Newsletter Suspended Until Further Notice

Recent cuts in the state budget have hit every division of the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Because of this, future issues of the Archeology Division (AD)’s newsletter, Current Archeology in Texas, have been suspended.

Newsletter production will resume as resources permit. Until then, our readers should monitor the THC website at www.thc.state.tx.us.
ARCHAEOLOGY IN TEXAS

ARCHIVAL records indicate that in 1836–1837, James Coryell was a private serving first as a member of Sterling C. Robertson’s Ranger Company (McLean 1989:108; Moore 2002:166) and then in Capt. Thomas Hudson Barron’s Company B (McLean 1989:46–48; Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum n.d.; Moore 2002:184). In spring 1837, Coryell was among the rangers stationed at Fort Milam, located at the Robertson’s Colony headquarters. At the time, Robertson’s Colony was known as Sarahville de Viesca and was located near the Falls of the Brazos River (in modern-day Falls County, Texas). The rangers were ordered to report to Fort Milam, located at the Sarahville community, in order to provide protection to the colonists at this frontier outpost (Southern Publishing Company 1880:294). In late May of that year, Coryell and a small group of fellow rangers ventured a short distance from the fort to obtain some wild honey from a “bee tree” (McLean 1990:50). Coryell had reportedly been ill, and he advised his companions that should they come under attack by Indians, he would be unable to run. A group of Indians identified later by informants as Caddos attacked the group, and Coryell was immediately wounded. He stayed behind to draw enemy fire, allowing others the opportunity to escape. Coryell was scalped, and a day or two later died of his wounds (Simmons 1936:23; Moore 2002:251–252).

Few clues exist in historical accounts concerning the whereabouts of Coryell’s grave. According to Simmons (1936:23), his remains were interred about 1 mi northwest of Fort Milam. Tom Broadus, a former slave of the Jones Plantation, recollected being told that a grave just to the south of the plantation’s slave cemetery was that of Texas Ranger James Coryell. This picture was taken during the February 2011 excavation. (Photogrammetry courtesy Mark D. Willis)

Unraveling the Mystery of James Coryell, Texas Ranger

Pat Mercado-Allinger and Jim Bruseth
Ranger James Coryell (Simmons 1936:24). The vast holdings of the Jones Plantation, established in 1850, included the old Sarahville de Viesca and Fort Milam sites. When the grave caved in, slaves filled the depression with stones from Jones Springs, which is about 1 mi away, to ensure the spirit would be at ease and not disturb the dead slaves. Over the years, there have been proposals to relocate and move Coryell’s remains—first to Coryell County, where he had acquired property in June 1835 (Scott 1965:23; McLean 1983:25, 428), and later to Marlin in Falls County (Simmons 1936:24). Neither pursuit came to fruition because the grave location could not be found.

In 2006, the Summerlee Foundation acquired acreage containing the Sarahville de Viesca/Fort Milam site. Northwest of the old townsite is Bull Hill, an African American cemetery that was surveyed with the aid of a magnetometer and documented by Texas Historical Commission (THC) archeologists and Preservation Fellow Nedra Lee (Lee and Bruseth 2008; Styles and Lee 2010; Styles and Lee 2011). While it was tempting to conclude that Bull Hill is the cemetery mentioned in the Broadus account and that the Coryell grave must be in its immediate environs, it was not until March 2010 that this interpretation seemed truly possible. That was when the installation of a new chain-link fence around the cemetery began. THC Commissioner John Crain, who also serves as Summerlee Foundation president, was monitoring this operation and halted work when a concentration of large rocks was encountered. Archeology Division (AD) Director Jim Bruseth quickly arrived on the scene and dug a narrow trench to search for evidence of the presence of a grave shaft. This work revealed the clear outline of what appeared to be a rectangular grave shaft beneath the rocks. This discovery led Bruseth to formulate a plan for further exploration of the feature and, perhaps, a solution to the Coryell mystery.

In December 2010, a team of THC archeologists documented the placement of the 35 rocks prior to their removal (see photo, this page). A test probe was dug in the western portion of the shaft, where the head of the deceased was expected to be found. At approximately 5.5 ft below the current ground surface, remnants of the cranium were encountered. As the goal of this work was to merely confirm that the grave contained human remains, the probe was immediately backfilled. The project’s next phase involved identifying and obtaining permission from the next of kin and securing an exhumation order from the district court, in accordance with the requirements of the Health & Safety Code (Title 8, Subtitle C, Chapter 711). Extensive archival research was undertaken to locate documents relating to Coryell and the circumstances of his death and interment. In addition, Dr. Douglas Owsley, renowned forensic anthropologist with the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of Natural History was invited to participate in the project. Owsley was instantly intrigued by the prospect of assisting with the recovery of the remains of the long-lost Texas Ranger and made plans to travel to Falls County with his assistant, Kari Bruwelheide.

Among the challenges facing THC archeologists during the February 2011 excavation project was the weather. An enclosed shelter constructed above the burial feature and a propane heater enabled excavators to continue working in freezing temperatures. Investigations revealed the extended burial of an adult male of 35–40 years of age, with the head at the west end, facing east (see photo, page 1). From the placement of the hand-wrought square nails, it is now known that the coffin had a hexagonal configuration. On the basis of measurements taken in the field, Owsley determined that the height of the individual was about 5’4” to 5’5”. A few personal items were encountered in the grave, including shirt buttons made of glass at the wrists and near the right shoulder, four bone buttons in the rib and pelvic areas, and a circular, cuprous object in the abdominal area that might have been a ring. Unfortunately, there was no direct evidence of the cause of death encountered during the excavations in the form of either lead shot or metal arrowpoints.

One of the two femurs submitted to Mitotyping Technologies, a facility that specializes in the recovery and processing of degraded DNA, did not produce a sufficient sample for testing. The remaining femur will be subjected to a different extraction procedure in the hopes of yielding an adequate amount of mitochondrial DNA. If the procedure is successful, it will be possible to establish if these are indeed Coryell’s remains. Coryell was a single man and apparently left no direct descendants at the time of his death in 1837; however, thanks to the diligent research of Jean Ann Ables-Flatt, genealogist and former THC commissioner, a lateral female descendant has been located in Vandalia, Missouri. This descendant, Ara Odgen, agreed to provide a DNA sample for comparison with the excavated remains. State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger traveled to Missouri...
to obtain the sample from Mrs. Ogden in late March. Owsley and Bruwelheide will analyze the skeletal remains in order to glean as much information as possible about the individual’s life and death.

The mystery of James Coryell may soon be solved thanks to the Summerlee Foundation’s commitment to the preservation of Sarahville de Viesca/Fort Milam and the Bull Hill Cemetery. In addition to the co-authors, THC archaeologists Amy Borgens and Bradford Jones endured frigid temperatures to identify and recover the burial. We also are indebted to the diligence of the volunteers who participated in the December 2010 and February 2011 investigations, including THC Commissioners John Crain and David Gravelle, Gwyneth Gravelle, Toni Turner, AD steward Bob Ward, and Madi Ward.

Pat Mercado-Allinger has been involved with public and private sector archeological projects throughout the state for more than 30 years. Her research interests include the prehistory and history of the Texas Panhandle-Plains, coastal archeology, and rock art studies. She has been with the THC since 1984 and has served as state archeologist since 1996.

Jim Bruseth has served as the director of the THC Archeology Division (formerly the Department of Antiquities Protection) and deputy state historic preservation officer since 1987. He has been active in Texas archeology for 36 years, specializing in Native American, French Colonial, and Spanish Colonial archeology.

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Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Cisterns in Texas
Mark H. Denton

Over the last 28 years of investigating rain water cisterns in Texas and consulting on the matter with other urban archeologists like Roger Moore, Doug Boyd, Rachel Feit, and David O. Brown, I have come to some conclusions about the manufacture, use, temporal styles, and date ranges associated with underground water cisterns. Dozens of cisterns have been individually reported in published archeological reports, but to date no one has published a comprehensive overview of the variation and technological evolution of these underground architectural and engineering features. The intent here is to start that process through a discussion of my observations.

No doubt, most early home owners in Texas who had a drinking water cistern owned above-ground wooden or
metal cisterns rather than the more expensive underground masonry cistern. While archeological evidence of above-ground cisterns is virtually nonexistent, archival records such as historic photographs and newspaper advertisements confirm the sale of above-ground cisterns (Janet Wagner, personal communication 2007). Brenham, Texas, is reported to have had one of the largest cistern factories in the state, and this factory manufactured a large amount of materials used in the construction of wooden cisterns. The Brenham company Reichardt & Seelhorst was established about 1880 and grew from a small beginning to a business “second to none in the South” (The Illustrated Industrial World, 1900).

Underground cisterns, on the other hand, are not difficult to find in almost any city in Texas. Whether they are found under a mere 3 in of asphalt or under 20 ft of modern urban fill, the ubiquitous masonry cistern is a common discovery by both construction workers and urban archeologists. Finding multiple cisterns per square block is the norm, not the exception. Most are found with their mouths, necks, and shoulders removed and their upper components truncated by demolition activities usually associated with the demolition of the structure that originally fed water to the cistern (Figure 1). Fortunately, some urban cisterns have survived without the demolition of their upper components, and those cisterns, combined with completely intact rural cisterns, are the examples used in compiling this data.

