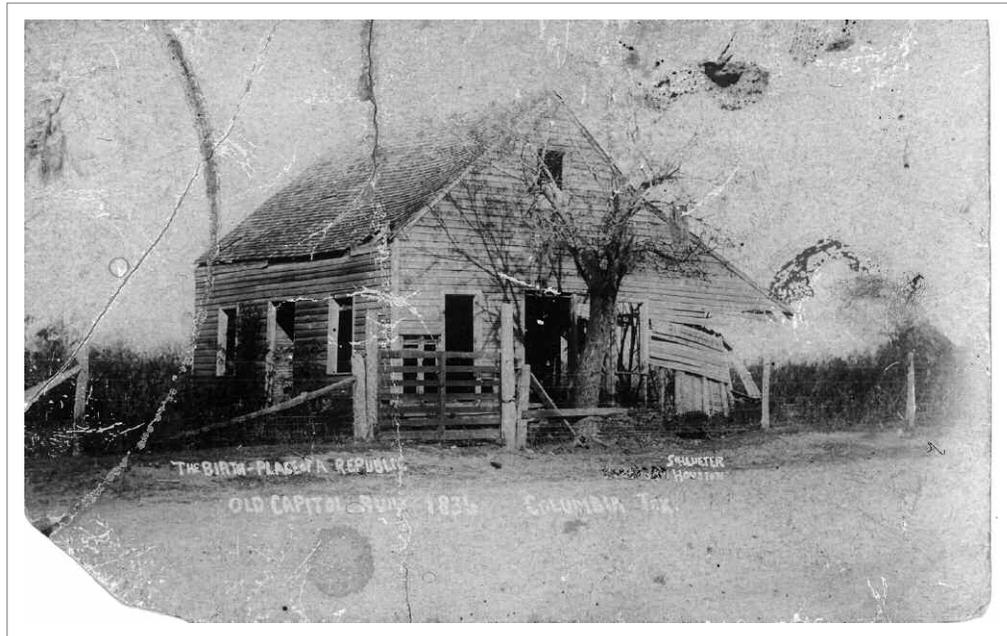


Current ARCHEOLOGY IN TEXAS

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Courtesy Brazoria County Historical Museum

Figure 1. Ruins of the First Capitol of Texas in West Columbia, Texas.

First Capitol of Texas Recent Archeological Investigations in West Columbia, Texas (41BO225)

Douglas K. Boyd

A historical park will soon be dedicated at the site where the Republic of Texas established its seat of government 172 years ago. The park, which has been named “The Capitol of Texas Park—A Walk through the Birth of Texas,” is located in West Columbia, on a 30-ft-wide strip that fronts along Brazos Avenue (State Highway 35) between 16th and 17th streets.

Before the park was developed, archeological investigations were conducted at the First Capitol site (41BO225) from December 17–21, 2007. The work, which was directed by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (PAI), under contract with the Monument Park Development Group (MPDG), took place on a portion of the park area and extended slightly northward into developer-owned property.

The city block between Hamilton Street and Brazos Avenue and between 16th and 17th streets was purchased in 2007 by a developer (Realm Realty), and a Walgreen’s store as well as other retail improvements were planned. At the time of the purchase, the developer donated the southern portion of the block, a 30-ft-wide strip

fronting on Brazos Avenue, to a nonprofit entity to be determined by the sellers for the purpose of creating a historical park commemorating the first capitol of the Republic of Texas. The developer also donated funds to help the MPDG create the park.

When the developer began clearing the southern portion of the block to remove the existing buildings and parking lot from the property, historic artifacts and bricks from the top of an old cistern were uncovered. It seemed likely that this was the cistern that local businessman Sandy Weems remembered his uncle telling him about finding around 1939, when a series of storefronts and parking areas were built on the property. Weems' uncle knocked the top off the cistern and put the bricks into the cistern cavity before it was filled in and paved over.

The discovery of the cistern caused some excitement, and the MPDG contacted Dr. Alston Thoms, anthropology professor at Texas A&M University. Thoms, along with a group of Texas A&M students, spent most of a day documenting the archeological remains. They hand-excavated to expose the top edge of the cistern, and they dug a test pit and probed inside the cistern. They also used a backhoe to reexcavate a portion of a builder's trench associated with the 1939 buildings to examine the stratigraphy near the cistern and look for features. Thoms (2007) presented a brief summary of the investigations in an email to the MPDG on December 3, 2007.

Four days later, a group representing PAI (this paper's author), the Texas Historical Commission (Mark Denton), and the developer (Steven Griggs) joined Weems and other members of the MPDG to visit the site. At that time, a section of the cistern wall was exposed, and the bricks, mortar, and interior and exterior plaster layers were examined. The group examined the surface of the area, noting the presence of historic artifacts and clusters of old bricks. Plans for a quick investigation were discussed in light of the developer's plan to begin construction in early January 2008.

The archeological fieldwork was scheduled to begin on December 17, and the effort was to be directed by PAI archeologists with volunteer labor supplied by members of the Brazosport Archaeological Society (BAS). In addition, BAS member James L. Smith agreed to conduct preliminary archival research to define the history of the property where the cistern was found.

Archival Research and Findings

When the First Congress met at Columbia, as the town was named then, during the period of October–December 1836, there were two main capitol buildings that were used by the new Republic of Texas government (Kemp 1944:5–6; Creighton 1975:148–149). One was a two-story building

used by the Senate that had been a store owned by White and Knight. This building is reported to have been located south of Brazos Avenue (Weems 2007) and was torn down in 1888 (Creighton 1975:148; Kemp 1944:4–6). The other was a one-story (or one-and-a-half-story) building that had been occupied by a merchant named Leman Kelsey. This structure is identified as the building used by the House of Representatives. It was in ruins by 1898 (Figure 1) and was blown down by the September 1900 hurricane (Kemp 1944:4–6). No photographs are known to exist of the larger Senate structure, but several photographs of the smaller House of Representatives structure exist and the original prints are on file at the Brazoria County Historical Museum. The pictures can be viewed by visiting the online collection of the museum (www.bchm.org). The building photos are thought to have been taken around 1898, some of them perhaps in conjunction with a Galveston newspaper article about the first capitol of the Republic of Texas (Spillane 1898). One picture in the museum's collection is of the structure ruins soon after the 1900 hurricane. Some of these images have been published (e.g., Kemp 1944:3–4), and the photographs were undoubtedly used as the prototype for many sketches of the building and for the reconstructed "First Capitol of Texas" that is located on 14th Street in West Columbia. Some sketches of the building reported to have been used by the first House of Representatives also have been published (e.g., *Daughters of the Republic of Texas* 1942:82).

Notably, the 2007 archeological excavations were done in and around the historic cistern and are almost completely contained within one city lot. Smith supplemented this work by conducting intensive archival research to define the history of the property. He spent more than 22 volunteer hours on research and writing to compile a continuous chain-of-title for Lot 4, Block 2 of the old Columbia townsite. The Brazoria County Deed Records (Brazoria County Clerk 1898:43, 520) show that the building used by the House of Representatives in 1836 was indeed on Lot 4, Block 2. Other records demonstrate it is this building that is commonly and locally referred to as the "first capitol" of the Republic of Texas. The archival records do not provide any direct evidence regarding the date when the cistern was built, so the age of the cistern must be inferred from archeological evidence interpreted in conjunction with historical records.

Archeological Work Accomplished

The archeological investigations in West Columbia specifically targeted Lot 4, Block 2 because the cistern was found in close proximity to the "First Capitol of Texas" marker along Brazos Avenue and local lore suggested the cistern was associated with the first capitol. A *Daughters of the*

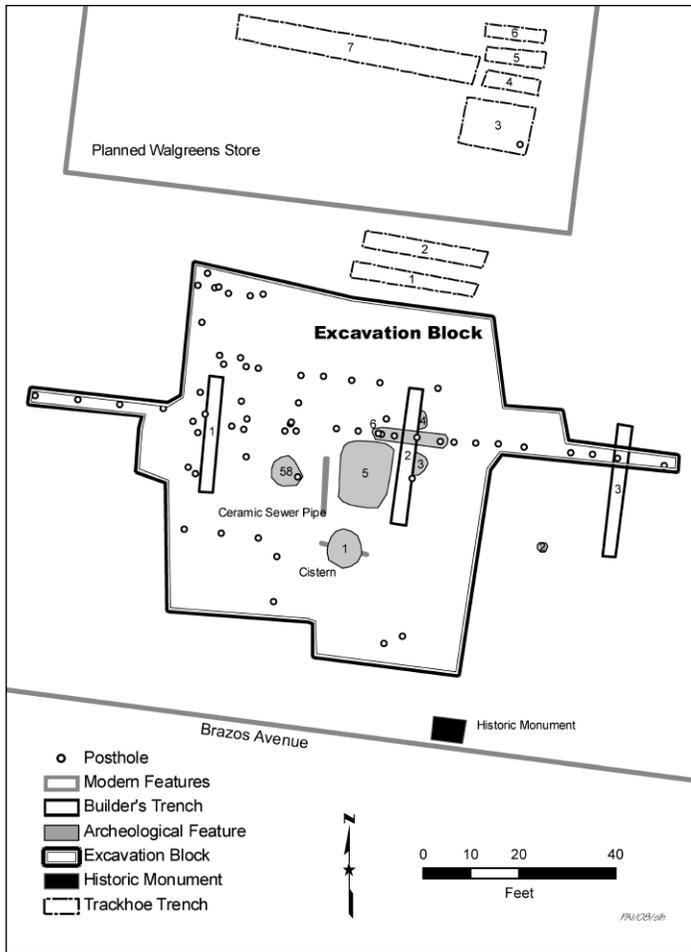


Figure 2. Map of the First Capitol site showing archeological excavations and historical features.

Republic of Texas (DRT) publication (1942:92–93) states that the marker was placed “in the sidewalk in front of the actual ‘site’” by the Sidney Sherman Chapter (Galveston) of the DRT in 1932. Over the five-day investigation, extensive mechanical and hand excavations were done in and around the cistern, but almost all of the excavations are within Lot 4 of Block 2. Figure 2 is a map showing the archeological investigations and the 67 historical features that were documented. In addition, a large number of artifacts (conservatively estimated at a few thousand) were recovered. The cultural features and artifacts are briefly described below.

Features and Artifacts

Feature 1, Cistern

When first discovered and examined, the cistern appeared as a circular brick wall. It had obviously been truncated at or below ground level. This finding appears to coincide with information provided by Weems that his uncle had clipped off the domed top (presumably, the shoulder and neck) of the cistern, placed it inside the cavity, and then filled in the cistern. This happened sometime around 1939



Figure 3. Photograph of the excavated cistern, Feature 1.

(Weems 2007). The cistern was filled with historic artifacts that appear to date from around 1900 to 1939. During the PAI archeological investigation, all of the fill inside the cistern was excavated and removed (Figure 3).

The slightly egg-shaped cistern, estimated to be about 8 ft in diameter, was found in plan view. When the excavation was completed, the remaining portion was about 6 ft deep from the truncated top of the feature. It is estimated that the complete cistern was bottle-shaped and would have been about 7 to 8 ft deep. It is not known where the original ground surface was or how much of the cistern extended above ground level. It is likely that the cistern shoulder stuck out of the ground (giving it a dome-like appearance) and that it had a straight neck that extended at least 12 in above the dome. This shape is typical for many of the cisterns associated with the pre-Civil War plantations in Brazoria County (Smith et al. 2007).

The upper fill of the cistern was excavated by a combination of backhoe and hand digging. The lower fill was dug by hand, but the backhoe bucket was used to aid in removing the fill. The water table was encountered at

about 3 ft below current surface in the cistern, and a pump had to be used to remove the water to allow for the complete excavation. The cistern also leaked, and water from outside would fill the cistern halfway when the pump was turned off.

The cistern was completely filled with artifacts, and samples of diagnostic specimens (i.e., artifacts that can be identified by function and date of manufacture) were collected from the upper, middle, and lower fills. In addition to the artifacts, many bricks were found in the fill, and they were all reddish clay, hand-made bricks that matched the ones in the cistern wall. Many of the bricks in the lower fill were half-brick fragments that probably came from the neck and shoulder.

In addition to the interior fill being removed, a backhoe trench was excavated on the west side of the feature. This was done to expose the sediments outside the cistern in an attempt to determine if a builder's trench was excavated when the cistern was initially constructed. No stratigraphic evidence of a builder's trench was found, which provides important clues regarding how the cistern was constructed. A cursory comparison of cisterns from nearby plantations suggests that the West Columbia cistern probably dates to the first half of the 1800s; however, determining the precise time when the cistern was built is not possible based on the archeological evidence alone. Circumstantial evidence does come into play here, and it seems likely that the cistern would have been constructed when a structure was built on Lot 4, presumably between 1826 and 1836. Consequently, it is suggested that this cistern may have been used by the Republic of Texas' First Congress in 1836. Additional archival research and comparisons with contemporaneous cisterns and other archeological data are needed to strengthen this argument.

