intertwined with their adversaries in 1202. Genghis Khan defeated the Tartars and absorbed their tribal confederation into his empire.



On the southwest coast of the Crimea close to modern-day Sevastopol, the Chersonesus Taurica Museum, currently administered by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, preserves the site of a Doric Greek colony. Chersonesus (Greek for peninsula) served as a significant Byzantine outpost before its decline in the fourteenth century.

The sixteenth-century *Taurica Chersonesus* map serves to remind me of the legacy and cultural history of the Ukrainian people—and the modern tragedy unfolding in their land of deep heritage.

Above and below left: Map detail, Blaeu: *Taurica Chersonesus*, Nostra aetate, Russia, Ukraine, Crimea, 1640. Above right: [Ruins of Chersonesus](#), free image, Pixabay. Below right: Bride and groom in Cherkasy, Ukraine, 1926; Folk Slavic.

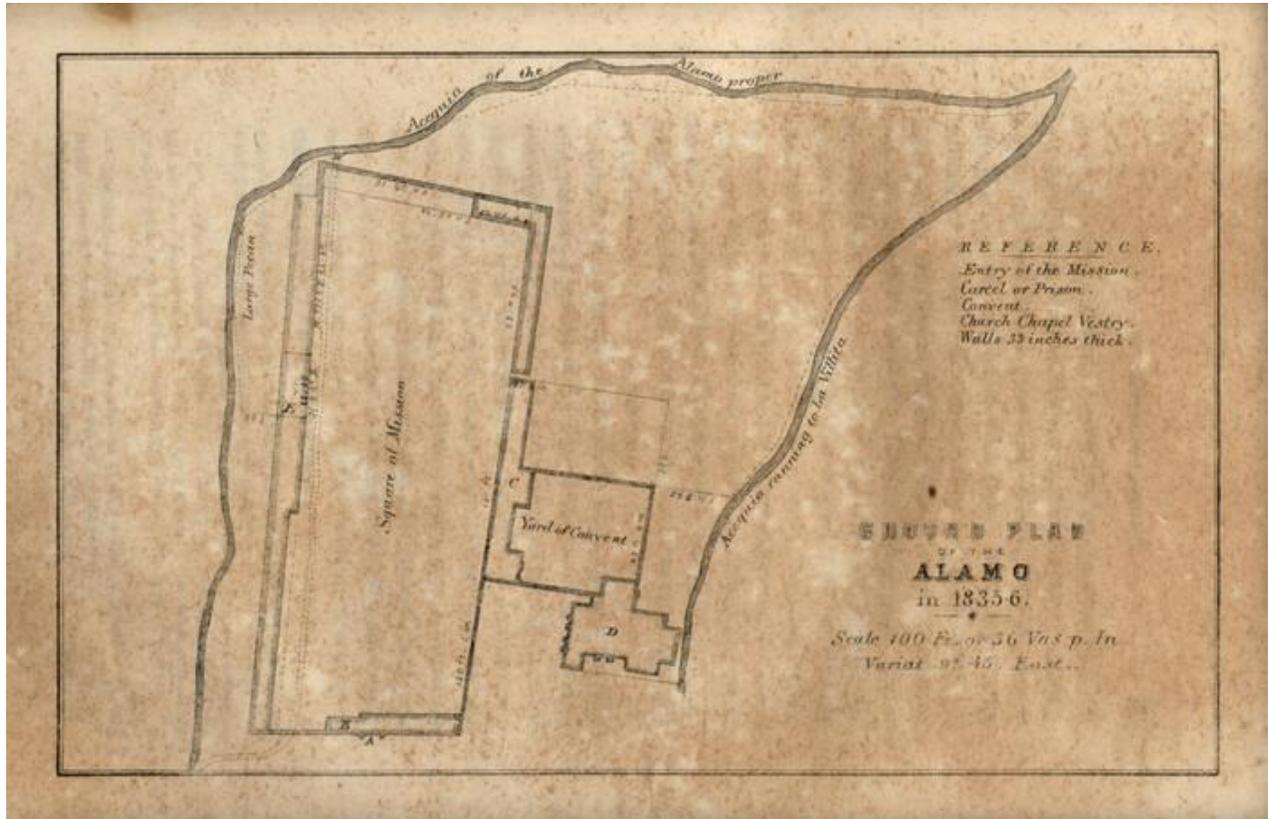


Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatars>; Chersonesus - Wikipedia; <https://chersonesos-sev.ru/visitors/rules/>; <https://tickets.chersonesos-sev.ru/service/678>; History of Ukraine - Wikipedia; , Blaeu: *Taurica Chersonesus*, Nostra aetate, Russia, Ukraine, Crimea, 1640.





## Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation Updates



Yoakum, H. Ground Plan of the Alamo in 1835-6, General Map Collection | 97393. Map appears inside the book *History of Texas from its First Settlement in 1685 to its Annexation to the United States in 1846 (Vol. 2)*, Texas General Land Office. [History Of Texas From Settlement in 1685 to Its Annexation To The United States in 1846](#) : H. Yoakum : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive.



January 26, 2026 - Archaeologists continued investigations for the Church Preservation Project in EUs 45, 62, 119, and 129. In Unit EU-62 against the north transept Church wall, archaeologists excavated to a depth of approximately 50 cm below surface, uncovering artifacts such as glass bottle fragments and metal fragments. EU-129, located at the southwest corner of the south transept, revealed a previously encountered police substation wall foundation. The feature is in fair to good condition and after documentation will continue to be preserved in place.



Left: Ceramics from EU-45. Center: Police substation wall foundation, photo facing north. Right: Artifacts from EU-62. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation January 26 | The Alamo](#); content and photographs courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.



February 2, 2026 - Excavations at EU-45 reached a depth of approximately 100 cm below surface and the artifact assemblage was dominated by metal nails and fragments. Archaeologists at EU-62 reached a depth of approximately 110 cm below surface, where artifacts included metal nails and fragments, glass, and construction materials. Archaeologists opened EU-49 north of the Church, which had previous impacts from utility pipes. Artifacts from this unit include metal nails and fragments, glass, and a few stoneware sherds.

Left: Goliad ceramic handle from EU-62. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - February 2 | The Alamo](#); content and photographs courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.

February 9, 2026 - Archaeologists continued with the excavations at the Alamo Church in EUs 57, 62, 75, 119, and 122. Archaeologists at EU-62 reached a terminal depth of approximately 150 cm below surface. The bottom of the Church wall was exposed and documented by the ATI Conservation Department. The last soil deposit in this unit held very few artifacts and the natural hardpan covered much of the base of the unit. Archaeologists continued to excavate in EU-75 and reached an approximate depth of 50 cm below surface. The upper levels of the units had quite a bit of hardware-related artifacts, such as nails, wires, and glass. The soils are quite damp, likely related to the two *canales* immediately above this unit. As the archaeologists continued to excavate, the artifact density remained high. A highlight among the recovered artifacts is a 1920 Orange Crush bottle. This bottle was patented in 1920 and the ribbed bottle remained a part of the Orange Crush design until the 1950s. Archaeologists completed excavations in EU-122. The terminal depth was approximately 100 cm below surface. This unit had evidence of multiple construction impacts, such as utility conduits and a concrete slab. There were few diagnostic artifacts, but archaeologists did identify an Aranama tradition ceramic sherd. Archaeologists completed excavations in EU-122. The terminal depth was approximately 100 cm below surface. This unit had evidence of multiple construction impacts, such as utility conduits and a concrete slab.



Above: Archaeologist holding the 1920 Orange Crush bottle. Below left: Aranama tradition ceramic sherd from EU-122. Below right: Mule shoe from EU-75. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - February 9 | The Alamo](#); content and photographs courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.

February 16, 2026 - Archaeologists continued excavations at the Alamo Church in EUs 48, 65, 75, 118, and 119. Excavations in EU-48 were completed by archaeologists last week reaching an approximate depth of 100 cm below surface. During profile mapping, two post holes were documented by archaeologists. The cultural materials from this unit included glass, metal fragments, construction materials such as brick, and ceramics. A new unit, EU-65, was started late last week, with archaeologists reaching an approximate depth of 10 cm below surface. EU-65 is located off the northeast corner of the north transept. This first level is a modern deposit comprised of sand, gravels, and modern materials.