A cistern’s purpose is to hold drinking water, so it makes sense that users would keep cisterns clean of objects and trash throughout their use. It is, therefore, rare that cisterns would produce artifacts that would reveal anything important about the cistern’s original construction or use, or about the people who used them. In most cases, artifacts found within backfilled cisterns date to the period associated with the last use of the cistern or to a period long after the cistern ceased to be used. Since a combination of artifact analysis and archival research has always proved to be the best way to date historic sites, features like cisterns usually do not add much to these calculations because until now, there has been no system to classify and date them. With a few limitations, recognizing variations of manufactured cistern components is proving to be the answer to dating and classifying most cisterns.

Underground cisterns have seven basic uniform components that can be used to date and classify them when treated as architectural artifacts. These are a (1) masonry body structure, (2) shoulder, (3) neck, (4) mouth or access opening, (5) plaster/mortar lining of the interior walls, (6) water intake line, and (7) water outtake line. Intake filter boxes, overflow lines, and exterior plaster/mortar linings are occasionally found as components of cisterns, but archeological evidence of them is rare. Since filter boxes and overflow lines could have been added at anytime during the use of a cistern, they should not be considered as major components of most cisterns.

While the position, form, materials, and construction of intake lines (Figure 2), outtake lines, mouth openings, and plaster linings of cisterns can potentially contribute to

Figure 1. Exposed cistern without shoulder or neck.

Figure 2. Exposed intake line. (Courtesy Hicks & Company, Inc.)
overall classification and dating, these components also are susceptible to replacement and modification during the use of cisterns. On the other hand, the body, shoulder, and neck of each cistern have evolved uniformly over time, so these primary structural components can be used to reliably classify and date cisterns. Today, the terms “Bottle,” “Rectangular,” and “Bell” are commonly used by the archeological community to describe cistern forms, and a fourth type, the “Beveled-Shoulder” cistern, is proposed here. These terms describe the shape of the cistern’s shoulder, but they also apply to the flowing structural form of the entire cistern, from the base of the body through the neck of each cistern. Exactly when the first underground cistern was constructed in Texas, and who built it, will never be known, but each of these four forms of historic cisterns are associated with fairly distinct time periods in which they were manufactured, so the classifications can be used to determine the dates. Only the Rectangular Cistern seems to be associated with a particular ethnic group, and until recently the author believed Rectangular Cisterns were the earliest form of underground cisterns in Texas. However, recent research by Doug Boyd (Boyd 2008) and others have shown that Bottle Cisterns predate the earliest Rectangular Cisterns by at least 10 to 20 years.

**Bottle Cistern, Circa 1820s–1870s**

The Bottle Cistern (Figure 3) form is obviously bottle-shaped with a long, tapered shoulder and neck that often protrudes as much as 4 ft above the ground surface level. Bottle Cisterns could be considered the most common early rural vernacular cistern in Texas, and that is where most surviving examples are found today. This cistern form was well suited to both early rural and urban homestead life due to its relatively small size. Bottle Cisterns were often homemade, and they were usually constructed of a single width of mortared bricks or rough-cut stone (usually limestone). They were approximately 6–9 ft in diameter and 8–10 ft tall, and they generally had a capacity of approximately 1,500 to 2,000 gal of water. Intake lines were usually above ground, and the intake opening entered the cistern high on the shoulder, neck (Figure 4), or directly into the mouth of the cistern. The earliest examples of these cisterns have rounded bases and slightly convex body walls. Later examples of Bottle Cisterns have straight walls and flat bases. To my knowledge, Bottle Cisterns were always constructed outside of their associated water source structure (house or outbuilding), and the water was most commonly extracted from the cistern by use of a water bucket system, as if it were a well. Bottle Cistern construction forms were probably replaced by larger Beveled-Shoulder Cisterns in urban centers by the late 1860s, but Bottle Cistern construction appears to have continued in rural Texas well into the 1870s or later.

Figure 3. Detail of Bottle Cistern. (Illustration by Roland Pantermuehl)

Figure 4. Exposed intake opening.
Rectangular Cistern, Circa 1840s–1860s
The Rectangular Cistern form (Figure 5), to my knowledge, has only been found in association with German immigrant occupation sites, and almost all are constructed of mortared, rough-cut or cut limestone blocks. All examples known to the author were constructed under their water source structures (house or outbuilding), and most have no visible above-ground components besides possible filter boxes and intake lines. The outtake lines for these cisterns fed directly up through the floor of the house, and the few Rectangular Cisterns documented vary in size from approximately 1,000 to more than 2,000 gal. While Rectangular Cisterns were generally contemporaneous with Bottle Cisterns, their manufacture was much less widespread, and they had a shorter temporal range. The Rectangular Cistern associated with the archeological remains of the Pauley House in San Antonio (Fox et al. 1997) was constructed by its owner, a German stone mason, and he also constructed a masonry cellar and elaborate underground cistern filter box and overflow lines.

Beveled-Shoulder Cistern, Circa Early 1860s–Late 1870s
The Beveled-Shoulder Cistern form (Figure 6) is generally larger in size than either the Bottle or Rectangular cisterns, with capacities of approximately 2,000 to 4,000 gal, and the shoulder is more pronounced, with a beveled taper that is wider and slightly more horizontal than the almost shoulderless Bottle Cistern. The cistern associated with the Pound House (currently the Dr. Joseph M. and Sarah Pound Historical Museum) in Dripping Springs, Texas, appears to be an early 1860s example of the structural transition between the Bottle and Beveled cistern forms, with a large, above-ground, beveled shoulder and short neck. The shoulders of later-period Beveled-Shoulder Cisterns are usually buried beneath the ground surface, with only a portion of the neck structure visible above ground. These cisterns were constructed with either single- or double-width brick courses, or rough-cut stone blocks, and most Beveled-Shoulder Cisterns in urban areas had outtake lines that fed directly into the house. Additionally, many of these later-period, Beveled-Shoulder Cisterns were placed directly under the houses with which they were associated.

Bell Cisterns, Circa 1880s–1900s
The Bell Cistern form (Figure 7) is the most common cistern in Texas. The earliest examples held at least 3,000 gal, but most are in the 5,000-to-20,000-gal range. The shoulders of Bell Cisterns are very wide and nearly horizontal or slightly convex in comparison to the smaller Beveled-Shoulder
Cisterns. By the late 1880s, most Bell Cisterns were at least 12 ft in diameter and 15 ft deep, and many were 14 ft in diameter and 18 ft deep or larger. A high percentage of these cisterns were constructed under the houses they were associated with, usually directly under the kitchen floor. Most Bell Cisterns had no visible neck or mouth protruding above the ground surface, and all of the examples known to the author had outtake lines that either came directly up through the mouth cover or exited the cistern through the shoulder and extended underground into the house. The author knows of only a few examples of Bell Cisterns that were not constructed using double-width courses of mortared brick or very large rough-cut limestone blocks.

Bell and Beveled-Shoulder Forms Modified

There are two interesting modifications to the Bell and Beveled-Shoulder cisterns that have been observed in both urban and rural setting, and they are described here.

Semi-Masonry Cistern, Circa Post-1860s

The Semi-Masonry Cistern is potentially a “poor man’s cistern” because, in both the Beveled-Shoulder and Bell categories, the forms were adapted so that the brick or stone masonry body walls did not extend much below the grade of solid bedrock. Instead, only the upper structure of the masonry walls, shoulder, and neck were constructed, and the lower three quarters of the body was simply finished by plaster-lining the bedrock. Obviously, this would only work where the bedrock is very solid so that a layer of plaster could be applied to it, creating a waterproof barrier that would retain water.

Well Cistern, Circa Post-1860s

The Well Cistern is constructed exactly like the Semi-Masonry Cistern, but in this case, the bedrock is not plaster-lined. One can only assume that the builder began constructing a cistern, but in the process, dug into an apparently reliable water table and decided to finish construction of the upper structure as a cistern. Once constructed, the structure was used as a well. One example even had an intake line and intake opening in the shoulder with no plaster lining of the soft limestone bedrock. In this author’s opinion, the concept of diverting rainwater into an underground cistern that is simply a porous container makes little sense.

Summary

The changes in construction form of cisterns—from the Bottle to Beveled to Bell cisterns—must be the result of increasing the size of cisterns to gain more water collection capacity. In other words, increasing the capacity of cisterns was accomplished by enlarging the diameter of the cisterns rather than making them deeper. Larger diameters seem to have led to changes to the structural form of the shoulders that spanned those increased distances.

Unfortunately, the predominant lack of shoulder and neck cistern components in archeological context severely limits an archeologist’s ability to date and classify cisterns; however, secondary components such as the diameter and depth of the remains of a cistern can at least provide relative dates. Brick paste and mortar texture/composition are other analytical tools that can be used fairly reliably in dating cisterns, but that is another topic for another time.

Mark H. Denton joined the Texas Historical Commission as a staff archeologist in 1982. Currently, he is the team leader of the state and federal review section in the Archeology Division. In this role, he oversees the review of public construction projects and recommends ways to minimize the impact of construction on important archeological sites. Denton and his staff also issue state antiquities permits for all archeological investigations on public land or within coastal waters, and he directs efforts to designate archeological sites as State Archeological Landmarks under the jurisdiction of the State Antiquities Code.
From Slave to Landowner
Historic Archeology at the Ransom and Sarah Williams Farmstead

Douglas K. Boyd, Maria Franklin, and Terri Myers

Ransom and Sarah Williams saw many changes in their lives during the last half of the 19th century in Central Texas. Perhaps the most significant change for them, as with most African Americans who lived through the Civil War in the South, was the transition from being enslaved to being free. Word of emancipation came to Texas on June 19, 1865, and it spread across the state over the next several months. For newly freed blacks, this was only the start of a long journey toward freedom and equality that would take many generations and, in some ways, still not complete. The history of the post-emancipation era is seldom told from the African American perspective, but archeological sites associated with freedmen can add significant data in this quest for a more comprehensive historical view. A proposed road project in southern Travis County is giving us an opportunity to study the post-emancipation transitions of African Americans by investigating the historic farmstead where the Williams family lived.