Feature 3, Possible Privy Pit

Feature 3 is a possible privy pit found in the reexcavated builder's trench and exposed in plan view by trackhoe scraping west of this trench. This feature is characterized as a shallow, bowl-like pit with very dark, organic-rich fill and numerous artifacts (Figure 4). Most of the artifacts found in this pit, including several hand-blown glass bottles, appear to date to the early or mid-1800s. Determining whether this feature actually was a privy pit, or was simply an old trash pit, will require further detailed analysis and possibly some chemical studies of the sediment samples.

Feature 4, Trash Pit

Feature 4 is a pit-like feature exposed in profile in the reexcavated builder's trench and exposed in plan view by trackhoe scraping east of this trench (see Figure 2). The pit was relatively shallow and appeared to contain only



Figure 4. Photograph of the excavation of the possible privy pit, Feature 3. Note the hand-blown glass bottles and brick fragments found in the upper part of the pit and the iron pan still in place in the pit.

20th-century artifacts. Due to time constraints, no further investigation was done on Feature 4.

Feature 5, Trash Scatter and Pit

Feature 5 was first observed as a concentration of hand-made bricks and mortar, along with some artifacts. Excavation revealed that all of the upper materials, including one intact section of mortared bricks, represent debris scattered and dispersed prior to the building's construction around 1939. Most of the artifacts in the upper fill appear to date to the 20th century. Continued excavation revealed a roughly circular pit that extended 24 in or more below the scraped surface. The pit contained artifacts from the 19th century, some of which may date to the mid-1800s. The lower portion of this feature is interpreted as a trash pit.

Feature 58, Brick Dump

Feature 58 was a large, irregular pit, about 6 x 6 ft in size and 5 to 6 ft deep. It first appeared during trackhoe scraping as a large patch of splotchy and mottled soil. The splotchy soil was light in color and clearly represented clay (B horizon) soils that came from several feet below the surface. It was obviously an intrusive pit, and its fill was very different from that observed in other features at the site.

This feature was excavated using a backhoe with a flat-bladed bucket. A large concentration of bricks, charcoal, and ash appeared at about 18 in deep. The clay layer became saturated at 30 in, and the water table was encountered at 3 to 3.5 ft. Bricks, including wedge-shaped

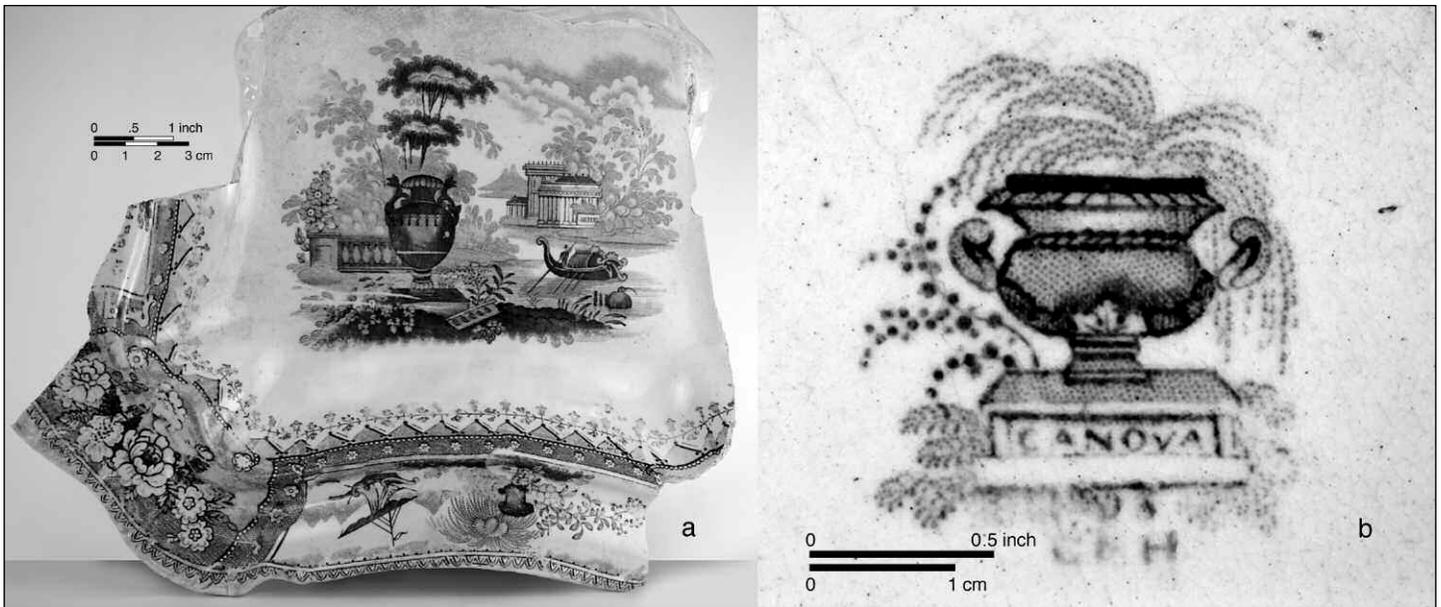


Figure 5. Photographs of the serving dish fragment (a) with “Canova” transfer-printed design and the maker’s mark (b) on the back of the platter.

bricks, and other artifacts continued to come up as the backhoe dug below the water table. The exact bottom of the pit could not be determined due to the water. It is estimated that the pit extended to at least 5 ft below the scraped surface, but it probably did not go any deeper than 6 ft below the scraped surface. Since as much as a foot of sediment was scraped away when this pit feature was first found, it is estimated that the bottom of the pit was actually 6 to 7 ft below the original ground surface.

One recovered artifact is a large portion of a blue transfer-printed serving dish with a “Canova” pattern design and maker’s mark (Figure 5). The platter was found with historic bricks and other artifacts in Feature 58. The maker’s mark has not been identified, and it is not known if this vessel was made in England or in America (Pollan 2007). Canova transfer-printed wares were fairly common at Old Velasco, at the mouth of the Brazos River, and they are imported English wares that date as early as the 1830s (Blake and Freeman 1998:Figure 5; Earls et al. 1996:177–183, Tables 23, 24, 25, and 26; McWilliams and Boyd 2007:Appendix A; Pollan et al. 1996:23–24); however, this particular maker’s mark may not be that early.

The interpretation of this feature is subjective, and there are no definitive answers. One theory is that the pit feature is an old dump that was dug and filled in with debris from the former house around 1900 or soon thereafter. Historic photos of the first capitol (reportedly the House of Representatives) building, probably dating to around 1898, show that the structure was deteriorating but still standing. They also show that it had a substantial brick chimney. The building was constructed in the 1820s and

stood until it was blown down by the 1900 hurricane. The area was apparently redeveloped soon after, and a new building is shown in the area on 1926 and 1936 fire insurance maps (Sanborn Map Company 1926, 1936).

Postholes

Of the 67 documented features, 61 are postholes, and one is a narrow trench with attached postholes (Feature 6). All of these soil anomalies consist of dark stains that appeared as the trackhoe scraping went into the lighter-colored B horizon soils. They all have well-defined shapes that are round, square, or rectangular. Several of the features were cross-sectioned (i.e., half of the feature was excavated to expose a vertical profile), revealing that they were indeed postholes.

The postholes represent locations where vertical posts were once located. It is likely that most or all of them once contained wooden posts. In cases where the darker sediments are mottled and contain an occasional artifact, the soil anomaly probably represents materials that washed into a posthole after the post was removed. In other cases, where the darker soil is very homogenous, a post probably decayed in place inside the hole. In at least three cases, substantial remnants of wooden posts were found in the center of the posthole.

No attempt has been made to analyze the patterns of the postholes, but their shapes, sizes, and depths are clues as to which postholes may be related. For example, many of the larger square postholes formed a straight east-west line that probably represents a fence or a wall. The linear trackhoe trenches that extend east and west of the main

excavation block (see Figure 2) were dug specifically to follow this line of postholes. A detailed study of the postholes (and the artifacts found in some of them) must be conducted to fully understand the patterns, possible ages, and associations of these features. The ultimate goal of this analysis will be to identify post locations that may have been associated with one of the buildings of the first capital on Lot 4.

Artifacts Recovered

Several thousand artifacts from the 19th and early 20th centuries were recovered, consisting mostly of animal bone refuse, bottle glass, and ceramics. Using volunteer labor, all of the artifacts have been washed; however, they have not been catalogued, counted, or analyzed.

Although no detailed analyses have been conducted, and many of the artifacts have yet to be identified, the artifact assemblages from different contexts are revealing. Some preliminary thoughts are offered here. In general, the sample of artifacts recovered from the cistern appears to date mainly to the early 20th century. Because the cistern was filled in by about 1939, the time of the last building episode on the property, we expected this to be the latest date for the manufacture of items found in the fill. This appears to be the case, and the most temporally diagnostic specimens are a large sample of glass bottles, all of which were made on automatic bottle machines after 1904 and up to the 1930s. The other artifact group that was abundant in the cistern fill is automotive parts. Many were badly rusted objects like sections of exhaust pipe, frame pieces, and suspension springs, but there were also diagnostic specimens such as odd-looking Champion spark plugs that definitely date to the 1920s or 1930s. The abundance of auto parts is not surprising since 1930s photos show that the “First Capitol Service Station” was located on the lot to the west, and locals remember it was later a Western Auto Store. There are exceptions to the abundant 20th-century materials, and some artifacts in the lower cistern fill appear to date to the 19th century. If the cistern was abandoned for some time before it was finally filled in around 1939, there may be some chronological layering to the fill. A thorough analysis of the temporally diagnostic artifacts will be needed to test this hypothesis. The vertical separation will be tempered by the fact that the lower half of the cistern was below the water table, and the mucky fill had to be shoveled out in a crude manner. Defining the ages of the artifacts from inside the cistern will be critical because the data will help determine the use-life and abandonment history of this water storage feature.

Similarly, a variety of 19th- and 20th-century artifacts were observed in the scraped areas around the cistern and across most of Lot 4. The artifacts found

associated with the posthole features also are mixed in age. Collectively, these materials reflect a location where 19th- and early 20th-century occupations were later disturbed by construction activities that occurred between the 1900 hurricane and the late 1930s.

Because the historic building on Lot 4 was occupied or used from its construction in the 1820s until late in the 19th century, artifacts representing this full span of time should be expected. Indeed, it appears that artifacts from three different contexts—Feature 3, the lower part of Feature 5, and Feature 58—date primarily to the 19th century. A substantial number of artifacts from these features date to the first half of the 19th century. Some of them, such as the hand-blown bottles from Feature 3 and perhaps the transfer-printed platter from Feature 58, could even be associated with the 1836 Republic of Texas government activities.

Accurate artifact identifications and detailed comparative analyses of the various artifact assemblages certainly will enable more complete interpretations of the ages and functions of the various archeological features and the historic activities that occurred at the First Capitol site. Unfortunately, we may never know for sure which of the artifacts may have been used by Sam Houston and his Republic of Texas colleagues during their brief stay in Columbia for the first session of the congress.

Summary and Future Work

Without doubt, the First Capitol site is a significant location in the history of our state, and it deserves scholarly attention befitting of its status. Archival and archeological evidence shows that we have now identified the site of one of the Republic of Texas’ first capitol buildings, but the professional historical and archeological communities will remain skeptical, as well they should, until all evidence is brought to bear on the subject. A thorough analysis of archeological data and additional archival research are needed to interpret the site within its proper historic contextual framework.

The full story of the first capital of the Republic of Texas has never been adequately told. The most comprehensive published overview is the 1944 article by L. W. Kemp, and this study highlights many of the uncertainties and inconsistencies in the history of the site. Additional archival research is needed to tell a complete and accurate tale of the Republic of Texas’ activities in Columbia and to interpret the archeological remains from the First Capitol site. A case in point is that the location of the Senate building used during the 1836 First Congress has never been confirmed. Rumors suggest it was located somewhere to the south of the House of Representatives building. Local people have various ideas about where the 1836 Senate building was located, but the simple fact is that no one

knows for sure. Smith is currently doing more archival research to determine the location of the 1836 Senate building, and he hopes to develop a full chain-of-title for the lot on which it stood.

Additional archival research could help define the Republic of Texas' activities in Columbia. For example, two important historical collections that need to be examined are the papers of early legislators John Adriance and Ammon Underwood. In addition, a search is underway for any records that the DRT may have compiled that relate to the "First Capitol of Texas" historical marker. The DRT was interested in the first capitol building as early as 1898, when the structure was still standing, and they placed the historical marker at the site in 1932 (*Daughters of the Republic of Texas* 1942:86–87). If located, these records could provide a wealth of important historical information.