Left: EU-48 south profile, photo facing south. Right: Glass bottles from EU-75. Lower left: Ceramic rim sherd from EU-75. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - February 16 | The Alamo](#); content and photographs courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.

Archaeologists continued to excavate in EU-118 and reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. The natural caliche is appearing at the base of the unit. Excavations in EU-119 were completed last week when archaeologists reached a maximum depth of 150 cm below surface. Archaeologists completed excavations in EU-122. The terminal depth was approximately 100 cm below surface. This unit had evidence of multiple construction impacts, such as utility conduits and a concrete slab. Courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.

### Alamo Artifacts

The Alamo Collection contains manuscripts, objects, and artwork spanning over 300 years of Alamo history. Explore the artifact portal and come back often to see what is new: [Alamo Artifact Collection](#). Courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.



### The Alamo Podcast

February 12, 2026 - Episode 119. In early February 1836, the Alamo is just days away from being under siege by the Mexican Army. A fight about the role government should play in the lives of its citizens has now evolved into a fight for independence. Learn about the roles Tejanos played in the Texas Revolution, the dilemma many faced when the Revolution hurtled toward independence, and key figures. Featuring the Alamo's former curator Dr. Bruce Winders; [Stories Bigger Than Texas: The Alamo Podcast](#). More resources on this topic include the following videos.

- Juan Seguin: <https://youtu.be/ITCt-aUVOZE?si=nPzzTyDI0vXB6jTk>
- Toribio Losoya: [https://youtu.be/zR5vXicBSRE?si=LVJWpvY-YIKNi\\_Z4](https://youtu.be/zR5vXicBSRE?si=LVJWpvY-YIKNi_Z4)
- Esparza brothers: [https://youtu.be/9BMiiStY\\_lo?si=OQU9L0cOdQJ8BG4h](https://youtu.be/9BMiiStY_lo?si=OQU9L0cOdQJ8BG4h)
- Navarro sister: <https://youtu.be/YNjfiw7oNE0?si=90owXXZc89ewzxSd>

Episode 120 explores the twelve days of psychological warfare that occurred during the Siege of the Alamo, which began 190 years ago during this time of year, February 23 to March 6, 1836. Texas Center Historian Don Frazier, PhD, reveals the tactical decisions made by both the Texans and the Mexicans during the siege, the intelligence network keeping both sides informed, and how the battle plans and reinforcements took shape ahead of what would be a battle to the death. Previous topics include Dr. David Carlson discussing San Antonio's government function in the run-up to the Texas Revolution, the framework of ordinances, law and order in the frontier town, and how key figures in the Alamo story fit into the town structure. Courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.