The road improvement project is sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation, and Jon Budd is the project manager. The project is a collaborative effort involving archeological investigations directed by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (PAI), principal investigator Doug Boyd and project archeologists Aaron Norment and Jenny McWilliams; archival research by Terri Myers, Preservation Central, Inc.; and oral history and archeological consulting by Maria Franklin, the University of Texas at Austin’s (UT Austin) Department of Anthropology. This article is a brief report on the multidisciplinary, historic archeological investigations related to the Williams farmstead that are currently in progress.

Site History
Immediately following emancipation, most freedmen were simply hired as employees by their former owners. In fact, the 1865 Emancipation Proclamation stated: “The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages” (Granger 1994 [1865]). This was the most expedient course of action at the time because most white landowners still needed labor to run their plantations while most freedmen needed jobs and knew only how to farm. A small percentage of freedmen were lucky enough to have acquired some special skills that enabled them to do jobs other than farm labor. Williams appears to have been such

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a man, and he may have acquired during slavery some talents and knowledge that helped him succeed as a freedman.

Williams is an enigma in many ways. Various lines of circumstantial evidence suggest that he had been a slave of the Bunton family who came to Texas from Kentucky and started a plantation at Mountain City in Hays County (near Buda). It is even possible that Williams was originally named Bunton but that he changed his last name to Williams soon after emancipation. He appears as “colored” in some records but not in others, which suggests he was a mulatto. Despite the fact that he owned land for 30 years, Williams somehow managed to miss being recorded in the population and agricultural censuses for 1870, 1880, and 1900 (most of the 1890 U.S. Census records were burned).

Following emancipation, it was common for blacks to congregate into freedmen communities, both urban and rural (Mears 2009:3–11; Sitton and Conrad 2005:1–4). Such communities provided a measure of protection from discrimination and racial violence that was common in the South during the Jim Crow era. But Williams was unusual because he did not fit into this pattern. He chose to purchase land and homestead in a relatively isolated location, essentially surrounded by white neighbors but still within a few miles of the black communities at Antioch and Manchaca.

Williams first appears in public records in 1867 when he is listed on the Hays County voter’s registration rolls. In the late 1860s, Williams owned no land, but he paid taxes on many horses or mules. In December 1871, Williams purchased a 45-acre farm in southern Travis County. A few months later, in April 1872, he registered a livestock brand (Figure 1) with Travis County, but the handwritten record notes it was a “horse brand.” He continued to pay taxes on many horses and mules for several more years. Williams married Sarah (we do not know her maiden name) sometime after 1871, and their first child was born in 1876. They had nine more children over the next two decades, but only five of the children lived to adulthood. Their two oldest boys, Will and Charlie, bought an additional 12 acres of land,
brining the size of the family farm to 57 acres. The family paid taxes on the land and made improvements every year through the end of the 19th century, but Williams died around 1901. The older boys no longer lived on the property, and Sarah and other children moved from the family farm to Austin about 1905. Although the Williamses owned the farm for many more years, it appears that no one lived on the property after 1905. The Williams family finally sold off its land in 1934 and 1941. They seem to have followed the “great migration,” a widespread trend when many rural black farmers and farm laborers moved to cities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Kyriakoudes 1998; Reid 2003).

Today, the Williams farmstead can contribute to African diaspora studies in many ways. This potential is greatly enhanced by the fact that the site was found to be in excellent condition and was well suited to study via landscape analysis and archeological investigations.

**Landscape Analysis and Archeology**

Although the Ransom and Sarah Williams Farmstead site (41TV1051) was recorded in 1985, the component eventually identified as the Williams farmstead was not recognized until 2003, and its association with an African American freedman was not revealed until 2007. After limited testing, the site was considered to be significant, and it moved into a data recovery phase. In summer 2009, PAI conducted a detailed landscape analysis of the farmstead (with on-ground investigations limited to the portion located in the state-owned right-of-way) and archeological excavations to investigate selected areas and features.

The landscape analysis included study of modern and historic aerial photographs, GPS and total station mapping of features and topography, and backhoe excavations to test landforms and examine features. The analysis reveals how Williams laid out his farm to take advantage of the geology, topography, and hydrology, as well as to maximize the use of the natural soils, native vegetation, and abundant limestone rocks. Williams’ 45-acre property contained only about 18 acres of flat land suitable for crops, and this area was indeed cleared of trees and cultivated for many years. As might be expected in an upland setting, there were piles and lines of limestone and chert cobbles that had been removed from fields over many years. The rest of the property, which was extremely rocky with gentle-to-moderate slopes, was left wooded and used as pastureland. Williams gathered many large limestone cobbles and boulders to build rock fences that marked the boundaries of his property and formed a barrier between the cultivated field and the pastures (Figure 2). He also built rock walls to serve as livestock corrals and to divert water into a small stock pond he dug in the lower part of his land. We know that Williams also used barbed wire fencing in conjunction with the rock walls because segments of old barbed wire were found completely encased within the trunks of several giant oak trees.

Most of the archeological excavations were concentrated in the area of the main farmhouse (Figure 3), with only limited excavation (a 2x2-m unit) in the corral complex. Metal detecting was done to identify artifact concentrations, and 113 shovel tests were dug on a 2-m grid around the house. Hand excavations consisted of 138 1x1-m units in the house area, with most being concentrated in three locations—90 contiguous units in the house block, 28 units in the trash midden areas east of the house, and 14 contiguous units in a block located northwest of the house where the location of an outbuilding was suspected (Figure 4). Inside the house block, a subterranean pit just in front of the fireplace was probably used as a “potato cellar” for food storage. The pit had been filled in with domestic trash sometime around the turn of the century, perhaps after the Williams family purchased an ice box and the cellar was no longer needed.

The archeological work recovered more than 26,000 artifacts associated with the Williams occupation. While there are thousands of small fragments of iron and glass of minimal interpretive value, there are many hundreds of specimens that are functionally and temporally diagnostic. The preliminary sorting of materials into functional categories divides the assemblages as follows: activities, 4.9 percent; architectural, 25 percent; clothing and adornment, 3.5 percent; kitchen and household, 65 percent; and personal items, 1.6 percent. This simple functional classification belies the true complexity of the assemblage, though. The activities category, for example, contains a variety of items such as carriage and wagon hardware,
construction hand tools, farming hand tools, plow parts, horse tack (e.g., bridle bits and buckles) and harness gear (e.g., singletree clips) (Figure 5), gun parts and munitions (representing several shotguns, rifles, and pistols), musical instruments (harmonicas and a Jew’s harp), sewing items (e.g., thimble and pins), writing utensils (ink bottles, pencil leads, and erasers), barrel hoops (for water transport and storage), and children’s toys (e.g., cap gun, glass marbles, and doll parts). In addition, we identified 109 different glass bottles and containers (mainly food, medicine, tobacco, and alcohol), 21 separate objects of pressed glass (mostly oil lamp bases and tablewares), and 52 individual ceramic vessels. The latter include porcelain wares, stoneware jars and jugs, and a variety of decorated and undecorated white-ware plates, cups, saucers, and serving dishes (Figure 6).

The analysis of material culture that is currently underway will involve looking for spatial patterns to define activity areas in and around the farmhouse, as well as to address a wide range of specific research questions. One of the most interesting observations is that the Williams assemblage is extremely diverse and relatively affluent. In economic terms, it does not reflect material culture of a poor farm family barely making a living; rather, the assemblage represents a relatively prosperous household expressing its identity through the purchase of a wide range of moderately priced consumer goods. We will be exploring this concept further as the analysis continues.
One very interesting find may well reflect spiritual beliefs that date back to slavery and may have originated in Africa (Leone and Fry 2001). When we excavated the base of the rock chimney to see how it was constructed, a nearly complete prehistoric dart point was found below the center of the firebox. Its context within the prepared basal fill layer indicates that it was intentionally placed in this location. African American traditions include the use of “chimney
charms that keep things from entering the house” (Arnett et al. 2000:79). Ancient Native American artifacts have been found in similar contexts that suggest they were ritual items used by African Americans. Wilkie (1997:100) notes that dart points have been found in yard areas and underneath houses in African American sites. Brown and Cooper (1990:16–17) note that chert projectile points and scrapers were found inside “the Healer’s Cabin” at the Levi Jordan Plantation in Brazoria County, Texas. Russell (1997:72) states that “Prehistoric Native American stone artifacts were found in all African American contexts at the Hermitage,” a plantation near Nashville, Tennessee. While we do not know for certain why Williams might have placed a dart point in the firebox when he built the chimney, it is likely that the object had some special ritual or symbolic meaning.

Community Outreach and Oral History
One of the more important aspects of the project is the community outreach. From the inception of this data recovery effort, the Ransom and Sarah Williams Farmstead Project was envisioned as a community-based archeological and historical investigation that would involve African American archeologists as well as the local African American community. The project team is firmly committed to the idea that historic archeology at the Williams farmstead should be done in collaboration with those who have a personal connection with the site and the surrounding areas. In the broadest sense, the descendant community is not limited to direct lineal descendants but includes all African Americans who once lived in the region and shared a common history with the Williams family. To this end, we developed an oral history component that used informant interviews as a vehicle for engaging with the local African American community. These interviews were a significant factor in our outreach efforts since they opened up lines of communication between researchers and the community.