In general, the artifacts recovered from the First Capitol site represent a mix of 19th- and early 20th-century materials. The artifacts from the cistern appear to date from the early 20th century, with some exceptions. Some of the artifacts in the lower cistern fill may date a little earlier, although a thorough analysis and identification of artifacts is needed to test this hypothesis. Defining the ages of the artifacts that fill the cistern is critical because the data will help determine the use-life and abandonment history of this water storage feature. A variety of 19th- and 20th-century artifacts were observed in the scraped areas around the cistern, but only the earlier 19th-century materials were collected. Artifacts from Feature 3, the lower portion of Feature 5, and Feature 58 appear to date primarily to the mid to late 19th century, with some of the artifacts from Feature 3 possibly dating to the earliest occupations on the site. Detailed studies of these important artifacts are needed to fully interpret the archeological features and the historic activities at the First Capitol site.

The MPDG is moving forward with its development of a historical park on the First Capitol site. The group also is trying to raise funds that will allow for additional archival research and a complete comparative analysis and reporting of the 2007 archeological data. If successful in their efforts, we may soon have a much clearer picture of what constituted the 1836 Republic of Texas capital at Columbia (Johnson 2001; Weir and Kliner 2007).

Acknowledgements

This project was a salvage effort to do a quick archeological investigation ahead of property development, and it was truly a collaborative effort involving many organizations and numerous people. Thanks go first to Sandy Weems of the Monument Park Development Group, who handled all coordination and logistics for the archeological investigations and provided a trackhoe. The City of West Columbia pro-

vided a backhoe and operator (Matt Fisher). For Prewitt and Associates, Jenny McWilliams and I directed the archeological field investigations, and Sandy Hannum prepared the site map. The project could not have been done without the many volunteers, most of whom are members of the Brazosport Archeological Society, who assisted during the fieldwork: Charlie Gordy, Sue Gross, Chris Knuepper, Carl Mehner, Susan Mehner, Marianne Marek, Johnney Pollan, James Smith, and Tissie Schwebel. Following this, Gross, McWilliams, and I spent many hours washing artifacts, and James Smith volunteered many days doing archival research and writing a detailed historical summary of the property. Additional thanks go to Sharon Ivey-Seibert with Stewart Title Company of Angelton, who allowed Smith access to the title plant.

Douglas K. Boyd is vice president at Prewitt and Associates, Inc., an Austin-based firm that was founded in 1979 to provide cultural resources management services.

The park development group is continuing its fundraising efforts and is searching for possible sources to help complete the artifact analysis and reporting for the First Capitol archeological project. For more information, contact the author at dboyd@paiarch.com.

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Ships Ablaze in Beaumont

The Investigation of a Wrecked World War I Cargo Ship (41OR90) in the Neches River

Sara Hoskins

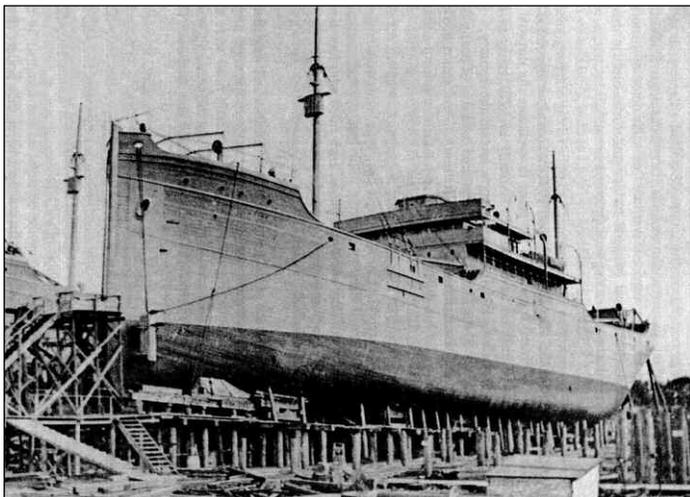


Figure 1. *The Utina* during construction.

While conducting a survey for a proposed bridge replacement in Beaumont, Texas, a PBS&J team stumbled across an interesting archeological find—a World War I-era cargo ship that had sunk in the Neches River 83 years ago. The initial marine remote-sensing survey that detected the presence of the ship included both magnetometer and side-scan sonar and was conducted in December 2006 for the Texas Department of Transportation in Beaumont (Hoskins et al. 2007a).

When the sonar screen revealed the conspicuous outline of a ship across the edge of the project area, new plans were made. The new work included additional high-resolution sonar imaging, underwater video documentation over the wreck, a multibeam bathymetric survey, archival and photographic research, and limited diving around the area of the wreck (Hoskins et al. 2007b, 2007c).

State Marine Archeologist Steve Hoyt, who has in-depth experience in both Texas history and nautical archeology, suggested this might be the wreck of an Emergency Fleet Corporation (EFC) vessel; therefore, in addition to researching other possibilities, such as 19th-century steamers that once plied the Neches River, nautical archeologists at PBS&J conducted a search for information on EFC vessels. This search included tapping into resources gathered by PBS&J for an earlier project involving another EFC wreck in Texas, the *Utina* (Figure 1) (Hoyt and Schmidt 1995).

The Emergency Fleet

As a result of Germany's submarine warfare during World War I, Allied merchant shipping losses were mounting. In response, the United States launched an ambitious campaign of merchant ship construction to "build a bridge of ships" to France (Hurley 1927). To lead this campaign, the EFC, a subsidiary of the United States Shipping Board (USSB), emerged in April 1917 with \$50 million in capital and a plan to build more than 2,800 ships made of wood and steel (Hurley 1927).

In spite of substantial criticism from the public, the EFC eventually adopted an aggressive program to build more than 1,000 wooden ships at a time when wooden shipbuilding was all but extinct. Difficulty acquiring materials and skilled workmen caused the construction of the wooden ships to take considerably longer than was expected. In addition, at the time the program was launched, there was no suitable plan for a wooden ship of the size needed; therefore, valuable time was lost as plans were prepared and then altered to fit the materials available (USSB 1921; Hurley 1927; Webb 1975; Shomette 1996).

Ferris Design

Theodore E. Ferris was appointed as the official naval architect for the USSB and was responsible for working up plans for the program's standard vessel, which came to bear his name. The Ferris-type 3,500-ton steamships were built primarily of long-leaf yellow pine with an overall length of 281 ft 6 in, 268 ft between perpendiculars, a load draft of 23 ft 6 in, and a beam measuring between 45 and 46 ft. These ships had straight stems, elliptical sterns, wooden deckhouses on the bridge and poop decks, a single smoke stack, and two wood-pole masts for lifting cargo. Each ship had four cargo hatches on the upper deck and a steam winch at each of these hatches for working the cargo booms. Machinery consisted of a triple expansion steam engine placed aft of two water-tube boilers capable of accelerating the ship to 10 knots (Anonymous 1917; USSB-SCD 1918).

Shipbuilding in Beaumont

Shipyards producing ships for the EFC were divided among six districts. All of the yards along the Gulf Coast west of New Orleans were considered part of the Gulf District. More than 100 wooden ships were contracted in this district, and in Beaumont, four shipyards emerged to fill EFC contracts: the Beaumont Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, the Lone Star Ship Building Company, McBride and Law, and J. N. McCammon. The largest of the Beaumont yards, the Beaumont Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company and the Lone Star Shipbuilding Company, not only produced hulls for the EFC but were responsible for outfitting and making vessels built elsewhere within the district ready for sea (USSB-DPC 1921).

The End of the War

The end of the war brought mass cancellations in the wooden shipbuilding program. Of the roughly 1,000 vessels originally planned by the EFC, only 589 were completed or partially completed. The USSB cancelled the remaining ships, with a loss of more than \$100 million in contracts. In the Gulf District this amounted to 49 vessel cancellations, 16 of which were already under construction (USSB 1920, 1921; USSB-DPC 1921).

Due to the immense size of the wooden shipbuilding program, the government suddenly found that more keels were laid than were necessary for its needs when the war ended. In May 1919, the EFC offered up for sale its excess, which included 462 of the 589 complete or partially complete wooden ships and barges. The asking price was upwards of \$75,000 a piece, not including the cost of any machinery that might be installed (*Galveston Daily News* 1919).

With the replacement of coal burners with oil burners and steam engines with internal combustion engines, the utility and thus desirability of the EFC fleet diminished. After several years of minimal success in selling the fleet, and with the majority of the fleet laid up, the USSB entered a new phase in its attempt to rid itself of its "white elephant" fleet. During this time, the USSB began selling the hulls for whatever price they would bring (*Galveston Daily News* 1921; Webb 1975).

The Pendleton Brothers of New York, one of the country's largest ship chandlers and operators, took advantage of this opportunity and purchased 26 incomplete Ferris-type wooden steamships in Beaumont in August 1922 for a total price of \$21,000. It had cost \$10 million to build these ships. This sale was the result of an auction organized by the USSB to sell all of its property in Beaumont. The plan was for these hulls, which were at different stages of completion, to be towed to New York where they would be refitted as barges and put into service. Though the brothers

had a minor amount of success, their plan to tow their fleet to New York largely fell apart. Two years after the purchase, the brothers sold 22 of the Beaumont ships, the so-called “Bone Yard” or “Gray Fleet” that was lining the banks of the upper Neches River (*Beaumont Enterprise* 1922a, 1922b, 1924; *Galveston Daily News* 1922, 1924).

Fires Destroy Ships

Fire, whether accidental or intentional, plagued the fleet of wooden EFC ships in the years after they were discarded. On December 1, 1924, six ships burned on the Neches River above Beaumont. The ships were part of the fleet purchased by B. F. Zellers and were being scrapped for metal. Zellers entered into an arrangement with local salvors in which they were allowed to retrieve what metal they could from the hulls under the condition that once all of the metal was removed, he would be able to salvage any remaining wood. Zellers subsequently filed a suit for damages resulting from the fire that destroyed all of the salvageable wood, as the fire was caused by the acetylene torches the salvors were using to extract the metal (*Beaumont Enterprise* 1925a).

On February 22, 1925, seven Ferris-type ships also were destroyed by fire at their mooring, adjacent to the Pennsylvania Car and Shipbuilding Company. All the metal had been scrapped, and the workers were removing the spars, booms, and gaffs from those vessels that had reached the stage in construction to have received them. During this process, it was reported that a worker’s acetylene torch ignited the hulls (*Beaumont Daily Journal* 1925a; *Galveston Daily News* 1925a). The *Port Arthur News* (1925a) stated that the ships were owned by R. S. Barber and that several months before this fire, five other wooden ships had been destroyed by fire in Beaumont.

Later, on November 25, 1925, three Ferris-type steamers caught fire above the new Neches River Bridge. This bridge, which had just opened the previous May, had cost more than half a million dollars to complete and replaced the ferry as a means of transport across the river. The trio of ships constituted the last of a fleet of 13 once moored in the Neches River above Beaumont. Amidst the conflagration, one of the ships broke loose from its moorings and drifted down the river to the new bridge. A piling located upriver swung the vessel around and slowed it enough that its stern lightly struck the bridge’s central span. Firefighters poured water over the wreck, concentrating their efforts on the stern section where the fire posed the greatest danger to the bridge. The wreck and fire caused only slight damage to the bridge, but the accident incited public indignation (*Beaumont Daily Journal* 1925b; *Galveston Daily News* 1925b; *Port Arthur News* 1925b).

City and federal investigations into the cause of the November incident began immediately, but no evidence has been located that indicates the source of the fire. Determining the owner of the vessels proved difficult, as the ships had changed hands several times since they were purchased from the government. Herbert Eldredge, resident state highway engineer in charge of the Neches River Bridge, opened bidding to repair the bridge and remove the adjacent ship on April 19, 1926. Several factors led to the rejection of all bids; consequently, no solution to the bridge damage or hulk removal was found, and the ship eventually settled onto the river bottom (*Beaumont Enterprise* 1925b, 1926; *Port Arthur News* 1926a, 1926b).