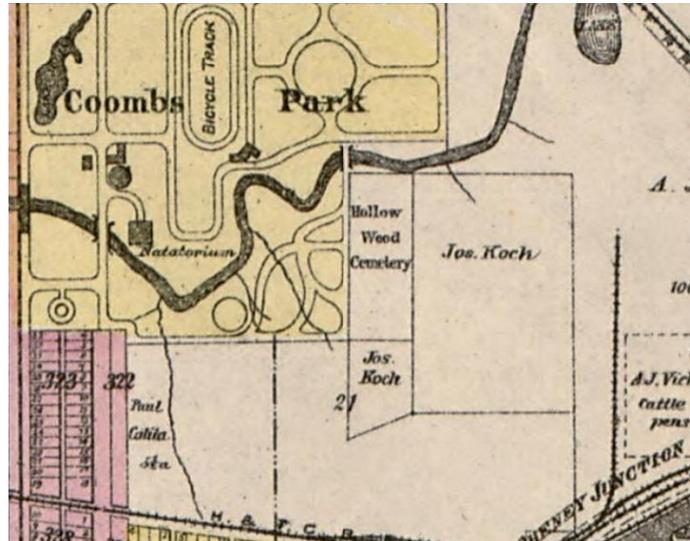


## From the HAS Archives



A repository of past issues of *The Profile* is available on the HAS website, wherein you will find a wealth of archived articles, such as an announcement in the [February 2013 Profile](#). Historic Old Olivewood Cemetery was featured in a gallery exhibit at the Heritage Society entitled “Olivewood Cemetery: Past, Present, and Future.” Lisa Mouton, Guest Curator, explained the founding, growth, and future plans for the preservation of this lost gem of Houston’s past. Just northwest of downtown Houston, near a bend of the White Oak Bayou and in the shadow of the Katy Freeway, lies the city’s first incorporated African American burial ground: Olivewood Cemetery. Founded in 1875, this storied cemetery is the final resting place of many notable political, religious, and business leaders, including former slaves and veterans of the armed services. But financial collapse of the original cemetery association resulted in abandonment

during the 1960s, followed by decades of neglect and vandalism. Fortunately, in 2003, the Descendants of Olivewood Inc. was founded to protect and restore the cemetery. They have since overseen volunteer groups organized by local businesses, churches, schools, youth groups, and fraternal organizations to help clear and maintain the cemetery. The Descendants have also assembled a network of volunteer technical specialists, including archeologists, preservationists, civil engineers, landscape architects, arborists, genealogists, legal advisors, and academic researchers. HAS members have assisted at this property, including Bob Sewell, Linda Gorski, and Louis Aulbach. The Descendants of Olivewood view the historic cemetery not only as a burial ground but as an historic, educational, cultural, and charitable landmark—a place where family, memory, and community endure.



50 DEALY & BAKER'S GUIDE TO HOUSTON.

Hollywood Cemetery (Colored)—half mile north-west of Chaney Junction, Washington Road. Route No. 8.

Magnolia Cemetery—San Felipe street, two blocks west of S. P. R'y. Route No. 5.

\*Masonic Cemetery (old)—same as Episcopal.

Masonic Burial Grounds—in Glenwood Cemetery.

Potter's Field (new City Cemetery)—on Buffalo Bayou, end of Timpson street. Route No. 5.

\*Not now in general use.

**PARKS.**

Coombs' Park—Houston Heights. Route No. 8.

Emancipation Grounds (colored)—two miles south-east. Routes Nos. 3 and 12 nearest street cars.

Houston Driving Park—near T. & N. O. R'd, four miles north. Reached by T. & N. O. R'd and street car Route No. 9.

Merkel's Grove—adjoining Volksfest Grounds, east side. Route No. 11.

Magnolia Park—on Galveston, La Porte & Houston R'd, four miles east.

Vick's Park—Washington street, near entrance to Houston Heights Boulevard. Route No. 8.

Volksfest Ground—two miles east. Route No. 11.

The Descendants host regular clean-up days, when volunteers gather to clear vegetation, clean headstones, and restore pathways. These recurring events provide an opportunity for individuals and groups to directly participate in preservation efforts. Guided tours are often offered on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 10 a.m. or are available by appointment. Highlighting the history, symbolism, and cultural practices represented within the cemetery, these events provide insight into the lives of the men, women, and children buried here, while teaching broader lessons about Houston’s African American history.

During its early years, the cemetery went by several titles: Holly Wood, Hollow Wood, Olive Wood, and eventually, Olivewood. On the 1895 Whitty & Stott map of Houston above, we see Hollow Wood Cemetery nestled next to White Oak Bayou and the former Heights greenspace, Coombs Park and Natatorium. The 1915 Dealy & Baker *Red Book of Houston* lists Hollywood Cemetery as a resource for Black Houstonians.

Sources: [About Descendants of Olivewood Historic African American Cemetery in Houston](#); [Schedule - Real Places Conference 2026](#); [Development Plat Submittal Requirements](#) [Olivewood Cemetery Map - Harris County, Texas, USA](#).

Photographs above: [About Descendants of Olivewood Historic African American Cemetery in Houston](#). Above right: E. P. Noll & Co. Whitty & Stott, Map, 1895. City of Houston and environs; Library of Congress. Below left: Dealy & Baker, *Red Book of Houston Complete Guide to Houston, Texas, 1915*. Library of Congress, p. 26.





## Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings will vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.

**March 19** – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Becky Shelton, Texas Historical Commission, via Zoom only.