With evidence that the Williams family had ties to Antioch Colony, the Antioch descendants we contacted wanted to be involved with a project concerning their history. We also contacted African Americans who grew up in Manchaca, the town closest to the Williams farmstead that was known to have an established black presence both during and after the occupation of the site. The collection of oral histories led to many informal conversations that provided ideas on how our project might “give back” to the community and interviewees.

Ultimately, the purpose of this oral history component was to gather individual recollections to preserve the life histories related to an understudied, and thus obscured, segment of Central Texas history—African Americans living in Hays and Travis counties during the Jim Crow era. We conducted 18 oral history interviews with 19 informants ranging in age from 52 to 93. The interviews totaled 39.5 hours, and when the interview files were transcribed, they yielded more than 700 pages of detailed memories comprising a wealth of historical data. The original digital interview files will be curated at an appropriate oral history repository, and we will publish all of the oral history transcripts in a single volume. The historical memories are helping us interpret late 19th-century agricultural life, and there is considerable overlap between the people’s stories and the archeological findings. Many of the features, objects, and activities represented by the archeological remains at the Williams farmstead are prominent in the descendants’ memories of early 20th-century farm life.

Most of the informants were more than 70 years old at the time of their interviews. Regrettfully, two of the individuals interviewed have since passed away, so we are fortunate to have recorded the memories of Anthy Lee Revada Walker and Moses Harper. We hope their families will cherish the interviews. We are not the only ones who recognize the importance of these oral histories, and many in the descendant community lament the passing of elderly relatives who possessed a wealth of personal and historical knowledge that is now lost. The opportunity to have their biographies recorded and archived for the benefit of their descendants was one of the main reasons why so many individuals agreed to be interviewed. They also wanted to honor their ancestors.

In the narrowest sense, the direct lineal descendants of the Williams family are an important subset of the descendant community, and we made many attempts to locate living relatives. Despite some rather intensive research from 2007 to 2010, most attempts to find direct
descendants met with frustration; however, historian Terri Myers made a breakthrough in October 2010, when she identified several people who are great-grandchildren of Ransom and Sarah Williams. Two of these descendants are living in Austin, and Myers’ initial interviews with Corrine (Williams) Harris were very productive. More oral history work with the family members is being planned.

Besides using oral history interviews, the Williams Farmstead Project has utilized many other public outreach avenues. Numerous talks have been presented to archeological and public audiences, and more are being planned. Several African American anthropology students participated in the archeological field investigations. Nedra Lee, a doctoral candidate in anthropology at UT Austin, is working on the project and will be using the Williams site material culture for her dissertation research. A video recording crew from UT Austin’s Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services visited the Williams site during the 2009 dig, taped oral history interviews, and shot footage of the site and the archeological investigations. *Life and Letters*, the UT College of Liberal Arts magazine, ran a feature story on the Williams project in fall 2010.

One of the highlights of our project so far is the inclusion of the Williams project in a television program. This was a 28-minute segment used in a Juneteenth Jamboree 2010 program that aired on KLRU-TV (the Central Texas PBS affiliate) on June 17, 2010. Called “Once Upon a Time Ransom Williams Crossed State Highway 45 Southwest,” the segment included interviews with project personnel and descendant community members.

**Conclusion**

Ransom Williams was a black man who purchased a 45-acre farm in 1871, at a time when only a small percentage of blacks could afford any land at all. He married Sarah, a former slave, and they raised five children on their farm. They were illiterate parents who made sure their children learned to read and write and attended school. The Williams family prospered when many blacks were struggling as low-wage laborers or falling into an oppressive system of sharecropping for white landlords. Circumstantial evidence suggests Williams was a horseman, and this knowledge may have contributed to his success. Historical documents (e.g., tax records), archeological features (e.g., rock-walled corrals and a stock pond), and artifacts (e.g., horse tack, harness equipment, and wagon parts) suggest that Williams raised horses and mules and was possibly an independent teamster, perhaps using wagons to haul supplies and products for others. The Williams family lived within a rural white farming community, yet they managed to stay below the radar and avoid the racial violence that was a very real threat for all blacks during the Jim Crow era.

The Williams farmstead is a rare historic archeological site in Texas. It represents a snapshot in time and space within the larger story of the African diaspora. The Ransom and Sarah Williams Farmstead Project is important because it documents—through archives, oral history, and archeology—the story of one African American family’s transition from slavery to freedom. To understand why African diaspora studies are important to Texas history, we must remember that Euro Americans wrote most of the state’s history, and it is told from a decidedly biased perspective. Much of Texas’ history has been written by and about the white society that dominated the state’s political, economic, and academic realms throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Consequently, the perspectives of minority groups are seriously underrepresented in official state histories, and these omissions apply to women, Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and many other groups. We must reexamine Texas history from many different perspectives and look at primary documents, archeological evidence, and oral history to discover and highlight the contributions of historically underrepresented minority groups. The archeological community is becoming more aware of the need to deal responsibly with the realities of racial politics, and a growing number of archeologists are involving descendants in their research at various levels of engagement (e.g., Epperson 2004; Franklin and Paynter 2010; LaRoche and Blakey 1997; Leone et al. 2005; McDavid 2002; McGuire 2008; Mullins 1999; Orser 1998; Palus et al. 2006; Scham 2001; Singleton 1999).

**Editor’s Note:** More information about the Ransom and Sarah Williams Farmstead Project is available online.

The KLRU-TV Juneteenth Jamboree 2010 program, with a 28-minute segment on the Ransom Williams project, can be seen at www.klru.org/juneteenth/.

An article on the project appeared in the fall 2010 issue of UT Austin’s College of Liberal Arts magazine Life and Letters and can be read online at www.utexas.edu/features/2010/09/20/artifacts/.

Douglas K. Boyd is a vice president at Prewitt and Associates, Inc., in Austin. He is the principal investigator for the Ransom and Sarah Williams Farmstead Project. Terri Myers, of Preservation Central, Inc., in Austin, is the project historian. Maria Franklin is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and the African and African Diaspora Studies Department at UT Austin. She also is affiliated with the John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies at UT Austin and serves as an archeological consultant and oral historian for the project.
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Bernardo Plantation
A Glimpse of Frontier Life

Robert Marcom

Thousands of new artifacts recovered at the Bernardo Plantation last fall will offer new insights into life on the frontier during the colonial period, the days of the early Republic, and the period leading up to and including the U.S. Civil War. The project, which is being managed by the Community Archaeology Research Institute (CARI), Inc., is a collaborative effort involving the founders of the Bernardo Plantation Archeology Project (landowner Greg Brown, Greg Dimmick of Wharton, and James Woodrick of Austin), and the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

Over a period of five weekends, 28 1-yd-square units were excavated as well as more than a dozen 1-ft-square test units. While analysis will have to wait until the data are recorded, the project team has made some interesting preliminary observations.

According to CARI Senior Staff Archaeologist Jorge Garcia-Herreros, the brick rubble that was tentatively associated with the detached kitchen has yielded burned and vitrified brick fragments and a high concentration of square-cut nails. Other finds indicate a structure approximately 30-ft square northeast of the main house. The historic maps of the building locations do not seem correct at this point, but their accuracy may still be demonstrated by the conclusion of the spring 2011 field season.

Dietary remains, including bones, shells, and scales, may help define the balance between animal husbandry and hunting in the 40 years of Texas colonization from 1822 through the early 1860s. Munitions such as shotgun cartridges and round shot have been frequent finds. Pig and cow bones have been recovered in some abundance.

The brick chimney hearth (Figure 1) located at the southwest corner of the main house was excavated and found to be practically identical to its companion at the southeast corner. It demonstrates the same stepped construction, larger at the bottom and reduced by approximately one-half-brick width for each course that was added. Artifacts found in association with the hearth material include bones, ceramic sherds, a Jew’s harp, and bottle fragments. This fireplace served the room labeled as “mother’s room” in the historic drawings.

During the weekends in October 2010, several public events were held at the site. An open house drew a good turnout of local residents. During site tours organized by CARI, the Friends of the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, the THC, and the Sealy Chamber of Commerce as part of Texas Archeology Month (celebrated annually in October; see story, pages 24–25) visitors from across Texas viewed some of the recently uncovered artifacts and toured the site. Also, Boy Scouts of the Mustang District performed fieldwork for the Boy Scout Archaeology Merit Badge.

The fieldwork and related activities have been possible due to the generosity of landowner Greg Brown and financial contributions from the Houston Endowment for the Arts, the Summerlee Foundation, and other public and private donors. Members of the Texas Archeological Society and Texas Archeological Stewardship Network as well as avocational archeologists from several organizations, including the Brazosport, Fort Bend, and Houston archeological societies gave up their weekends to help explore the early history of our state. Many students from CyFair College and Houston Community College also contributed their time and effort.