Current Investigations

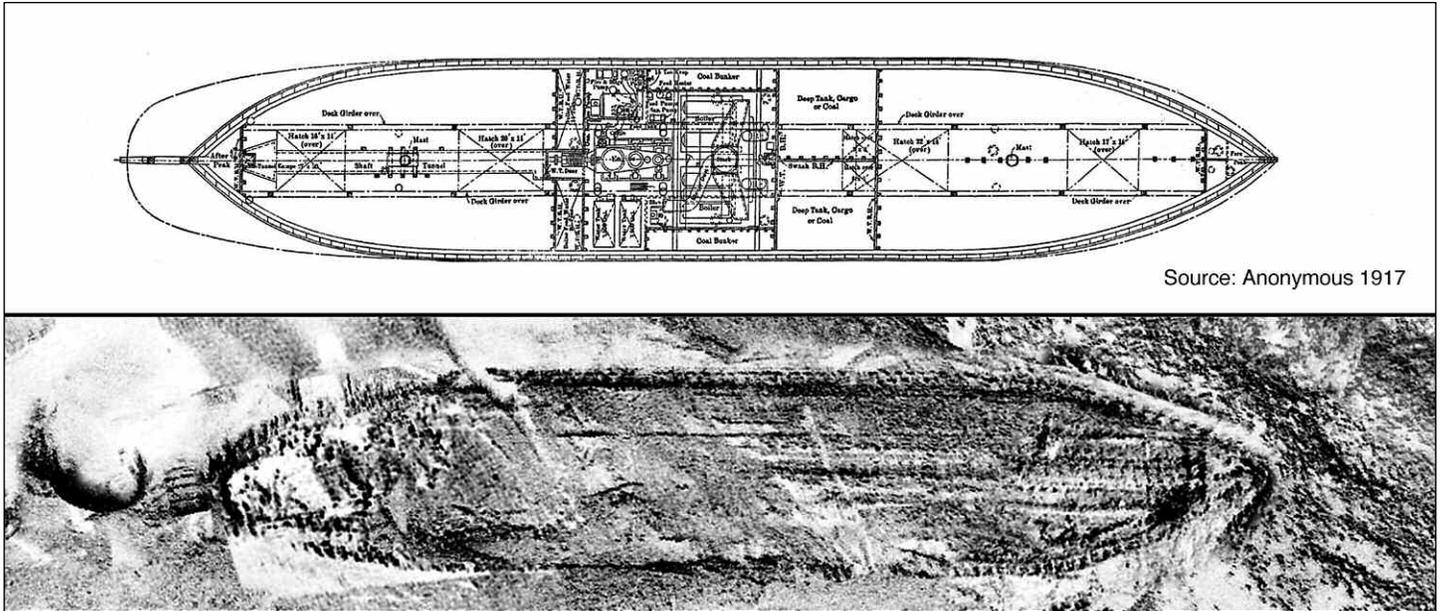
Following PBS&J’s initial survey of the area, when the wreck (now designated 41OR90) was located, underwater video documentation was conducted over the site. This documentation, which took place in March 2007, consisted of lowering a tethered camera over the side of the survey vessel directly beneath the GPS antenna. A georeferenced sonar image was imported into navigation software and used to guide the boat operator along the wreck. Despite the murky water, it became evident that what remains of the hull is in good condition, as workmanship details and crisp edges were seen in the video documentation.

The high-resolution sonar revealed a hull that is 258.5 ft long and 47.5 ft wide. The wreck’s overall shape and dimensions correspond to the plans for the lower hold of a Ferris-type vessel (Figure 2). Comparing the sonar image with the historic plans provides an orientation of the vessel consistent with the newspaper accounts of the wreck (*Beaumont Daily Journal* 1925b).

The multibeam data reveals a dramatic change in elevation along the wreck, both fore and aft and from port to starboard (Figure 3). The wreck appears to be listing to starboard and sloping downhill from stern to bow with a stream of sediment covering a portion of the ship. The greater amount of vertical rise at the stern illustrates the differential preservation along the ship, possibly as a result of firefighters concentrating their water on the stern.

Limited diving investigations of the wreck were conducted in August 2007, utilizing surface-supplied air. On each dive, the diver carried a Didson DH10 Acoustic Camera, a self-contained unit that allows divers to operate in zero-visibility conditions. Underwater, the diver views the image through a mask-mounted display while the umbilical line feeds the same image topside, where it is recorded and used as an aid to navigate the diver.

A total of 10 dives were conducted on the site at this time. Prior to diving, there were several key unknowns concerning the wreck, including the presence of a rudder,



Source: Anonymous 1917

Figure 2. Comparison of 41OR90 with Ferris steamship lower hold plans.

the degree of preservation along the hull, and the level of burial. It was learned that the ship is resting on the river bottom, unburied at the bow and along the port side, with 6 ft of vertical relief remaining at these locations (Figure 4). The bow is fully exposed; however, a stream of sediment covers the midships, and the stern is entangled with river debris, mostly in the form of trees and logs.

PBS&J was able to gather an extensive amount of Didson data during dive operations, which proved invaluable for documenting the wreck in zero visibility. The Didson captured details of construction not evident in the sonar or multibeam images, including the double-frame construc-

tion, the fastening pattern of the girder keelson, the bilge ceiling and keelson, a missing ceiling plank adjacent to the keelson (Figure 5), construction elements of the forepeak and after peak, and details at the stern, such as the remains of decking.

Dive operations revealed the presence of a rudder that remains intact to a height of approximately 22 ft, the greatest amount of preservation found through comparative research. The rudder remains fixed to the hull by pintles, each with a diameter of 4 in, as specified in the construction plans.

Several discrepancies were found between the wreck and the construction plans for Ferris-type vessels, though. For example, the space for the propeller was filled in with vertical timbers, indicating that this ship was likely converted to a barge, a detail not yet found in any historical documents or archeological examples. The vertical timbers were fixed in place and attached to the stern post using a series of iron straps. It was also discovered that the fore peak is filled with poured concrete, a detail not found in historical documentation but remarked upon by Donald Shomette in archeological examples of similar ships in Mallows Bay (Shomette 1998). In addition, the keelson was constructed of multiple smaller timbers rather than the large timbers called for in the plans, a likely result of the timber shortage experienced during the EFC shipbuilding program.

Results

The diving investigations of 41OR90 revealed that the bow end of the wreck has a similar level of preservation as those found in Mallows Bay and the Sabine River (Shomette 1998; Hoyt and Schmidt 1995). The stern and rudder are



Figure 3. Combined high-resolution sonar and multibeam data for 41OR90.

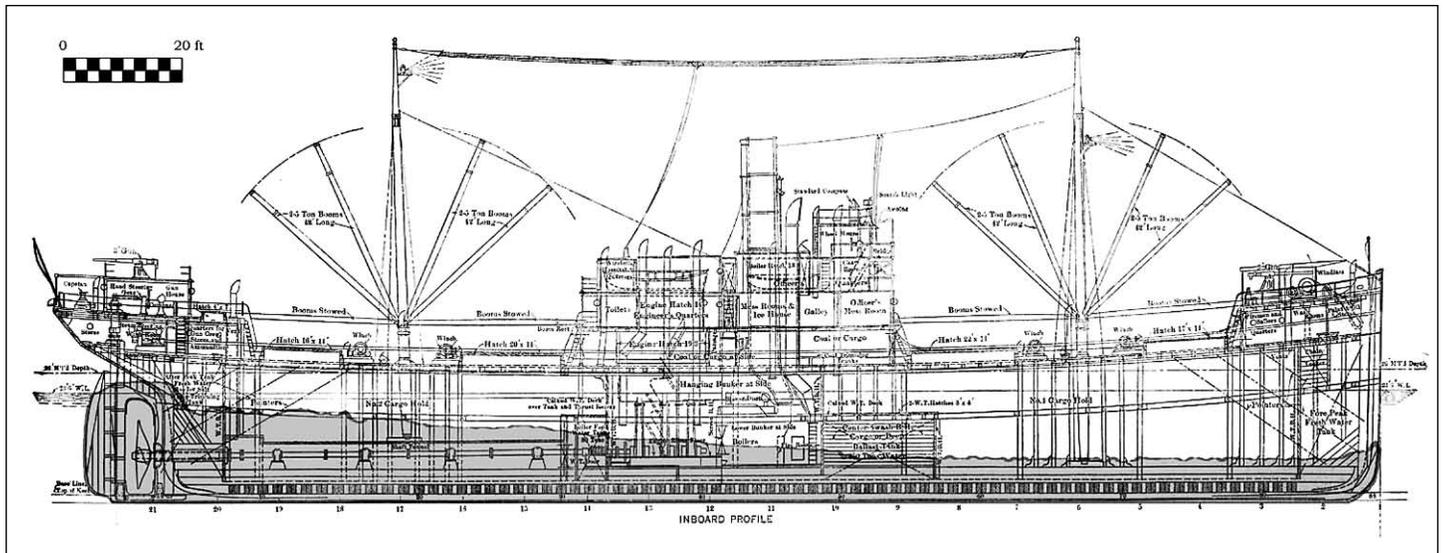


Figure 4. Approximate level of preservation of 41OR90.

significantly more intact than those referenced elsewhere. In addition, USSB records indicate that numerous ships of the Ferris design were converted to barges; however, no records of this conversion process have been found, and none of these barges appear to have received detailed archeological attention.

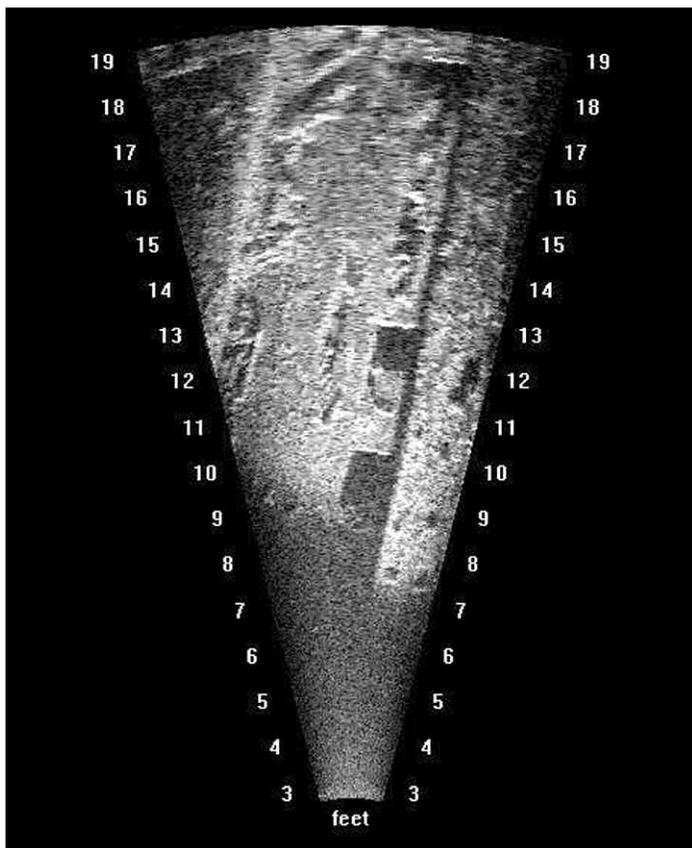


Figure 5. Didson capture of the missing ceiling plank adjacent to the keelson.

At a national level, the EFC's wooden shipbuilding program, which was launched to replace Allied merchant ships lost to German submarine attacks, was a major undertaking that received substantial criticism and cost taxpayers tremendously. This effort temporarily revitalized the all-but-extinct trade of wooden shipbuilding and produced for the last time some of the largest wooden ships ever built.

On a local level, Beaumont played a significant role in the production of EFC ships within the Gulf District. Not only were the Beaumont shipyards responsible for the construction of hulls, but they also outfitted vessels built throughout the district. The timber required to produce these large wooden vessels drained the resources of the once-thriving local timber industry. Though the end of the EFC's program also marked the end of large-scale wooden shipbuilding, several of the local yards that participated in the program continued their production of ships, focusing on those made of steel and even producing ships for World War II.

With its history and degree of preservation, this site is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and as a State Archeological Landmark. As such, it will not be disturbed by bridge construction. In addition, plans are in place to produce a permanent display in Beaumont that will visualize the wreck site and discuss its history and importance.

Sara Hoskins is a nautical archeologist with PBS&J in Austin, Texas, and has worked in the field on a variety of projects for eight years. This includes recording timbers of a 17th century wreck in the Azores and participating in the excavation of Oklahoma's only shipwreck.

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CURRENT NEWS AND EVENTS



Brett Cruse (at right in left photo), shown with a GPS unit, works with steward Alvin Lynn. Tiffany Osburn (center) demonstrates the use of a magnetometer. María de la Luz Martínez (right) is the new Texas Archeology Month coordinator and division editor.

Farewell & Hello

Archeology Division Announces Departures, New Appointments

A number of significant staff changes have occurred in the Archeology Division (AD) over the last year. In October 2007, Brett Cruse, a valued and productive member of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division staff since 1995, was selected to serve as the cultural resources coordinator for the agency's new Historic Sites Division. In October 2008 Cruse was named sites supervisor of the military and archeological state historic sites. Cruse's depth of knowledge and experience will be missed at the AD, but we wish him success in his new position.