**April 7** – HAS Board Meeting

**April 16** - 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Bethany Miller, New Mexico State University graduate student, via Zoom only.

**May 21**- 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Kelly Jenks, Professor at New Mexico State University, via Zoom only.

**June** – No Meeting. See you at TAS Field School.

**July 16** – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting with a TAS Field School recap. [Trini Mendenhall Community Center](#), 1414 Wirt Road, with a Zoom link available to members.

**August 20** – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Heather Para, via Zoom only.

**September 17** - 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Gus Costa. [Trini Mendenhall Community Center](#), 1414 Wirt Road, with a Zoom link available to members.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are ordinarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived on our [YouTube Site](#), where they are available for public viewing. For more information about HAS, visit [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org), email us at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org), or join our [Facebook Page](#).



### Various Upcoming Events – Virtual and In Person

**Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.**

**VIRTUAL:** Note that most events listed are free of charge but still require advance registration. Some websites listing virtual events and resources: [Texas State Historical Association Events](#); [NTAS](#); [Bullock Texas State History Museum](#); [Friends of THC](#); [The Story of Texas On Demand](#); [www.archaeological.org/events](http://www.archaeological.org/events); [PAST Foundation](#); [Archaeology Events Eventbrite](#); [Archaeological Conservancy](#).

**American Rock Art Research Association**

Recorded lectures at [ARARA - YouTube](#).

**Ancient Art Council, Museums of San Francisco**

**3/28** – Saturday, 4 p.m. Central. Online lectures series, [Ancient Art Council Lecture](#).

**Archaeological Conservancy**

Virtual Tours at <https://www.thearchcons.org/virtual-tours/>.

**Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)**

**3/3** – Tuesday, 2 p.m. Central. Across Jordan in the Footsteps of Alois Musil: Archaeology and Discovery with Sylva Pavlasová. Musil, a theologian, explorer, and Czech scholar who, in 1898, rediscovered the Islamic desert castle of Qusayr ‘Amra. [Register here](#).

**3/22** – Sunday, 1 p.m. Central. The Shipwreck at Gnalić, Gagliana Grossa (1569-1583), [zoom.us/meeting/register](https://zoom.us/join/register).

**3/28** – Saturday, 2 p.m. Central. New Archaeological Research in the Republic of North Macedonia. <https://users.stlcc.edu/Register>.

**City of London Archaeological Society**

Recorded lectures at <https://colas.org.uk/events/>.

**Cotswold Archaeology**

**3/18** – Wednesday, 7 p.m. GMT/2 p.m. Central. [Stories of the Silent: prisoners and paupers at Blackberry Hill](#). Archaeological discoveries relating to the site’s past as a prisoner of war camp, a workhouse with an affiliated cemetery, and medical exploitation.

**3/30** – Monday, 7:30 p.m. GMT/ 2:30 p.m. Central. The Willersey Hoard. Two Roman cavalry swords or ‘spatha’ were found in March 2023 by a metal detectorist, then donated to the [Corinium Museum](#), Cirencester. More information at [Gloucestershire Archaeology](#).

**Council for British Archaeology**

**3/3** – Tuesday, 7 p.m. GMT/2 p.m. Central. Projects include a Romano-British double-ditched enclosure, a Bronze Age hilltop enclosure also used as a medieval cemetery and a WWII radar station, and a Roman gold-mining complex. [Information here](#); [Reservations](#); [Talks & Lectures](#).

**3/12** – Thursday, 7.30 p.m. GMT/2:30 p.m. Central. New understandings of the Neolithic monument of Avebury; [More information](#).

**3/18** – Wednesday, 7 p.m. GMT/2 p.m. Central. Late Roman Base-Metal Coinage and its Political Messages (AD 294 – 410), Dr. Marcus Spencer-Brown, Ashmolean Museum. [More information](#); <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/late-roman-base-metal-coinage-tickets>.

**Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**

**3/12** - Thursday, 4 p.m. MST/Central 5 p.m. Central. Pueblo of Acoma’s history and collective Ancestral Pueblo memory as connected to present-day living memory and Pueblo landscapes; <https://crowcanyon.org/programs/living-memory-landscapes-and-connection/>.

**Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series**

**3/5** – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Ashley Hall, Museum of the Rockies, discusses the iconic coastal town of Lyme Regis, legendary fossil hunter Mary Anning, the Jurassic Coast, the discovery of ammonites, and the Etches Collection Museum. [Zoom Link](#).

**Friends of the Texas Historical Commission**

**3/12** – Thursday, 6 p.m. Texas Trailblazer Oveta Culp Hobby, public servant, media executive, first director of the WWII Women’s Army Corps ([WAC](#)), recipient of the [Distinguished Service Medal](#), secretary of the [Department of Health, Education, and Welfare](#). [Registration](#).

### **Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society**

3/9 – Monday, 2 p.m. GMT/8 a.m. Central. Finding Fitzrovia, Guildhall Library. Discover the characters and stories that make finding Fitzrovia fascinating. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/finding-fitzrovia-tickets-1976593677899>.

3/10 – Tuesday, 2 p.m. GMT/8 a.m. Central. A Century of the Telephone Box, Guildhall Library. Learn about the iconic red telephone box, its origins, design, and evolution. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/the-telephone-box-tickets-1976595363942>.

3/11 – Wednesday, 6 p.m. GMT/Noon Central. Technology, workshop practice and standards for threads and flatness as published in 1841 by Joseph Whitworth. Join via this [zoom link](#).

3/12 – Thursday, 2 p.m. GMT/8 a.m. Central. London's Villages: Kensington, Guildhall Library. With palaces and embassies, mansions, and crowded tower blocks, Kensington is not so much a village as a city in miniature. <https://eventbrite/londons-villages-kensington>.

3/24 – Tuesday, 2 p.m. GMT/8 a.m. Central. Guildhall Library. John Harrison revolutionized timepieces in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, enabling huge advances in global navigation, marine safety, mercantile opportunity and trade economics. <https://www.eventbrite/Harrison>.

### **Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan**

3/27 – Friday, Noon. Spartacus Stopped: Uncovering a Roman Defensive Wall by Paolo Visonà, University of Kentucky. Brief presentation on the Roman defensive wall and ditch initially constructed by the Roman general Marcus Licinius Crassus to contain Spartacus and his forces during their slave revolt. Register in advance: <https://forms.gle/4Uyt27BVfYXRRaGj9>.

### **London & Middlesex Archaeological Society**

3/10 – Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. GMT/12:30 p.m. Central. Hostel, House and Chambers: Accommodating the working woman in Victorian and Edwardian London; the single woman's hostel. <https://www.lamas.org.uk/product/hostel-house-and-chamber>.

### **New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies**

3/24 – Tuesday, 4 p.m. MST/5 p.m. Central. Edgar Lee Hewett, founder of the Museum of New Mexico and the School of American Archaeology and the complexities of Hewett's relationships with Native communities and the cultural narrative. [Livestreamed](#).

### **Old Pueblo Archaeology Center**

3/3 – Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. MST/6:30 p.m. Central. Ancient footwear and ancient roads in and beyond Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. [Registration](#).

3/19 - Thursday, 7 p.m. MST/8 p.m. Central. Long-Distance Exchange and Interaction in the US Southwest and Mexican Northwest; the significance of the material evidence, [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org). Recording of Petroglyphs, Pottery, and Painting lecture: [Old Pueblo YouTube.com](#).

### **Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center**

3/17 – Tuesday, Noon. Rattlesnake Canyon Pictograph Preservation Project. [Lunch and Learn - Shumla](#).

**ON-SITE:** Some searchable websites listing upcoming events in Texas: [State Parks - TPWD](#); [Alamo Events](#); [State Historic Sites](#); <https://texashighways.com/events/>; [AIA Event Listings](#); [Archaeology Now](#); [Heritage Society/calendar](#); [Houston Public Library Events](#).

### **Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, Bryan**

**Exhibition through May 16, 2026.** The Brazos: Legacy of a Mighty River, highlighting the river's natural and cultural history.

### **Hill Country Archeological Association**

3/21 - Saturday, 1:00 p.m. Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville. Chris Lintz, Archeological Assessment of Cita Canyon, Palo Duro.