Additional work is planned for the Bernardo project. At the site, the project team hopes to explore some areas of interest highlighted by remote-sensing work conducted earlier by the THC’s Archeology Division (AD). This work was reported in the April 2010 issue of the AD’s newsletter, Current Archeology in Texas (www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/CAT_Apr_10.pdf). In other areas, ethnographic and descendants-related research is ongoing and will continue into the summer. CARI Executive Director Carol McDavid and CARI researcher Debra Blacklock-Sloan, with the assistance of project historian Jim Woodrick, have generated numerous leads and potential contacts within the Bernardo Plantation descendant community. We look forward to learning the extent to which these revelations will enrich our understanding of Texas history and the residents of Bernardo Plantation.

A Registered Professional Archaeologist, Robert Marcom is Associate Director at CARI and has been employed in cultural resources management for the past 20 years. He and CARI Executive Director Carol McDavid are co-principal investigators at the Bernardo Plantation.
Landis Property Excavations Yield Insights Into Late Archaic and Protohistoric Camps on Southern High Plains

J. Michael Quigg

Two well-defined cultural components near Amarillo, Texas, were investigated by the TRC Environmental Corporation and have yielded important information about the people who inhabited the Southern High Plains periodically over the last 2,500 years. Data recovery investigations were conducted at three archeological sites (41PT185, 41PT186, and 41PT245) on the Landis property in Potter County, just west of Amarillo. The three sites are within a 1.6-km-long, north-to-south section of upper West Amarillo Creek. This property was previously managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which funded these investigations. TRC, under contract to the BLM, conducted the fieldwork during fall 2007 and fall 2008 (Quigg et al. 2010). The cultural resource investigations were prompted by the transfer of these federal lands to the private sector, and they were required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

The two-phase data recovery program conducted by TRC allowed for additional site assessments prior to full-scale, horizontal block excavations. TRC’s initial assessment in fall 2007 isolated specific areas within each site that appeared to have the best potential to yield significant information that would contribute to understanding past events. During that time, a detailed geoarcheological investigation was conducted to identify, document, and define the natural depositional processes in that part of the West Amarillo Creek valley. This was done through the excavation of 47 backhoe trenches across the Landis property, both in known sites and across selected terraces. A very complex Holocene alluvial history, represented by at least six depositional units (designated A through F), was documented. The alluvial fills were nearly 6 m thick. Fill thicknesses varied considerably, with most at least 4 m thick. About 60 percent of the Holocene record, the last 10,000 years, is represented in the project area. A period of nearly 4,000 years, between (roughly) 8200 and 4300 BP during the mid-Holocene, was not represented in the depositional sequence in this part of the valley.

The second season’s excavations during fall 2008 focused on two sites. Locus C, at 41PT185, the Pipeline site, was investigated with a 285-m² excavated block that targeted a shallowly buried, sloping Late Archaic component. The horizontally extensive component actually represented two discrete Late Archaic occupations located side by side in the same vertical zone. The more recent occupation toward the northern end of the excavation block was radiocarbon-dated by four $\delta^{13}$C-corrected samples to roughly a 200-year period between 1550 and 1750 BP. The older event, primarily across the middle and southern end, was radiocarbon-dated between 2240 and 2540 BP based on 10 $\delta^{13}$C-corrected radiocarbon dates. As a whole, this Late Archaic component yielded 21 dart point fragments (Figure 1), 21 bifaces, 10 grinding slabs, eight scrapers, one mano, roughly 2,500 pieces of lithic debitage, more than 5,000 bones, nearly 4,300 burned rocks, and 22 cultural features. The features were dominated by burned rocks and included a few in situ heating elements (Figure 2), many burned-rock discard piles, and a bison skull. Almost no macrobotanical remains were preserved; therefore, most radiocarbon dates were mostly derived from bison bones. One unique biface was a nearly complete corner-tang knife made of Alibates and found under a 30-cm-diameter natural rock. The chipped stone tools and debitage were dominated by Alibates, with some Tecovas material and a few obsidian flakes. The horizontal artifact and feature distribution

Figure 1. Unwashed Late Archaic projectile points from Locus C at the Pipeline site (41PT185).
revealed general camp activities that centered on processing bison meat and bones as well as cooking with burned rocks; no evidence of structures was observed. Of significance, starch grain analysis revealed that wildrye grass (*Elymus canadensis*) seeds were collected, ground on the grinding slabs, and then boiled using the burned rocks. Both Late Archaic occupations occurred during the fall, when bison meat and grass seeds were collected and processed in preparation for the long winter ahead. The two nearly identical occupations document repeated use of this specific locality and the valley during the fall for the collection and processing of the same two primary resources.

At 41PT186, the Corral site, one low alluvial terrace within the larger site revealed an isolated and sloping occupation surface that varied in depth from 80-to-100 cm at the top of a buried soil. This well-defined and deeply buried occupation was targeted, and a 144-m² block was hand-excavated. The occupation was directly dated by three δ¹³C-corrected radiocarbon dates to between 200 and 300 BP, documenting a rare Native American Protohistoric event. This isolated event yielded very limited cultural materials in terms of quantity and diversity, but the horizontal distribution of the five intact features and two knapping areas sheds considerable light on human behavior during this period. The features included two well-defined, charcoal-filled basin heating elements (hearths), a 1-m-diameter ash dump from the heating elements, a 20-cm-diameter cache of four end scrapers, two edge-modified flakes, and two unworked flakes. Two separate lithic concentrations revealed two isolated knapping areas where end scrapers were manufactured, one next to one of the heating elements. No bifaces or diagnostic points were recovered, only six end scrapers, one metal tinkler cone, a few scattered burned rocks, and animal bones. The relative lack of metal objects was surprising, since metal objects had been in the region for at least 300 years. Butchered bison and deer bones document the meat resources procured. Starch grain analysis on a limited suite of artifacts revealed that Canadian wildrye grass (*Elymus canadensis*) was also part of the subsistence base. Alibates dominated the lithic debitage.

Investigations at 41PT245, the Pavilion site, targeted a sparse, roughly 1200-to-1400 BP occupation during data recovery; however, the limited returns cut short the planned hand-excavation. The remaining efforts were shifted to the other two sites.

During the data analyses phase, numerous technical analyses were conducted on suites of samples to gain greater insights into past events. To document the specific ages of the features and events, 51 radiocarbon dates were obtained on wood charcoal and bison bones. Other analyses included sourcing the 14 obsidian flakes from the Late Archaic component (performed by the Berkeley Archaeological XRF Lab) and chert-sourcing studies by the University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR). The latter involved Alibates and Tecovas materials that were examined through instrumental neutron activation (INA) analyses. In addition, Dr. Linda Perry, a research collaborator at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, performed starch grain analyses on burned rocks and stone tools to identify what plant resources were present and used; Dr. Bruce Hardy, an associate professor of anthropology at Kenyon College, conducted high-powered use-wear studies on the chipped stone tools to help define function; Dr. David Robinson, an independent consultant in Austin, handled petrographic thin-section analysis on ceramic sherds to help identify materials used in their construction; MURR conducted INA analyses on ceramic sherds to determine their chemical signatures and their homogeneity; and Dr. Mary Malainey and Timothy Figol, independent consultants in Winnipeg, performed chemical (lipid residue) analysis that targeted burned rocks to help identify what foods were cooked by these rocks. The chemical analyses conducted on the Alibates and Tecovas indicates these can be separated into distinct rock types.

Part of these investigations also analyzed a 5-m-tall deposit of alluvium in the bottom of the valley to examine the depositional and environmental conditions that existed over the last 2,000 years, a timeframe that generally corresponds with the occupational history of the sites (Figure 3).
Figure 3. Five-m-tall alluvial deposits used to reconstruct the paleoenvironment over the last 2,000 years.
To help interpret these deposits, a variety of technical analyses were conducted, including but not limited to pollen and phytolith analyses, diatom analysis, stable carbon isotope analysis, and snail and shell identifications. This multidisciplinary approach toward one depositional unit (Unit D), that dated roughly between 2000 and 430 BP, revealed that West Amarillo Creek alternated between a flowing stream with a sandy channel and a periodically dry pond/marsh. The first 500 years of the deposits, dating roughly between 2000 and 1500 BP, were characterized by a cool and moist climate that gradually changed to a warm, dry condition.

In summary, the 2008 investigations encompassed about 451 m² of hand excavations. Two of the three targeted blocks yielded two intact and well-defined cultural components—a Protohistoric and Late Archaic—and significant data used to address research questions. The rare Protohistoric assemblage was meager by all accounts, containing only a single metal object with an otherwise limited prehistoric tool assemblage; however, the identified cultural features reveal a continuation of similar activities often documented in earlier prehistoric hunter-gatherer sites. The exceptional horizontal distribution of the features provides insights into human behaviors—for instance, knapping activities next to heating elements, cleaning and discarding ash from heating elements, and intentionally clustering bison bones.

The Late Archaic component adds considerable knowledge to our understanding of human populations in the Southern High Plains. The documentation of people collecting, grinding, and boiling wildrye grass seeds is a first for this time period in this area. The detection of this gathered-grass food resource reveals at least one plant that was part of the diet in addition to bison meat, marrow, and grease. Microwear analysis of a selected stone tool assemblage reveals an interesting tool-hafting technology during the Late Archaic. The horizontal distribution of the burned rocks indicates an association between the heating elements and the discarding of used rocks. The paleoenvironmental data derived from the intensively sampled 5-m deep alluvial deposit refines our understanding of the fluctuation of the environment over the last 2,000 years.

J. Michael Quigg is the senior staff archeologist at TRC Environmental Corporation in Austin. He has been conducting archaeological excavations in Texas over the last 24 years. He received his master’s degree in archeology from the University of Calgary, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He spent five years with the Archaeological Survey of Alberta, five years as co-owner and manager of a private archeological firm, and many more in private consulting firms as a cultural resource manager. His work has focused on hunter-gatherer prehistory across the Plains.