The Red River War Archeological Project was a key accomplishment by Cruse, who worked as regional archeologist for the Mountain-Pecos and Plains regions. His scholarship and tenacity led to the discovery of the locations of several battles waged during the U.S. Army's campaign in 1874 to remove the remnant tribes of the Southern Plains to Oklahoma Territory reservation lands. Cruse has written a book about the results of the AD's Red River War investigations that has been published by Texas A&M University Press. For more information, go to www.tamu.edu/upress/BOOKS/2008/cruse.htm.

We are pleased to welcome Tiffany Osburn as the new Mountain-Pecos and Plains regional archeologist. She began work in early January, and her responsibilities include coordination with archeological stewards, participation in targeted archeological investigations, promotion of archeological preservation, and a wide range of regional public outreach activities.

Osburn previously worked on the Fort St. Louis project and also has training and experience in the application of geophysical techniques to archeological investigations in Texas and the greater Southwest. Prior to joining the AD staff, she was employed by Geo-Marine, Inc. The argument could even be made that "Texas archeology is in her blood" since she attended the first of several Texas Archeological Society (TAS) field schools as a middle schooler in 1991. She continues to be involved with the TAS as the Membership Committee chair. Osburn also has prior knowledge and experience with the agency's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) since her father, Glynn Osburn of Fort Worth, has been a steward since 2003.

We also said good-bye in February to Susan Hammack, Texas Archeology Month (TAM) coordinator and division editor. María de la Luz Martínez was hired in June, just in time to produce the 2008 TAM Calendar of Events. Other projects include this newsletter and *the Steward*, a publication of the TASN (see related story, page 22). Martínez previously worked for the University

of Texas at Austin and brings many years of editing and writing experience to the position.

In September, Carlos Castro, who had served as an administrative assistant at the AD since 2005, joined the THC Staff Services division as a staff services officer. Karen Brideweser was hired as the AD's new administrative assistant on October 1. Previously, Brideweser worked at Responsive Education Solutions, a district of public charter

schools, where she served as the Child Nutrition Program coordinator and office support coordinator.

We welcome our newest "additions" to the team!

*Patricia A. Mercado-Allinger
State Archeologist
THC Archeology Division*

Texas Historical Commission Salutes Archeologists for Exemplary Leadership and Accomplishments

Several prominent Texas archeologists were recognized by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) this past year for exemplary achievements and contributions. Dr. Kathleen Gilmore and Dr. Michael B. Collins were honored at separate events organized by the THC earlier in the year at two historic locales, and this past October Mark D. Willis and his team at Blanton & Associates, Inc., were chosen for an award.

Governor's Award

The 2008 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation was presented to Dr. Kathleen Gilmore during a special reception at the State Capitol on June 23. The award is the agency's highest honor, and it recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual or organization in preserving Texas' prehistoric and historic heritage. Gov. Rick Perry presented the award to Dr. Gilmore for her scholarly accomplishments in Texas archeology and for her philanthropy and historic preservation.

"Kathleen is one of the pioneers of historical archeology in the country and was one of the first archeologists to investigate some of our significant historical sites in Texas," said Jim Bruseth, director of the THC's Archeology Division.

Dr. Gilmore's passion for archeology led her to move from a career in geology to pursue studies in archeology at a time when the field was dominated by men. She served as president of the Council of Texas Archeologists, as well as the Texas Archeological Society (TAS), who honored her in 1994 by naming her a TAS Fellow.

Dr. Gilmore has published extensively on the history and archeology of Texas. She has focused much of her research on Spanish colonial sites, including the San Xavier



Gov. Rick Perry congratulates Dr. Kathleen Gilmore at the Capitol. THC Commissioners Diane Bumpas (left) and Steve Tomka (center) are shown in the background with THC Executive Director Lawrence Oaks.

missions and Presidio San Sabá. Her identification of green glazed ceramics as French rather than Spanish led Dr. Gilmore to conclude that a site in Victoria County was not only where the Spanish had built the first Presidio la Bahía, but was also the location of French explorer La Salle's Fort St. Louis, a conclusion that was confirmed decades later with the recovery of La Salle's iron cannons by the THC.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Michael B. Collins, who received the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology in May, was honored on board the *USS Lexington* during the THC's Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Corpus Christi.



Dr. Michael B. Collins (center) received his lifetime achievement award in archeology during the 2008 THC awards dinner in Corpus Christi. Standing by Dr. Collins are THC Executive Director Lawrence Oaks (left) and THC Chairman John L. Nau, III (right).

The award is named in honor of former State Archeologist and THC Executive Director Curtis Tunnell. It recognizes an individual for outstanding lifetime accomplishments in archeological research and/or preservation. The award is a tribute to Dr. Collins' rich and varied career in museum administration, academia, cultural resource management, and research. Dr. Collins has served as a member of the board of trustees of the Museum of the Southwest and the Midland County Historical Commission. He also served on the board of directors of the Texas Historical Foundation and was TAS president in 1997. Dr. Collins has held various other TAS elected offices and received the TAS prestigious Fellow award in 1996.

Dr. Collins has conducted field research in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, Israel, and Chile. He has produced numerous articles, monographs, and technical reports on a broad range of topics, including human osteology, the ethnohistory of the Spanish borderlands, lithic technology, archeological theory and method, geological archeology, Old World archeology, and New World archeology.

Dr. Collins' ongoing research focuses on the peopling of the New World. Since 1998, he has directed extensive, multidisciplinary investigations at the Gault site in Bell County, Texas. With the aid of volunteers, students, and researchers from across the state and beyond, the site has yielded exciting new information about prehistory in Central Texas and North America. The importance of the 33-acre site led Dr. Collins to use his personal savings to acquire the property. In December 2007 he announced plans to secure the long-term preservation of the Gault site by donating the land to the Archaeological Conservancy,



Mark D. Willis (second from right) accepts the THC Award of Merit in Archeology. Pictured with Willis are Archeology Division Director Jim Bruseth (far left), THC Executive Director Lawrence Oaks (second from left), and THC Commissioner Steve Tomka.

a nonprofit organization that owns and manages numerous archeological preserves across the country.

Award of Merit

On October 30, Mark D. Willis was awarded a THC Award of Merit in Archeology at the meeting of the Archeology Committee in San Angelo. Willis, who served as the principal investigator for Blanton & Associates, Inc., conducted test level investigations at site 41PK248. This prehistoric site is located on the reservation occupied by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and dates to the Early Ceramic period (ca. 2470–1250 B.P.). The site was likely affiliated with the Mossy Grove cultural groups.

The THC Award of Merit recognizes the efforts and contributions of an individual or a group involved in preserving Texas' cultural and historical resources. According to Mark Denton, State and Federal Review Section team leader for the THC's Archeology Division, Willis and his team of archeologists—which included Joe Sanchez, Michael Wilder, and Brandon Young—performed excellent fieldwork, including innovative research into optically stimulated luminescence dating, laboratory analysis, archival research, and report production associated with the investigations at the site.

Willis is known for merging innovative technologies with archeological projects. Most recently this included the use of kite aerial photography and photogrammetry, which he has used on sites throughout the world. Willis is also a specialist in remote sensing and has effectively used ground-penetrating radar, magnetometry, resistivity, and satellite imagery to render new interpretations of hidden facets of archeological phenomena. His use of these

tools has led to new interpretations of cultural and natural histories on archeological projects from such diverse places as Southeast Asia, the Andes, the South Pacific, and our own Trans-Pecos.

In the project conducted on the Alabama-Coushatta reservation, Willis has demonstrated that the appropriate technology can be used not only to decipher the past, but also to manage our sensitive and fragile cultural resources.

Texas Archeological Society Honors THC State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger



Flanked by TAS Awards Committee Chair Alan Skinner (left) and TAS President Carolyn Spock (right), Pat Mercado-Allinger holds the 2007 TAS Fellow Award.

State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger was named a Fellow of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS), the most prestigious award given by the professional group. The unexpected honor was announced at the TAS 2007 Annual Meeting held in San Antonio last fall.

“The award is given to one TAS member annually for major contributions made to both the society and Texas

archeology,” said TAS Awards Committee Chair S. Alan Skinner. “For more than a decade Pat has been an advocate for TAS, and for the past eight years she has taught the newcomers’ orientation at the annual summer field school in archeology.”

Mercado-Allinger served as TAS president in 1990, and since then she has continued to serve on various TAS committees. She has been with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) since 1984 and has served as state archeologist since 1996. As state archeologist, Mercado-Allinger is responsible for coordinating the THC Archeology Division’s public outreach and regional archeology programs. During her tenure at the THC, she has also been involved in the preparation of archeological site nominations for the National Register of Historic Places; assisted with various legislative matters and cultural-resource planning; served as the liaison for Texas Archeology Month; and performed field, lab, and scientific research.

Founded in 1929, the TAS is the largest statewide archeological organization in Texas and is an important preservation partner. According to its mission statement, TAS promotes study, preservation, and awareness of Texas archeology.

Marine Remote-Sensing Survey Standards Modified

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) approved changes to the Texas Administrative Code on July 25 that will affect the procedures consultants follow when conducting remote-sensing surveys for shipwrecks within the waters of Texas.

The modifications, which are now in effect, apply to any new underwater survey permits and are found in Chapter 28, Historic Shipwrecks, of the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Cultural Resources. These changes are summarized here.

Under the previous version of Chapter 28, survey line spacing was set at different values depending on the zone or area in which the survey took place. The inner zone

included all bays, bayous, rivers, and the Gulf of Mexico up to one statute mile offshore. The outer zone included waters more than one statute mile offshore, out to the state territorial limit of nine nautical miles. Survey line spacing for all surveys within the inner zone was limited to a maximum of 30 meters. For the outer zone, the maximum line spacing was 50 meters.

The new regulation modifies both the survey zone definitions and the maximum survey line spacing within each zone. The border between the inner and outer zones is now the Three Nautical Mile Line, as depicted on modern charts by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration, rather than one statute mile offshore. Any required survey inside of the Three Nautical Mile Line must be done with a maximum line spacing of 20 meters. Beyond the Three Nautical Mile Line, the maximum line spacing is now 30 meters.

Additional changes in Chapter 28 address how the data will be collected and presented. Specifically, some form of diurnal correction for the magnetometer data is required if the data is collected over a long period of time. Position data must be collected at the same time interval as the magnetometer data, eliminating widely spaced position fixes and interpolated positions between those fixes. Very importantly, all magnetometer data will now be presented on a map in a contoured format.

These modifications were necessary for several reasons. A survey line spacing of 30 meters has been demonstrated to miss smaller wooden vessels, and 50-meter spacing is certainly inadequate. The 30-meter spacing is now allowed only farther offshore, where shipwrecks are less likely to occur. The tighter spacing will increase the probability of locating smaller wrecks in either zone. Also, many historic shipwrecks have been found outside of the previous one statute mile inner/outer zone boundary. Moving the boundary to the Three Nautical Mile Line will encompass much more of the area where wrecks are expected to be found. The old survey line spacing of 50

meters is not only inadequate to find many wrecks, but it is not sufficiently close to allow the magnetometer data to be contoured. Contouring provides researchers with a much-improved tool for analyzing the magnetometer data over the old standard of marking magnetic anomalies as dots on a map. The new standard is based on the availability of modern survey and positioning equipment and improved computerized mapping and analysis capabilities.

Other changes to Chapter 28 involve some reorganization to simplify the wording and replacement of the term “sensitive tracks” with “high probability tracks” in the discussion of state mineral lease tracts. The use of high-probability tracks as an aid in determining where remote-sensing surveys are actually required, whether in the inner or outer survey zone, has not changed under the revised Chapter 28.

The THC looks forward to working with principal investigators who are conducting remote-sensing surveys under these new standards. Anyone involved in such activities is encouraged to read the revised Chapter 28, which is available online at [http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=13&pt=2](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=13&pt=2).

*Steve Hoyt
State Marine Archeologist
THC Archeology Division*

Rock Art A Window into the Past

Scattered through the rocky section of North America are great numbers of rock paintings (pictographs) and carvings (petroglyphs). Many of the pictures are produced with care and skill; others appear to be mere scrawls. The most common working surfaces are granite, sandstone, or basalt, but rock art can be found on almost any kind of stone.

Colonel Garrick Mallery conducted the first serious study of rock art in 1886. His 256-page preliminary paper entitled *Pictographs of the North American Indians* preceded his monumental book, *Picture Writing of the American Indians*, which was published by the Bureau of American Ethnology in 1893. Other rock art research studies have been published since then, but none with the broad perspective of Mallery’s second publication.

One of the outstanding rock art galleries in Texas is located on the junction of the Pecos River with the Rio Grande and Devils rivers in Val Verde County. Pictographs

can usually be found at rock shelters situated along the rivers, shelters that were once occupied by Archaic period hunter-gatherers. This rock art style has been designated Lower Pecos River style. Many of these pictographs consist of more than one color, including red, black, white, and yellow pigments. The motifs are of anthropomorphs, human-like, figures that are accompanied by abstract symbols and animal-like forms.