### **Houston Civil War Round Table**

3/19 - Thursday, 6 p.m. Dinner/7 p.m. Meeting and Lecture John Michael Priest speaking on Gettysburg: New Interpretations. Non-members may attend a meeting with one free admission, then for \$10 or membership dues. Meetings at [Salt Grass Steakhouse](#).

### **Houston Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park**

3/7 – Saturday, 1:30 p.m. [USS Houston Annual Memorial Service \(84th Anniversary\)](#). Free - Open to the public.

### **Houston Museum of Natural Science**

**Special Exhibit - Terracotta Warriors.** Learn about the power, artistry, and history of the famed Terracotta Warriors.

3/21 – Saturday, Noon – 2 p.m. Sundial Celebration, Spring Equinox.

### **Jackson County Historical Commission**

3/5 – Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Chris Kneupper discusses Mexican fort Barranco Colorado, held in the [Historic Texana Church](#), (361) 782-5456.

### **Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Sites**

3/7 through 3/15 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spring Break on the Bluff, nine days of events, <https://thc.texas.gov/events/spring-break-bluff>.

### **Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site**

3/28 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Guided tours of the former plantation and the associated archeology, <https://thc.texas.gov/guided>.

### **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**

3/1 – Sunday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Winter Festival Year of the Horse, free. <https://www.mfah.org/events/winter-festival-year-of-the-horse>.

### **Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria**

3/5 – Thursday, 5:30 p.m. [John W. Stormont Lecture Series, La Salle's Legacy: The Making of the U.S./Mexican Border](#).

3/10 – 3/19 – 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Spring Break, various days and activities including [Atlatl Fun Day](#); [History: Early People](#).

### **Olivewood Cemetery**

3/7 and 3/21 – First and third Saturdays, 10 a.m. Tours and volunteer clean up days. Confirm at [info@descendantsofolivewood.org](mailto:info@descendantsofolivewood.org).

### **Preservation Houston**

3/15 – Sunday, 2 p.m. [Old Sixth Ward Architecture Walk](#). Settled in the mid-19th century at what was then Houston's western edge, the Old Sixth Ward grew alongside the railroads that powered the city's early expansion. Registration required, \$15 fee.

### **Rosenberg Library, Galveston**

3/14 – Saturday, 11 a.m. Lecture: Mary Moody Northern, philanthropist and head of the Moody family's sprawling billion-dollar business enterprise. Free lecture and admission to tour the mansion, advance registration required: <https://rosenberglib.librarycalendar-northern-lecture>.

### **San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site**

3/10 through 3/14 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Spring Break activities including [Dendritic Mochaware](#) with archeologist Jamie Ross demonstrating

mochaware reaction; Science of Coffee; Cannon Engineering Challenge; Surveying; Pie for Pi Day.  
 3/14 – Saturday, 12:30 p.m. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Burning of San Felipe de Austin (Stephen F. Austin State Park)  
 3/21 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Austin-Westall 1828 Wedding reenactment and period dances.  
 3/29 – Sunday, 2 p.m. Nature Walk with the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists.

**San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site**

3/7 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. San Jacinto Family Day: Bullet Making.  
 3/9 – Monday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Spring Break 2026: Firearms Demonstration and Touch Table.  
 3/11 – Wednesday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Battle Beats - Music of the March, communication across the battleground.  
 3/13 – Friday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Spring Break 2026: Cannon Demonstration.  
 3/14 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Spinning and Weaving demonstration.  
 3/21 – Saturday, 1 p.m. Firearms Demonstration, musket and rifle.  
 3/29 – Sunday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Cannon Demonstrations, every half hour, weather dependent.

**Texas Historical Commission**

3/4 - -3/7 - Annual Meeting and Conference, Irving; Program information and Registration.

**Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site**

3/7 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – Noon. Greenhouse Learning Days.  
 3/21 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – Noon. FamilySearch for Beginners



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

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Left: Borden, Gail and Tom. *Original Plan of Houston*, c. 1836. Map. University of Houston, <https://id.lib.uh.edu/ark:/84475/do8156zz270>. Above: Globe, free clip art.