Reference
Archeology Division Director Retires in August
Jim Bruseth Plans to Remain Active in Archeology

At the presumed grave of Texas Ranger James Coryell in December, Jim Bruseth explains to reporters how a small test shaft will be dug into the grave fill to assess the potential for preserved bone.

After nearly 24 years of service with the Texas Historical Commission (THC), Archeology Division Director Jim Bruseth is retiring at the end of the current fiscal year (August 31, 2011). Hired in October 1987, Bruseth’s tenure is best characterized as one of changes—improving efficiencies in the tracking of state and federal reviews, developing the Texas Historic Sites Atlas (including the restricted sites database), and helping to create the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, an affiliated nonprofit organization to assist with fundraising activities.

When he was hired in 1987, Bruseth’s main responsibility was to direct the agency’s archeological federal review operations for what was then called the Department of Antiquities Protection (DAP). In the early 1990s, the responsibilities previously assigned to the Texas Antiquities Committee were assumed by the THC, expanding the duties of the DAP to include state reviews and permitting under the auspices of the Antiquities Code of Texas (Natural Resources Code Title 9, Heritage, Chapter 191). In 1998, Bruseth assumed the directorship of the Archeology Division when DAP was merged with the Office of the State Archeologist.

Perhaps Bruseth’s best-known achievement involves his work directing important, high-profile archeological investigations such as the recovery of La Salle’s Belle shipwreck from Matagorda Bay from 1996 to 1997. The Belle project received international attention due to its historical significance and for the decision to build a cofferdam around the wreck to allow its excavation using terrestrial techniques. This approach, necessitated by the low visibility of the waters of Matagorda Bay, required an engineering feat never before attempted in North America. The project was a success, recovering a fascinating cache of weapons, supplies, equipment, and other goods intended for use in establishing a French colony and trade with indigenous groups. Recovered remnants of the hull have been undergoing years of conservation at Texas A&M University’s Conservation Research Laboratory under Bruseth’s direction, and they will soon be incorporated in a special Belle exhibit at the Bob Bullock State History Museum. A traveling exhibit to destinations in the United States, Canada, and France are planned. In 2005, Bruseth and his wife Toni Turner authored a book about the Belle entitled From a Watery Grave. Published by Texas A&M University Press, the book has won four awards, including one from the Society for American Archaeology and the James Deetz Award from the Society for Historical Archaeology.

The investigation in rural Victoria County of La Salle’s failed colony, Fort St. Louis, came close on the heels of the Belle project. The fortuitous discovery of the colony’s eight iron cannon by a ranch foreman who reported the find to the THC in fall 1996 led to a large-scale excavation that began in 1999 and concluded in 2002. A unique feature of the project was the establishment of a field laboratory in a storefront in downtown Victoria to allow school groups and interested individuals to observe firsthand the processing of the artifacts recovered from the investigations.

“What was so gratifying about this project is that we were able to remove any doubt that this was indeed the site...
More than 1,200 people attended the Society for Historical Archaeology’s (SHA) annual conference in Austin. Formed in 1967, the SHA is the largest scholarly group concerned with the archeology of the modern world (AD 1400–present). The main focus of the society is the era since the beginning of European exploration. SHA promotes scholarly research and the dissemination of knowledge concerning historical archeology. The society is specifically concerned with the identification, excavation, interpretation, and conservation of sites and materials on land and underwater. Geographically, the society emphasizes the New World, but also includes European exploration and settlement in Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

This year’s annual conference, which was held January 5–9, was organized by co-chairs Maria Franklin, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas (UT) at Austin; and Archeology Division (AD) Director Jim Bruseth, Texas Historical Commission (THC), with the aid of the following committee members:

**Local Arrangements Chair:** Pat Mercado-Allinger, THC

**Program Chair:** Carol McDavid, Community Archaeology Research Institute, Inc.

**Terrestrial Program Director:** Michael Strutt, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**Underwater Program Director:** Filipe Castro, Texas A&M University

**Tour and Events Director:** Maureen Brown, THC

**Popular Program Director:** Pam Wheat-Stranahan, Texas Archeological Society (TAS)

**Volunteer Director:** Nedra Lee, UT Austin

**Workshops Coordinator:** Jamie Brandon, University of Arkansas

**International Liaison Chairs:** José Zapata, THC; John Carman, University of Birmingham; Gustavo Ramírez, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia

**Audiovisual Director:** Mark Denton, THC

**Social Networkers:** Jamie Brandon, University of Arkansas; Terry Brock, Michigan State University

**Silent Auction:** May Schmidt, TAS and Texas Archeological Stewardship Network; Maureen Brown, THC

**Public Relations:** Office of Public Affairs, UT Austin

**Photographer:** Bill Pierson, THC

The conference kicked off with a series of workshops and bus tours of the San Antonio missions and the Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A&M University. An evening plenary session, “Historical Archaeology: Past, Present and Future,” served as the venue for recognizing the recipients of the SHA Awards of Merit, including former chairman of the THC and Advisory Council, John L. Nau, III (see story, page 23).

Conference offerings included hundreds of scholarly papers, symposia, and panel discussions. Conference attendees were treated to a sampling of Austin’s live music scene at the Wednesday night reception, a special Thursday night event, and the annual SHA dance held on Friday night.

One of the conference highlights was the “Texas Fiesta: Celebrating the Achievements of the Late Dr. Kathleen Gilmore,” which was held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Gilmore devoted decades to the research of Texas’ Spanish missions and presidios and determined the location of French explorer Robert Cavelier’s (Sieur de La Salle) Fort St. Louis in Victoria County. She published extensively on the history and archeology of Texas and was the first woman to serve as the president of the SHA.

The public was invited to experience “Crossroads in Texas History” on Saturday afternoon, with an array of educational booths, presenters, and reenactors featuring various aspects of historical archeology in Texas. State Marine Archeologist Amy Borgens and AD Collections Manager Bradford Jones participated in this event, which attracted about 500 visitors.

By all accounts, the 2011 SHA conference was a resounding success.
SHA Honors Former THC Chair John L. Nau, III

John L. Nau, III, former chairman of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), was recognized by the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) with an Award of Merit (see story, page 22). The award—which was presented by SHA President William Lees on January 5—honored Nau for his outstanding commitment to ensuring that the preservation of Texas’ and the nation’s archeological heritage are fully considered in the development of preservation policy.

The award recognized Nau’s efforts as chairman at both the THC (1997–2009) and the ACHP (2001–2010). “For both organizations, Nau significantly raised the visibility of archaeology in the preservation process through his tireless efforts to include archaeology as a full partner in the preservation process,” an article on the ACHP website said. Nau’s role in raising the Belle from Texas’ waters and his role in having an archeologist appointed to the ACHP for the first time in the agency’s history were highlighted.

Established in 1988, the SHA’s Award of Merit recognizes specific achievements of individuals and organizations that have furthered the cause of historical archeology.

Three Repositories Seek Curatorial Facility Certification

Three repositories that are caring for state held-in-trust collections are currently being reviewed by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Curatorial Facility Certification Program (CFCP). The three facilities are the THC Archeology Division Lab in Austin, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, and the Texas A&M University Anthropology Department in College Station.

According to CFCP Coordinator Elizabeth Martindale, all curatorial facilities wishing to accept or to continue to accept state-associated, held-in-trust collections must be certified by the THC. This includes THC facilities; two of these already have been certified. The Sam Rayburn House Museum in Bonham was certified in July 2010, and the Historic Sites Division Curatorial Facility in Austin was certified in January 2011.

Established in 2005, the CFCP has certified 14 curatorial facilities across the state since the program began. This process ensures that facilities meet current museum standards and assures that Texas’ archeological collections are preserved and available for future research and display.

In addition to working on these reviews, Martindale continues to research all held-in-trust collections and update the CFCP records and database.

Jim Bruseth Retires, continued

of Fort St. Louis, an interpretation that had been advanced by Dr. Kathleen Gilmore in her study of the Keeran site,” said Bruseth. “Kathleen provided me so much encouragement and support during the course of these excavations. I cherish the time we spent together investigating the site.”

Bruseth served on the board of directors of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers in the 1990s, and for the past three years served as co-chair for the 2011 Society for Historical Archaeology conference, which took place January 5–9 in Austin and attracted more than 1,200 attendees (see story, page 22). Since late 2010, he has directed the search for the grave of James Coryell, a Texas Ranger killed by Native Americans in 1837 (see story, page 1).

Although he is retiring from the agency and leaving state employment at the end of August, Bruseth emphasized that he plans to remain active in archeology. Accordingly, he was recently elected to a four-year term to the board of directors of the Register of Professional Archaeologists. His future plans involve completing two book projects, working on other writing obligations, and undertaking some archeological consulting projects. Bruseth will maintain his email address at the THC (jim.bruseth@thc.state.tx.us).

Former THC Chair John L. Nau, III (second from right) is shown with (left to right) AD Director Jim Bruseth; SHA President William Lees; Julia King, expert member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and SHA Awards Committee Chair Teresita Majewski.
Archeology is an important key to our heritage—a key that was used to unlock the past by more than 47,000 people who participated in the 2010 Texas Archeology Month celebration in October.