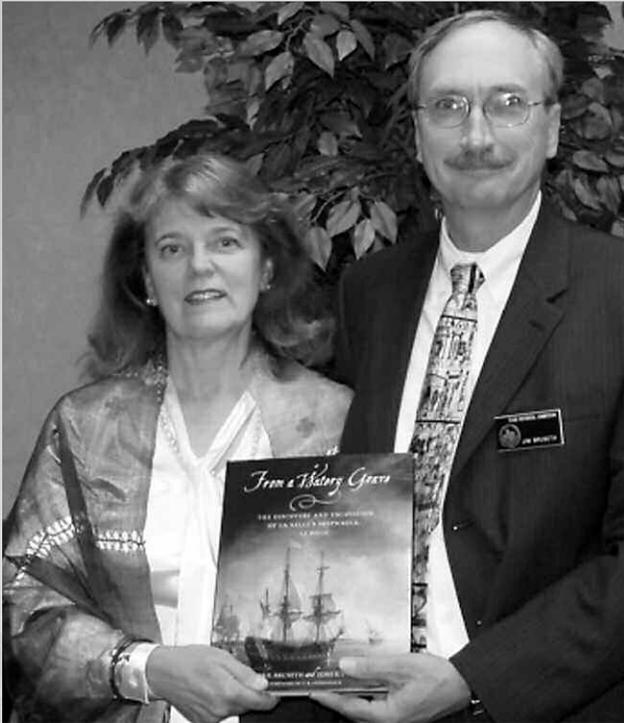
The public may view spectacular examples of Lower Pecos rock art at Seminole Canyon State Park and at nearby White Shaman Preserve, which is owned and operated by the Rock Art Foundation. Tour information is available by contacting the Seminole Canyon State Park at 432/292-4464 and the Rock Art Foundation at 888-ROCKART (888/762-5278).

To learn more about this ancient art form, visit the University of Texas’ Texas Beyond History site at www.texasbeyondhistory.net/plateaus/artistic.

*Teddy Lou Stickney, Midland
Texas Archeological Stewardship Network*

From a Watery Grave

Award-winning *La Belle* Book by Bruseth and Turner Wins Again



Archeology Division Director Jim Bruseth and THC Development Officer Toni Turner are shown with their award-winning book.

A book written by Archeology Division Director Jim Bruseth and Texas Historical Commission (THC) Development Officer Toni Turner on the recovery of La Salle's ship *La Belle* has been selected as the winner of the 2009 Society for Historical Archaeology's (SHA) James Deetz Award.

The publication, which was released by Texas A&M University Press in 2005, is entitled *From a Watery Grave: The Discovery and Excavation of La Salle's Shipwreck*, *La Belle*. The Deetz award is

considered to be the top book prize in the field of historical archeology.

Established by the SHA in 2003, the Deetz Book Award is named for James Deetz, whose books are described as classics for professional archeologists and nonspecialists. According to SHA President Lu Ann De Cunzo, this year's winner was selected from a very competitive field of submissions.

"(Your book) not only makes a significant contribution to the professional literature," she wrote in a letter to Bruseth, "but it also potentially garners the broadest interest among scholars from other disciplines and the public at large."

La Belle, which sank off the coast of Texas in 1686, was discovered in 1996 by THC archeologists and is one of the most important shipwrecks ever discovered in North America. The excavation and recovery, which was directed by Bruseth, was conducted in Matagorda Bay and lasted almost a year.

According to Robert S. Weddle, author of *The Wreck of the Belle, the Ruin of La Salle*, the book by Bruseth and Turner "represents a solid and lasting triumph of nautical archeology." In comments posted on the Texas A&M University Press web site, Weddle states, "Truly an astounding analysis of the rarest of finds . . . the report stands as a high-water mark to be striven for in all such efforts in the future."

In 2006, *From a Watery Grave* received three other awards—the Society for American Archaeology Book Award, the Deolece Parmelee Award, and the Presidio La Bahia Award.

The SHA 2009 Awards Ceremony will take place on January 9 at the group's conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Both Bruseth and Turner will be present to accept the award.

JAMES E. BRUSETH *and* TONI S. TURNER

FOREWORD BY T. R. FEHRENBACH

THC Certifies Five More Curatorial Facilities; 2009 TPTF Candidate Pool Narrowed Down to Three

Since 2005, when the Curatorial Facility Certification Program (CFCP) was launched, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has certified 10 facilities to act as stewards for the millions of artifacts found on non-federal public lands over the years. The program, which is open to any Texas museum or repository wishing to acquire additional state held-in-trust archeological collections, ensures that facilities housing these collections meet current museum standards pertinent to the care and management of these holdings.

During the past year, five facilities were certified by the CFCP. These are the Denton County Courthouse-on-the Square Museum, the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin, the Museum of Texas Tech University, the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University-San Marcos, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Archeology Laboratory.

In addition to certifying five facilities, the THC also reviewed Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) applicants and selected three curatorial facilities that will now move forward in the program's two-tier application process for 2009 grants. Created in 1989 by the Texas Legislature, the TPTF provides funds that are distributed yearly as matching



CFCP Coordinator Elizabeth Martindale is the leader of the curatorial team who has been cataloging items removed from the Governor's Mansion after the June 8 fire. Since her arrival at the THC in April 2006, she has certified 10 curatorial facilities.

grants. In this case, the funds will be used for the curation of held-in-trust collections.

This year's TPTF applicant pool is composed of the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio, the Anthropology and Archaeological Laboratory at Stephen F. Austin State University, and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. All museums and repositories holding state held-in-trust collections are encouraged to apply for these grants.

For more information about the program, including a complete list of certified facilities, visit the THC web site at www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aacfcps.html.

Texas Department of Transportation Announces Changes to Archeological Studies Program

Because costs continue to rise as funds decrease, members of the public have expressed concern about the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) ability to maintain resources needed for projects at archeological sites. Despite the challenges, TxDOT's Archeological Studies Program continues to meet the department's obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code; however, there are a few changes.

According to Scott Pletka, supervisor of the TxDOT Archeological Studies Program, the biggest change is related to the use of outside consultants. "Because of the sheer number of projects that the department has proposed for construction in recent years, TxDOT had been relying

heavily on consultants," he said. "The Archeological Studies Program will continue to use consultants, but TxDOT archeologists will also be conducting a lot of their own studies, particularly surveys."

Pletka also explained that while the Archeological Studies Program's consultant budget is now less than it has been in the last few years, the number of proposed construction projects is also lower. This means that the current budget is adequate for addressing new projects and for meeting ongoing commitments.

At archeological sites where fieldwork has been completed, the remaining work may be scheduled so that projects are completed in a staggered cycle over the next

few years. This will allow costs to be distributed more evenly, and since the number of new projects is smaller, TxDOT will be able to comply with the terms of the permits issued by the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

In addition to the adjustments already discussed, the Archeological Studies Program also will look for ways to streamline its review process.

“As an example, TxDOT developed a model for the Houston area that shows where conditions are favorable for the preservation of archeological sites and where conditions are unfavorable,” Pletka said. “This model has been used successfully for the past seven years to help focus TxDOT’s

archeological investigations. This kind of model may be developed for other areas.”

As is the case with any such effort, TxDOT will be consulting with its partners at THC and soliciting input from the members of the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) as plans are developed. When changes are needed, TxDOT will continue to provide updates to both the THC and CTA.

“TxDOT also welcomes input from anyone with an interest in archeology. The continued success of the Archeological Studies Program depends on public support of its efforts,” Pletka said.

A Salute to the Texas Archeology Month Team

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) extends its gratitude to the generous individuals, groups, and corporations who helped make Texas Archeology Month (TAM) 2008 a success.

In addition to members of the THC Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, who contributed their talents and hard work, others deserve special recognition. Around the state, local and regional archeological societies; county historical commissions; museums; educational institutions; municipal, county, state, and federal agencies; and private

firms played an important role in the planning and execution of almost 100 TAM events in 61 cities.

The following organizations and individuals also made important gifts that helped defray the cost of printing and mailing the TAM calendar and new TAM poster. The calendar, which is used by organizers to publicize individual events, also is sent to such groups as the Texas Department of Transportation’s Travel Information Centers across the state.

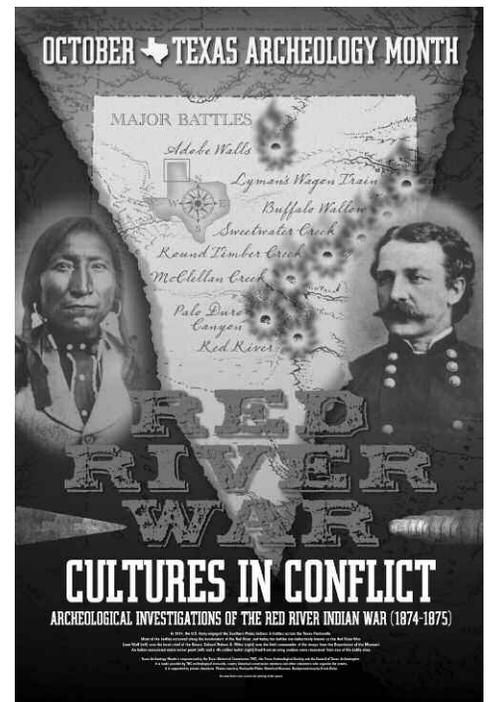
Organizations

A&E Consultants, LLC
Anonymous
Antiquities Planning & Consulting
Briscoe Consulting
Burnet County Heritage Society
in memory of Jo Hammond
Coastal Environments, Inc.
Council of Texas Archeologists
CRC, LLC, International Archaeology
& Ecology
Friends of Trinity County Historical
Commission
GTI Environmental, Inc.
Houston County Historical Commission
Milam County Historical Commission
PBS&J
Prewitt & Associates, Inc.
Texas Archeological Society
WSA, Inc.

Individuals

Jean Ann Ables-Flatt
Anonymous
Stephen and Linda Austin
Debra L. Beene
in memory of Curtis Tunnell
Jim Bruseth and Toni Turner
Andy and Mary Cloud

Adriana Comini
Drs. Wilfred and Bobbie Dietrich
Rowland Foster
Lou and Margie Fullen
in memory and in honor of our children
Karen Fustes
Melissa Green
Rosalie Gregg
R. C. and Bea Harmon
Bryan Jameson
James W. Karbula, Ph.D., RPA
Paul Katz, Ph.D.
in memory of Susana R. Katz, Ph.D.
Nancy Kenmotsu
Tammy Kubecka
Robert and Ruth Marcom
Nelson F. Marek
Sam McCulloch
Pat Mercado-Allinger
in memory of Bobbie Speer
Bo Nelson
Elton and Kerza Prewitt
Ona B. Reed
Calvin Sanders
Jim and May Schmidt
in memory of Sue and Jimmy Hall
Ann Schneemann
Phil and Pam Stranahan



The new TAM poster focuses on the Red River War, which took place in 1874 as the U.S. Army engaged the Southern Plains Indians in battles across the Texas Panhandle. (See related stories, pages 14 and 22.)

Book Announcement

Battles of the Red River War

Archeological Perspectives on the Indian Campaign of 1874

J. Brett Cruse

Battles of the Red River War, a newly released book by Texas A&M University Press written by J. Brett Cruse, unearths a long-buried record of the collision of two cultures.

U.S. forces led by Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie in 1874 carried out a surprise attack on several Cheyenne, Comanche, and Kiowa bands that had taken refuge in the Palo Duro Canyon of the Texas Panhandle and destroyed their winter stores and horses. After this devastating loss, many of these Indians returned to their reservations and effectively brought to a close what has come to be known as the Red River War, a campaign carried out by the U.S. Army during 1874 as a result of Indian attacks on white settlers in the region. After this operation, the Southern Plains Indians would never again pose a coherent threat to whites' expansion and settlement across their ancestral homelands.

Until now, the few historians who have undertaken to tell the story of the Red River War have had to rely on the official records of the battles and a handful of extant

accounts, letters, and journals of the U.S. Army participants. Starting in 1998, Cruse, under the auspices of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), conducted archeological investigations at six battle sites. In the artifacts they unearthed, Cruse and his teams found clues that would both correct and complete the written records and aid understanding of the Indian perspectives on this clash of cultures.

Including a chapter on historiography and archival research by Martha Doty Freeman and an analysis of cartridges and bullets by Douglas D. Scott, this rigorously researched and lavishly illustrated work will commend itself to archeologists, military historians and scientists, and students and scholars of the Westward Expansion.