Across the state, thousands of residents and visitors in 70 cities and 60 counties, flocked to TAM events and related activities during this year’s observance. According to a survey administered in November by the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Archeology Division (AD), this year’s attendance number was 47,253. This figure is much higher than numbers reported in 2009 (24,487) and 2008 (31,842), despite a few last-minute cancellations caused by unforeseen problems and postponements by groups who moved their archeology salutes to the spring. As in previous years, a number of TAM hosts did not respond to the survey, leaving the attendance at a number of TAM activities and exhibits that appeared in the 2010 TAM Calendar unaccounted for in this year’s tally.

The event diversity in the TAM 2010 Calendar provided irresistible choices for some families and individuals—the Houston Museum of Natural Science, for instance, reported a San Antonio-to-Houston trek by attendees interested in an evening lecture on Blackbeard’s flagship. According to the survey, topics ranged from local artifacts and Native American history to geoarcheology and Egyptian archeology.

“Having a statewide archeology month (celebration) is a wonderful idea,” said Milam County Historical Commission Co-chair Geri Burnett. “We know we can visit other counties, hear and see wonderful speakers, and attend great events. If only we had time to attend them all!”

When broken down into categories, this year’s TAM observance included lectures, speakers, presentations, or workshops (44.7 percent); archeology fairs, festivals, or thematic events (35.5 percent); special TAM-related displays (22.3 percent); special activities such as mock digs (22.3 percent); daylong or weeklong archeology celebrations (21 percent); permanent exhibits (13.1 percent); open-house events (3.9 percent); and conferences or annual meetings (1.3 percent). This particular survey question, which allowed respondents to select more than one category, provided an open-ended portion that gave interesting insights. Activities listed here included school tours at various venues, presentations at schools, archeology site tours, cemetery walking tours, extended museum hours, and the premiere of a film on Alibates flint.

Each year, hundreds of volunteers work alone or in partnership with staff employed by or affiliated with museums; libraries; parks, preserves, and historic sites; schools and other educational institutions; municipal, county, state, and federal agencies; private firms; chambers of commerce; military organizations; natural resource management firms; and area energy providers to organize TAM. These volunteers include members of county historical commissions; local, state, and regional archeological societies; conservancy groups; and other professional societies. They also include private individuals such as craft masters (e.g.,
flintknappers), school children and teachers, university instructors, authors, and many others.

“Eighteen volunteers helped with our event,” said Wanda Olszewski, park superintendent at Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site. “They guided tours, provided traffic control, performed foot or stationary safety patrols, gave briefings to visitors about the event, and helped prepare and serve food to park staff and fellow volunteers.” Other duties performed by this year’s volunteers, as listed in the survey, included talks and presentations, program planning, display set-up, and publicity. In the survey, two TAM event hosts indicated that 150 volunteers had helped with their individual events.

In addition to the hundreds of volunteers around the state, members of the THC Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, as well as AD archeologists and other THC staff members participated in this year’s TAM celebration by organizing events, giving presentations, consulting with event hosts, and providing hands-on assistance on the day of the event. In 2010, nine of the 20 THC historic sites hosted or organized a TAM event. This included 13 events and three permanent exhibits as well as several lectures given by THC historic site staff at other groups’ events.

In thanking THC staff members “for all the effort invested in this important activity,” Linda Pelon, McLennan Community College anthropology and history instructor, added that this work “is resulting in increased awareness and increased preservation efforts in the Waco area.”

“Congratulations on a successful year culminating in a fabulous month of archeology,” said Marilyn Guida, curator of education at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology.

TAM is coordinated by the THC in association with the Texas Archeological Society, the Council of Texas Archeologists, and numerous groups and organizations across the state.

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**TAM 2011 Calendar Deadline Is June 1**

As of April, when this newsletter was being prepared for publication, the impact of the proposed state budget (House Bill 1/Senate Bill 1) on the Texas Historical Commission (THC) was uncertain. Despite this uncertainty, the Archeology Division (AD) will compile a 2011 Texas Archeology Month (TAM) Calendar. The deadline for submitting information for use in the printed calendar is June 1.

Here are some important developments that will affect the level of support the THC will provide to TAM hosts this year:

- The TAM Calendar deadline is earlier than usual because AD staff members plan to mail the calendar in late August instead of early September. No commitments can be made after August 31, which is the end of the fiscal year, due to the uncertain budgetary environment.
- Unlike previous years, AD staff members will not phone individual TAM hosts who do not meet the deadline for submitting event descriptions. Because we are trying to complete this and other projects by August 31, there may not be sufficient time to gather additional event information for the printed version of the calendar after the deadline.
- As of September 1, the AD’s regional archeology program may no longer exist; therefore, the THC state archeologist and three regional archeologists will not be able to commit to give presentations and to provide other support to TAM hosts at their events. In addition, funds for travel will be scarce.
- THC stewards are always encouraged to provide assistance to TAM events. This year, the AD will be doubly reliant on their help.

- There will be no Texas Preservation Trust Fund grants to support TAM this year; however, the Council of Texas Archeologists (http://counciloftexasarcheologists.org) will be offering a limited number of small TAM grants.
- It is likely that there will be fewer TAM Calendars printed and distributed this year.
- After the TAM Calendar is printed, it will be posted on the THC website as has been done in previous years. The online calendar will be updated through August 31. If resources allow, additional updates will be made through the end of October as has been done in the past.

To submit your calendar information, you may use the form on page 35 of this newsletter, or you may request an interactive Word form by contacting TAM coordinator María de la Luz Martínez at marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us or 512.463.9505. You also can download PDF copies at www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM_evnt_frm_11.pdf.

In addition to the TAM Calendar, the THC distributes a selection of materials free of charge to TAM event hosts. To obtain a complete list of these free materials and to request copies, fill out the Materials Order Form, which can be accessed at www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM_ordr_frm_11.pdf. Please submit your requests as soon as possible; orders will be filled by August 31.

**Mailing Information**

Mail your Event Form and Materials Order Form to: Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. You also may fax your forms to 512.463.8927. The Event Form also can be sent as an email attachment to marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us. The Materials Order Form should be sent to donna.mccarver@thc.state.tx.us.
Teddy Lou Stickney, a prominent avocational archeologist and longtime member of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS), has been awarded the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology. The award was presented on April 1 at the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Annual Historic Preservation Conference.

Currently a Midland resident, Stickney was raised in the Four Corners area of northwestern New Mexico, and she has had an abiding interest in archeology and Native American culture since childhood. Stickney joined TAS in 1965 and served as president in 1988. She also has been a member of the THC’s Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) since 1992 and serves as a network advisor.

Stickney’s greatest contributions to Texas archeology come from two major pursuits—Texas Archeology Month (TAM) and rock art studies. Today, TAM is a popular statewide celebration that takes place every year in October (see story, pages 24–25). It draws thousands of people to a variety of fairs, lectures, and other archeology-related programs. A staunch believer that the preservation of Texas archeology depends on a well-educated and enlightened public, Stickney fostered and promoted TAM out of her own home in the early years of the program’s existence. Thanks to her initial efforts, TAM is now the state’s major, organized public venue through which Texans learn about their archeological heritage.

Stickney’s second major contribution to Texas archeology is related to her love of and dedication to rock art studies. Since its inception, she has been the motivating force behind the TAS Rock Art Recording Task Force, a TAS initiative devoted to the documentation, study, and preservation of Texas’ unique and internationally recognized rock art heritage.

These two ongoing programs represent an unparalleled contribution by a determined avocational archeologist—not only to the wider Texas archeological community, but to the entire state and its residents.

The Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award is named in honor of Texas’ first state archeologist, who served as THC executive director from 1981 to 1999.

Native American Consultation Guidelines Posted on THC Website

To promote successful consultation with Native American tribes with historic ties to Texas, the Archeology Division (AD) has developed guidelines for agencies and other organizations with this charge. The guidelines provide information on consultation responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the cemeteries section of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

AD Project Reviewer Marie Archambeault, who is also the Archeological Sites Atlas editor, said the guidelines were developed in consultation with the tribes. Archambeault worked with 2010 Preservation Fellow Katherine Koebbe last summer to develop the guidelines.

The guidelines will be available soon on the Texas Historical Commission website under the Federal and State Project Review tab. As a web-based document, the guidelines can be easily updated as new information becomes available. If you have comments, questions, or additional information, please contact Archambeault at 512.463.6043 or marie.archambeault@thc.state.tx.us.

TexSite 3.0 Is Up and Running

TexSite 3.0, the newly released version of Texas’ site recording software, has been available for download from the Texas Historical Commission website at http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/texsite/texsite-main.asp for some time. Two versions of the program are available to users, one for those who already have Microsoft (MS) Office installed and a second version for those without MS Office.

According to Jonathan Jarvis at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), roughly one third of all site records submitted to TARL are in the new TexSite version.
Marine Archeology Staff Investigate Potential Shipwreck Cases

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is often asked to validate shipwreck discoveries in the bays and rivers of Texas, and several of these investigations occurred recently. While none of the current reports resulted in the positive identification of a historic wreck, these cases sometimes yield interesting insights. Out of the recently reported cases, only one of the anomalies was visited by THC staff as part of an on-site investigation.

Last fall, State Marine Archeologist Amy Borgens was contacted by the Texas Archaeological Study Association (TASA) about two potential wrecks in or near the Neches River. The first wreck was photo-documented by TASA researchers when the Neches River was low; however, at the time, this structure was believed to be modern.