J. Brett Cruse is the sites supervisor of the military and archeological state historic sites for the THC Historic Sites Division. (See related story, page 14.)

Long-awaited Issue of *the Steward* Coming Soon

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division will release Volume 7 of *the Steward* in early spring. The publication was established in 1993 to highlight the work done by members of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) and their associates.

This year's issue contains papers written by Kay Clarke and Steven Wick, Alvin Lynn and Rolla Shaller, Thomas Speir, Alice Schorre Stultz, and L. Douglas Wilkens. One paper provides a comprehensive look at the use of plants by Native Americans in Texas and the rest focus on recent archeological excavations that have shed new light about the life and past activities at various historical sites around the state. These include the site of an Indian attack on Colonel John I. Gregg's Eighth U.S. Cavalry in 1872; Archie King Ruins site in Roberts County, which dates to the Plains Village period; Freddie Reed site in Williamson County, which is thought to have been inhabited periodically throughout the Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods; original site of Elysian Fields, which was established in 1840 and

moved in 1910; and the prehistoric Indian Mound Ranch site in Williamson County.

Established in 1984, the TASN is composed of volunteers who supplement and enhance the work done by the THC in preserving and interpreting the vast archeological landscape of Texas.

In 1993, a new TASN enterprise—a publication containing papers written by stewards—was launched. The purpose of *The Cache*, as it was called then, was to integrate TASN members with the broader research community. According to the first volume's introduction, written by the late E. Mott Davis, an anthropology professor at the University of Texas at Austin, “the laborious task of analyzing and synthesizing the data recorded in the field and presenting the results in written form . . . gives meaning and permanence to the whole scientific enterprise and makes the effort worthwhile.”

Four years later, in 1997, *The Cache* was redesigned and renamed *the Steward*. According to a preface written by State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger, the publication was revamped to encourage stewards to record more of their activities and research as published reports so the results of this work could be disseminated to the Texas archeology community and to the interested public.

45 agencies, organizations, or institutions; and 59 other individuals. Stewards recorded 18 new sites, monitored 53 sites, conducted or participated in 18 site investigations, and placed one marker on a recently designated State Archeological Landmark (SAL). This group of stewards also spent a significant amount of time documenting, analyzing, and conserving 18 artifact collections.

Rick Day involved his eighth-grade science class in the work being conducted at the Late Prehistoric Mott Creek site in Motley County. His approach is to provide classroom instructions to his students so that they understand the concepts of on-site investigation and recording. Day then conducts a mock dig before visiting the actual site. Other lessons include lab processing procedures, proper excavation methods, and the importance of recording data. He also has been working on producing a map of the Mott Creek site. In July, Day taught a workshop for teachers of gifted and talented students. The workshop focused on Texas archeological web sites that teachers can use as resources.

Emery Lehnert from Del Rio spent a significant amount of time working to replicate a series of painted pebbles for use in exhibits and programs in the area. These replicas of painted pebble artifacts will be used as visual aids for upcoming presentations.

Since August 2007, **Alvin Lynn** has monitored four sites, investigated nine other sites, and worked with fellow steward Rolla Shaller to set an SAL marker at the John I. Gregg Battle Site (41RD77). For more than a year, he also has been working on the documentation, conservation, and analysis of one major artifact collection. His workshops have drawn about 350 people, and 156 others attended his presentations. Lynn assisted five landowners; three individuals; and five agencies, organizations, or institutions. In addition to serving as crew chief at Evan's Supply Depot, Lynn presented a program about making pottery in the Southern Plains tradition during the 2008 Texas Archeological Society (TAS) field school. He also has conducted a large amount of research and survey related to his work on Colonel Kit Carson's 1864 campaign against the Indians along the Canadian River.

Marisue Potts Powell continued work at a Late Prehistoric bison-processing camp at Mott Creek Ranch in Motley County where 19 students from Andrews Middle School and 10 supervising adults participated in a dig on October 12–14. Each year Powell and fellow steward Rick Day work with science teachers to prepare them to lead students through the process of archeology. The results of two and a half days of digging are later sorted, cleaned, and analyzed by about 200 students who are enrolled in a unique program endorsed by the Andrews Independent School District and sponsored by Motley County Museum in Matador. Earlier in the year, Powell hosted another

student dig at Mott Creek Ranch, and in April she presented a program in Midland to the Midland Archeological Society on the history of the Matador Land & Cattle Co., Ltd., of Forfarshire, Scotland.

Joe Rogers distributed 150 pieces of educational and outreach material to people in the Region 1 area, monitored one site, and analyzed or documented one artifact collection. Approximately 1,005 people attended his workshops and presentations. Rogers also assisted three landowners, seven individuals, and eight agencies and institutions.

Rolla Shaller monitored two sites, recorded two sites, and worked with Alvin Lynn to set a SAL marker at the John I. Gregg Battle Site (41RD77). He assisted with the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum's Folklife Festival in October 2007, held on the museum grounds. In addition, Shaller presented a poster session on the Evans Supply Depot at the 78th TAS Annual Meeting held in October 2007 in San Antonio. Shaller also has been working on the Evans Supply Depot project with fellow steward Alvin Lynn. Shaller served as crew chief at Evans Supply Depot during the 2008 TAS field school and devoted much time to field school preparations. Also, at the 2007 TAS Annual Meeting, Shaller received a 40-year TAS membership certificate and was presented with the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) 2006–07 Norman G. Flaigg Certificate of Outstanding Performance, which is presented annually to a member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN).

Jack Skiles spent time monitoring four significant sites, working on the analysis and documentation of one artifact collection, and assisting four agencies and institutions. In early 2008, Skiles was the focus of an in-depth feature article entitled, "The Sage of Langtry, Texas," which appeared in the January issue of *Southwest Texas LIVE*. The full text of this richly detailed story is available at www.swtexaslive.com/node/5903.

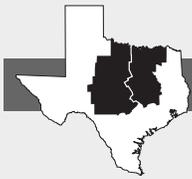
Cindy Smyers recorded three new sites, monitored seven sites, and conducted investigations at five sites during the last six months. She also worked on documenting four artifact collections. In addition, she assisted two landowners and 12 individuals, and she published an article in *La Tierra* entitled, "Seven Folsom Points from the Hot Tubb Site in Crane County." She is currently working on three other articles for publication.

Teddy L. Stickney is always on the go, attending conferences, recording rock art, and leading tours. In the last year, she recorded four new sites, monitored four other sites, and spent time conducting investigations at four sites. At the TAS Annual Meeting held in San Antonio on October 2007, Stickney also presented a report on a site in Oldham County (41OL51) with rock art, and she presented a

teachers workshop entitled “Rock Art” at the 2008 TAS field school, which was held in Perryton in June.

Since August 2007, **Evans Turpin** has been busy recording seven new sites, monitoring four previously recorded sites, and investigating one site. Approximately 75 people attended presentations given by Evans, including a program at the Southwestern Federation of Archeology Societies Symposium. He also has been working with other stewards to plan and conduct field trips to various historical and archeological sites in West Texas.

Doug Wilkens monitored at least 12 previously recorded sites and worked on testing and analyzing a burned feature found in a cut bank on the M-Cross Ranch. He also analyzed and documented one artifact collection and assisted two landowners, seven individuals, and three agencies and institutions. Wilkens was involved in planning the 2008 TAS field school and participated in a field trip to Amarillo organized by Mike Quigg, an archeologist with TRC Mariah and Associates, Inc., and Charles Frederick, a consulting geoscientist, at a nearby Girl Scout campsite.



REGIONS 3 & 4 • DAN POTTER

Forts/Hill Country & Lakes/Brazos

During the past months, the regional archeologist and stewards in Regions 3 and 4 responded to landowner requests in a number of Central and North Texas locations as part of THC’s landowner-assistance effort. This service allows landowners with known archeological or high-probability areas (for example, ranches or farms with frontage on major creeks, springs, or rivers) to receive site documentation and assessment services at no cost and with no obligation. Investigations of this sort involving the regional archeologist have occurred in Bastrop, Bexar, Blanco, Comal, Falls, Gillespie, Hays, Menard, Mills, and Travis counties.

A draft report on THC research in Falls County (regarding the history of the Falls of the Brazos) has been produced and will be submitted to the *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* this year. A paper concerning the San Xavier missions, coauthored with TASN steward Jay Blaine, was presented in October at the 79th TAS Annual Meeting in Lubbock as part of a tribute given in honor of archeologist Dr. Kathleen Gilmore (see related story, page 15). In addition, a Phase I Historic Sites acquisition evaluation of Presidio San Sabá was completed in October and presented to THC commissioners at their quarterly meeting in San Angelo.

Technical assistance was provided to several local governments and nongovernmental organizations, including the Boerne Nature Center (Historic Herff Farm, Kendall County), the Headwaters Foundation in San Antonio (Bexar County), City of Rocksprings (Edwards County), Legacy Plaza/City of Goldthwaite (Mills County), the Hill Country Conservancy (Hays County), and the Hill Country Land Trust (Blanco County).

Several public programs were presented across the region in support of Texas Archeology Month (TAM) in October, with stops in Kerrville (Kerr County), Hamilton (Hamilton County), and Caldwell (Burlleson County).

Combined, the stewards in Regions 3 and 4 organized 222 workshops and gave 3,034 presentations during this period. They also provided assistance to 64 organizations, 143 landowners, and 309 individuals. In the area of site protection, the stewards logged in about 6,025 hours, traveled 39,114 miles, distributed 4,812 informational handouts, and worked on seven collections. They also recorded 43 sites, monitored and assessed another 102, investigated 33, and designated six. Specific TASN members’ activities follow.

Del Barnett continues to be involved in the planning and development of a Goldthwaite museum that will focus on native plants and how they were used by native Texans. At the 79th TAS Annual Meeting in October, he participated in a poster session describing the project.

Frank Binetti recorded numerous sites in the Boerne area and assisted 15 landowners this past year as part of his archeological activities.

Jay Blaine logged more than 2,000 miles as he and his wife Jerrylee traveled around the state. Blaine continues to be a unique and invaluable resource for other stewards, THC staff, and a wide range of professional archeologists seeking conservation and identification of historic period artifacts. Recently, Blaine and THC Regional Archeologist Dan Potter coauthored a presentation for the TAS Annual Meeting describing Spanish colonial artifacts from THC work in Milam County (41MM18).

Jim Blanton assisted several landowners and monitored seven sites.

David Calame recorded an impressive number (56) of sites in the past year; he recorded a number of collections as well.

Wayne Clampitt drove many hundreds of miles to assist multiple landowners. Given gas prices this past year, the Archeology Division sincerely appreciates the effort and expenses shouldered by stewards in this regard.

Kay Clarke logged about 3,500 miles in her stewardship activities, which included many archeological presentations, especially to school groups. Clarke assisted a number of landowners as well.

Jose Contreras has also been active, covering more than 1,000 miles to assess collections, record sites (14), and conduct surveys.

Doris Howard assisted a number of landowners in and around Llano County.

Claude Hudspeth recorded at least four new sites and gave talks that reached more than 1,000 people in the past year.

Bryan Jameson reported more than 1,000 miles of travel in TASN-related activities, including several presentations—one of them in support of TAM given in Hamilton, Texas.

Clint McKenzie monitored 10 sites, recorded one, and provided assistance to a number of landowners and groups.

Nick Morgan continued his work at the Joyful Horse site in Bastrop, his home county.

Glynn Osburn gave two public presentations and provided assistance to one landowner.

Ona B. Reed traveled nearly 7,000 miles as a steward over the past year, monitoring sites and responding to landowner requests.

Larry Riemenschneider recorded six new sites this past year and assisted a number of landowners in the San Angelo area.

Linda Satter assisted an organization during the past year and contributed nearly a week's worth of volunteer time for the TASN.

As usual, **May and Jim Schmidt** have been everywhere—recording sites, working with and preparing collections, and assisting landowners and organizations.

Jimmy Smith monitored several sites and gave a presentation.

Frank Sprague monitored sites, assisted landowners, and hosted TAM lectures in Hamilton.

Alice Stultz, now in Travis County, wrote an interesting article on plant usage for *the Steward*, assisted a number of landowners, and conducted public programs on archeology-related topics.

Art Tawater maintains his interest in faunal analysis by continuing to build his comparative collection and doing analysis of archeological specimens.

Buddy Whitley reported a newly recorded site. He has also monitored several sites and has stayed in touch with the THC regarding sites in his area.

The dynamic duo of **Kay and Woody Woodward** recorded seven new sites in the Hill Country, mapped or investigated several other sites, gave presentations, and assisted many landowners and organizations.

Bill Young spends quite a bit of time, effort, and money addressing issues related to historic cemeteries in Navarro County. He also has continued writing history

articles for the Corsicana newspaper and continues to record sites. In addition, in his role as county historical commission chairman, Young receives occasional notices from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) about upcoming construction projects. Recently, he was able to respond to TxDOT regarding bridge replacements in Navarro County.



Forest & Independence/Tropical

The TASN members residing in the Forest and Independence/Tropical regions are always an active group. Their willingness to attend to the needs of their counties as well as their desire to help out wherever they are needed around the state demonstrates why they were chosen to be part of this select group that makes up the THC's TASN.

Beth and Pat Aucoin of Harris County continue to work on locating the French colony site of Champ d'Asile, which is reported to be somewhere along the Trinity River in Liberty County. Beth also has recently completed analysis and a report on the Native American pottery recovered from the site of San Felipe de Austin (41AU2) in Austin County. Acting as coauthor and coeditor, she has continued work on the second part of the Elizabeth Powell site (41FB269) report.

Bill Birmingham of Victoria County remains busy with all of the archeological activities taking place in his county. At the Museum of the Coastal Bend, he has been analyzing and documenting several artifact collections that were donated to the museum. More recently, he helped Steve Black and Susan Dial, editors of the University of Texas' (UT) Texas Beyond History web site, post an online museum exhibit on that site (www.texasbeyondhistory.net/st-plains/images/ap9.html). The original exhibit was organized for the Museum of the Coastal Bend by Birmingham and other TASN members and volunteers, and it highlights the work of archeologist Bob Ricklis at the Buckeye Knoll site (41VT98). Birmingham also continues to contribute important artifacts from his collection to various repositories throughout the state. His most recent donation of four Casas Grandes vessels was made to the UT Austin Texas Archeological Research Laboratory.

Jimmy Bluhm of Victoria County is involved with the ongoing excavations at the McNeill-Gonzales Ranch site (41VT141) in his county. Bluhm also continues to devote a large amount of time at the Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria, where he is processing and cataloguing artifacts from this site and other area sites.

Pat Braun of Aransas County remains active at the McNeill-Gonzales site (41VT141) in Victoria County. Her site report was recently submitted to *La Tierra* for publication. Braun also has been working with a landowner in Refugio County to record a historic inn and tavern that date to the 1860s.

Robert Crosser of Fort Bend County is always very active in his county, and during the past months he has been working on locating the original homesite of Mirabeau B. Lamar, president of the Republic of Texas from 1838 to 1841. Through extensive archival research, Crosser has matched the archival descriptions with the present-day terrain in order to pinpoint the Lamar home-site (41FB268). He also has reported his findings to the Fort Bend County Historical Commission to help others understand the importance of this site, which is located on county property. To protect the property in perpetuity, Crosser has recommended the site for SAL designation.

Dick Gregg of Harris County has resumed many of his steward activities while continuing to recover from major surgery. Most recently, he has assisted the Fort Bend Archeological Society with the lab work on the artifacts from the Mirabeau B. Lamar site (41FB268). Gregg has also been active in the field assisting with the metal detector survey near the San Jacinto Monument.

Patti Haskins of Gregg County has been incredibly busy during the past few months. As one of the facilitators for the TAS Rock Art Academy held in Van Horn in February, Patti traveled to Alpine and Van Horn to assist with the arrangements for the academy. Haskins also remains active with the ongoing effort to inventory and photograph the extensive Buddy Jones collection of Caddoan pottery housed at the Gregg County History Museum.

Don Keyes of Montgomery County is always an active TASN member. Besides his continual support at the TAS field schools, Keyes has been recently involved with the recording of the Kellum Springs spa site in Grimes County. A popular 19th century health spa that at one time drew clientele from across the United States, Kellum Springs spa now lies in complete ruin, although the site still retains some interesting remains. Keyes also continues to stay active with other stewards and volunteers who are involved with the survey of the San Jacinto Battlefield, and he recently participated in San Jacinto Festival activities.

Sheldon Kindall of Harris County continues to devote a large amount of time and effort at the San Jacinto Battlefield. He also remains active with a diverse group of TASN members and volunteers working in Liberty County in search of the site of Champ d'Asile, the French colony established in the early 1800s along the banks of the Trinity River.

Nelson Marek of Lavaca County continues to make a valuable contribution to the efforts to curate the collections that former TASN member Smitty Schmeidlin and longtime Victoria County avocational archeologist Ed Vogt donated to the Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria. Marek stays busy with the team composed of TASN members and volunteers working at the museum and has most recently helped with a new museum exhibit on the Buckeye Knoll site (41VT98). Nelson also joined a team of volunteers who recently surveyed several ranches in the Marfa area to document wagon ruts, mule shoes, and various other indicators that would provide clues to the location of the Chihuahua Trail.

Johnney and Sandra Pollan of Brazoria County remain busy with diverse archeological projects. Most recently Johnney organized the mapping of the Waldeck Plantation, once the second largest sugar plantation in Brazoria County and the first sugar mill in Texas to produce refined sugar. In addition to their efforts in recording the plantation sites within the county, they both remain busy with the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science in Lake Jackson.

Rick Proctor of Lamar County organized a premiere event in Lamar County for TAM in October 2007, attracting more than 400 students who participated in a student archeology field event. The event consisted of eight stations where students were exposed to various aspects of the archeological process. We wish Proctor well as he leaves the TASN.

Sandra Rogers of Walker County is constantly on the go and the past months have been no exception. Through her many activities, Rogers brings archeology to the public, and in October and November 2007 she reached more than 500 school-age children with Power-Point presentations. As a committee member of the TAS Academy board, Rogers has spent much time on the road helping to make the arrangements and preparations necessary for hosting the TAS Academies across the state. In early 2008, Rogers traveled to Van Horn to prepare for the Rock Art Academy, which was held in February and was a success. From February to August, Rogers organized a ground-penetrating radar survey and a magnetometer survey for the City of Huntsville. Both surveys were conducted at the request of the City of Huntsville and were part of a search for the original location of the Steamboat House, where Sam Houston died. Rogers also worked with the landowners of the property where the Kellum Springs spa was located in Grimes County. The site was surveyed and documented in preparation for SAL nomination.

Robert Turner of Camp County devoted much time during the past few months delivering presentations

to second graders in the local school district and members of the Lions Club, Ladies Home Extension Club, and the Valley of the Caddo Archeological Society. He also gave a brown bag lecture at the Pittsburg-Camp County Public

Library and delivered papers at the 2007 TAS meeting in San Antonio and at the East Texas Archeological Conference held in Tyler in 2007.

Stewards Receive Training, Recognition at August 2008 Meeting in Austin



Dr. Charles Frederick, Archeology Division Director Jim Bruseth, and Karl Kibler (left to right) lead a training session during the TASN summer meeting.

Members of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) traveled to Austin in August to participate in the 2008 TASN summer meeting and workshop. The event, which took place August 2–3, was sponsored by an anonymous donor, Jason’s Deli, and the Lower Colorado River Authority.

This year’s program included a presentation on the Trans-Texas Corridor by Scott Pletka, supervisor of the Archeological Studies Program at the Texas Department of Transportation. The Trans-Texas Corridor is a proposed statewide transportation network.

The training segment of the program was entitled “Recognizing the Archeological Potential of the Landscape: An Introduction to Sediments, Soils and Geomorphology for Archeologists.” The seven-part training session was led by Dr. Charles Frederick, a consulting geoarcheologist, and Karl Kibler, an archeologist and geomorphologist with Pre-witt and Associates, Inc. The session included individual presentations on the following topics: landscapes and archeological context, preservation, and visibility; environments, landforms, and processes; sediments and soils; stratigraphic



Five of the 13 Jim Word Award recipients who were honored this year for 10 years of TASN service are shown at the Awards Banquet. They are (left to right) Mark Walters, Nick Morgan, Linda Satter, Patti Haskins, and R. C. Harmon.

deposits; recording profile; and the examination of monoliths and hand samples. On the second day of the workshop, stewards participated in a field exercise in Williamson County, where they examined exposed sediments and soils.

David Calame of Devine, Texas, who attended the workshop, sent the following note after the conference, “Big-time congratulations and appreciation to Pat Allinger and the THC staff for one very, very good meeting! Thanks to Charles Frederick and Karl Kibler for the most informative lecture as well.”

The first day’s activities were capped by the 2008 Awards Banquet, where the Norman G. Flaigg Certificate of Outstanding Performance was presented to 12 stewards from various regions. In addition, the Jim Word Award, which recognizes 10 years of TASN service, was presented to 13 stewards, and certificates of appreciation were presented to 91 stewards.

TASN also met in Lubbock on October 24 for its fall business meeting, which took place during the Texas Archeological Society’s Annual Meeting.

2008 Honorees

Norman G. Flaigg Certificate of Outstanding Performance

Plains & Mountain/Pecos Regions

Alvin Lynn
Rolla Shaller

Forts/Hill Country & Lakes/Brazos Regions

Kay E. Clarke
Clint McKenzie
Ona B. Reed

Forest & Independence/ Tropical Regions

Pat Braun
Frank Condron
Patti Haskins
Ben McReynolds
Sandra Rogers
Neal Stilley
Mark Walters

Marine

Doug Nowell

Jim Word Award

Rachel Freyman Brown
Karen Fulghum
Mike Fulghum
R. C. Harmon
Patti Haskins
Emery Lehnert
Alvin Lynn
Nick Morgan
Sandra Pollan
Arnulfo Santos
Linda Satter
Art Tawater
Mark Walters

Certificate of Appreciation

Beth Aucoin

Pat Aucoin
Del Barnett
Mary Lee Bartlett
Jerry Bauman
Frank Binetti
Bill Birmingham
Jay Blaine
Jim Blanton
Jimmy Bluhm
Pat Braun
David Calame, Sr.
Wayne Clampitt
Kay E. Clarke
Frank Condron
Jose Contreras
Roy Craig
Julian Cranfill
Robert Crosser
Rick Day
Eric De Laughter
E. David Dorchester
Robert Everett
Karen Fulghum
Mike Fulghum
Patsy Goebel
Lee Green
Dick Gregg
Andrew Hall
R. C. Harmon
Nolan Harrist, Jr.
Patti Haskins
Connie Hodges
Jay Hornsby
Joe Hudgins
Claude Hudspeth
Doris Howard
Bryan Jameson
Joe Louis Jones
Don Keyes
Sheldon Kindall
Doug Kubicek
Emery Lehnert
Paul Lorrain
John N. Luce
Alvin Lynn

Nelson Marek
David Martin
Bonnie McKee
Gary McKee
Clint McKenzie
Ben McReynolds
Tom Middlebrook
Nick Morgan
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John Stockley
Alice Stultz
Art Tawater
Robert L. Turner
S. Evans Turpin
Mark Walters
Buddy Whitley
Doug Wilkens
Kay Woodward
Woody Woodward
Bill Young

LOOKING AHEAD

If you would like to get involved in a regional archeological society, visit the Texas Archeological Society web site at www.txarch.org/Contacts/regions.php to locate one near you.

JANUARY 6-11, 2009

Society for Historical Archaeology Conference—"The Ties that Divide: Trade, Conflict & Borders," Toronto, Ontario. Information: www.sha.org/about/conferences/2009.htm

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Texas Archeological Society Academy—"Archeology 101: Recognizing and Documenting Archeological Sites," Georgetown, Texas. Information: www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2009/index.php

JANUARY 31, 2009

16th Annual East Texas Archeological Conference—Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Road (across Spur 248 from the University of Texas at Tyler). Information: Mark Walters, mwalters@wildblue.net

FEBRUARY 20-22, 2009

Texas Archeological Society Academy—"The Big Bend: Archeology, Culture, and History, a Regional Academy," Study Butte, Brewster County, Texas. Information: www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2009/index.php

FEBRUARY 27-28, 2009

Historic Preservation Symposium—"Building on Green—Preservation and Sustainability," Center for Heritage Conservation, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. Information: TAMU Center for Heritage Conservation, 979.845.0384, ccook@archmail.tamu.edu

MARCH 12-14, 2009 (tentative date)

51st Annual Caddo Conference—Norman, Oklahoma. Information: 2009 Conference Coordinator, rbrooks@ou.edu

MARCH 7-8, 2009

Texas Archeological Society Academy—"Historic Archeology: In Pursuit of the Past," Lake Jackson, Texas. Information: www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2009/index.php

MARCH 11-15, 2009

12th U.S./ICOMOS International Symposium—International Council on Monuments and Sites, "Preservation in Peril: Disaster Preparedness, Rapid Response, and Sustainable Recovery in the 21st Century," New Orleans, Louisiana. Information: www.ncppt.nps.gov/Default.aspx

MARCH 26-28, 2009

Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting—Austin, Texas. Information: www.tshaonline.org/about/meeting/index.html

APRIL 22-26, 2009

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting—Atlanta, Georgia. Information: www.saa.org/

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