The second wreck candidate identified by TASA was discovered through an examination of satellite photography. This boat-shaped aerial feature was located on land, adjacent an oxbow in the Neches River near the County Road 864 trestle bridge at Evadale. TASA researchers believed the feature might be related to the wreckage of the river steamboat Angelina that was recorded as having been lost below Evadale in 1850. The satellite feature is approximately 238 ft long, much larger than the documented length of Angelina, and it is parallel to another similar shape that is approximately 564 ft in length. Historic aerial photography of the area dating from 1939 and 1943 was obtained by the THC. These photos conclusively identify the feature as one of two man-made ditches likely used as borrow pits during construction of old Highway 96 in the mid-1930s. Two historic structures are recognizable in the aerial photographs near the northernmost ditch. These historic structures are not visible in modern satellite imagery and are likely the source of artifacts discovered in the area. In Beaumont, an article published in The Examiner on October 15, 2010, erroneously reported it was a shipwreck.

In a separate case, marine steward Jack Jackson observed an electric motor visible above the waterline in Matagorda Bay approximately 3.5 mi west of Port O’Connor on October 2010. The object became exposed during an extremely low tide; otherwise it is typically covered by 3 to 5 ft of water. On October 28–29, Jackson, fellow marine steward Doug Nowell, and volunteer Richard Seagler returned to investigate the object to determine if the engine was part of a shipwreck. An examination of the object revealed it is isolated and not connected to a vessel; it is not surrounded by any type of artifact debris or scatter. The belt-driven electric motor was connected to a degraded wooden frame with metal mounting bolts and brackets that are in situ. The wiring associated with the engine suggests that it dates from the 1930s and 1940s.

While in the area, Jackson, Nowell, and Seagler also visited an early 19th-century shipwreck (41CL92) in Pass Cavallo where they conducted a simple fathometer survey to check water depths over the site. This wreck site is a State Archeological Landmark and is monitored by the THC to check its level of exposure and the condition of the site.

In January, marine steward Andrew Hall and Borgens were contacted regarding the discovery of a buried boiler.

THC and Pate Museum of Transportation Seek Home for Ship

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has been in consultation with the U.S. Navy’s Inactive Ships Program (PMS 333) and the Pate Museum of Transportation in Fort Worth regarding the disposition of a Korean War-era minesweeper, the 57-ft ex-Vosseller, formerly on exhibit at the museum. The wooden-hulled vessel was launched in 1952 and may be the only existing example of its class. The vessel has been on display since it was acquired in 1973, and its constant exposure has resulted in some water damage to the deck, cabin, and interior compartments. The museum has closed and has been unable to identify another facility willing to exhibit the vessel. The THC and representatives from the Pate Museum are working to find a new home for this historic vessel to prevent its demise.
Reporting suspected shipwrecks to the THC is important because on occasion historic vessels or structures are identified. Most submerged lands in Texas are publicly owned and underwater shipwreck sites and historic structures in these public waters are managed by the THC. Discovery of potentially historic wrecks should be reported to the THC so that these wrecks can be identified, documented, and protected. Some wreck sites may now be buried on land due to natural geological changes that have changed the historic rivers or built up sediment along the gulf shoreline. It is important to recognize that most land in Texas is privately owned, and the consent of the property owner must be gained before investigating suspected wreck sites on land.

near Columbia on the Brazos River. It was originally suggested the boiler might be related to the sinking of Hiawatha, a 140-ft sternwheeler steamboat that sank at Columbia in 1895; however, the boiler is unlike those used on steam vessels and was marked with an 1867 patent number (62,439). According to Hall, who researched U.S. patent records, the object was described as a “steam digester for treating bones,” indicating it may have been used in a business such as a slaughterhouse. Research conducted by James L. Smith, president of the Brazosport Archaeological Society, identified a post-Civil War era slaughterhouse in the area that was owned by William C. Wagley, and this may have been the source of the boiler.
Dee Ann Story
1931–2010

Dee Ann Story, a professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, died on December 26. According to an Austin American-Statesman article that appeared on December 27, she was a “trailblazer” who was “best known for her work on the George C. Davis site in East Texas, where Caddo Indians built mounds.”

In April 2009, the Texas Historical Commission presented Story its Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology. An article published that spring in Current Archeology in Texas (CAIT), highlighted her career, from the beginning, when she was one of a few women in the country to pursue graduate studies in archeology, to her benchmark work in academia, to her contributions to numerous state and national professional organizations.

During her career, Story directed archeological investigations at various locales in Texas, with Caddo archeology in East Texas receiving much of her attention. She also cofounded and directed the UT Austin Archeological Research Laboratory, a major archeological repository that holds the most extensive collections and records related to archeology in the state.

Following her retirement from academia, Story undertook archeological outreach efforts in Hays County and granted a conservation easement to The Archaeological Conservancy in order to protect a prehistoric, burned-rock midden site on her property in Hays County.

To read the full CAIT article, see page 16 of the issue, which is posted on the THC website at www.thc.state.tx.us/ archeology/aapdfs/CAT_NOV_09.pdf.

Remembering Bill Young
1939–2010

Dan Potter

Editor’s Note: William (Bill) Young served as a member of the Texas Historical Commission’s Texas Archeological Stewardship Network since its inception in 1984. Born on September 3, 1939, in Wichita Falls, he died on December 17 in Corsicana.

To read more about him, visit the Corsicana Daily Sun at http://corsicanadailysun.com/obituaries/x1531219788/William-L-Bill-Young.

It’s hard to conceive of a stewardship network that doesn’t include Bill Young of Corsicana. Bill was one of our original stewards, and he excelled as an avocational archeologist with varied and broad interests and considerable expertise.

Bill was frequently consulted by archeologists of all stripes on issues of point typology, as he’d acquired many decades of experience evaluating collections. He was accomplished and knowledgeable about raw material types in his archeological region, which included much of East-Central and North Texas. Bill was well-versed in protohistoric and historic materials as well. Generally speaking, regardless of one’s own level of experience and expertise, you’d do well to listen to Bill Young; regardless of topic, you were bound to learn something you hadn’t known, hadn’t thought of.

But Bill was not just valued for his archeological experience and expertise. He also was passionate about preservation. Bill was famous for his insistence that public agencies and local governmental entities tread carefully around archeological sites. Many of the former were the unhappy recipients of forceful Bill Young phone calls or severely-worded, and highly critical, Bill Young letters. Bill was insistent on the protection of archeology, and he didn’t mind ruffling a few feathers in order to insure that his voice was heard. And heard, it was.

Bill also was noteworthy as a leader. He was a leader within several archeological societies over the years, he was a leader among Navarro County and state preservationists, and he was a leader within the public arena—through his newspaper-column authorship and many public-speaking engagements. Many of Bill’s friends in the archeological community may not know this, but Bill authored a popular and influential newspaper column that covered Navarro County and beyond, and his writing ranged far beyond archeology.

Later in his life, Bill became very active in all aspects of historic cemetery preservation. I cannot begin to estimate the number of hours and dollars that Bill and his wife Bobby Jean expended in this particular pursuit. Today, just one of Bill’s many accomplishments is his legacy in the area of cemetery preservation.

I’m going to miss Bill tremendously. I’m going to miss our always-enjoyable conversations, his knowledge, his commitment, and his passion about archeology, history, and preservation. But most of all, I’m going to miss his kind, persistent, and always enthusiastic spirit.
Regional Archeologists’ Reports

they exemplify the incredible work being conducted by stewards across the regions. The stewards continue to conduct archeological surveys and research, monitor sites, and handle public outreach. Combined, they contributed more than 1,286 volunteer hours toward stewardship activities and drove more than 11,500 miles across the two regions. Presentations and workshops conducted by stewards were attended by more than 3,310 people in this part of the state. Over the years, the stewardship program has had a positive impact because of the contributions made by TASN members, and Region 1 and 2 stewards.
have made a difference by embracing the importance of public outreach. In addition to the activities listed above, stewards in this area assisted at least 14 landowners; 26 agencies, organizations, or institutions; and 21 individuals. Stewards recorded six new archeological sites, monitored 69 sites, and conducted or participated in 16 site investigations. This group of stewards also spent a significant amount of time documenting, analyzing, and conserving at least seven artifact collections.

Marisue Potts Powell was very active since our last report in November. Among other activities, she conducted a metal detection survey with a group searching for possible battle locations and participated in an initiative with other volunteers to reveal cultural material that may relate to early homesteaders. Both of these projects took place in Blanco Canyon. Potts Powell also helped with a four-day camping trip led by fellow steward Rick Day for Andrews Middle School students. During the trip to Alamito Creek near the Chihuahua Trail in the Marfa area, students learned about historic adobe and ranch structures, prehistoric sites, and natural environments. A crew working on a documentary of the history of Motley County shot images of prehistoric sites on Potts Powell’s Mott Creek Ranch. By invitation of the Quanah Parker Family Association, Potts Powell also was invited to speak at the National Cowboy Symposium on Quanah Parker’s connection to Motley County. The association also presented her with opportunities to research an historic Comanche or Kiowa camp on Mott Creek. All this is quite an honor for one of our outstanding stewards.

Joe Rogers had an incredibly busy period. Over the last six months, he worked with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (PPHM) reviewing lesson plans that will be used for online classes covering the Texas Panhandle. Rogers also is working continuously on artifact identification for the Ransom Williams site project (see story, page 8). During the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) conference held in Austin in January (see story, page 22), he with Doug Boyd of Prewitt and Associates, Inc., to provide great visual displays and explanations of the materials and historic tools recovered at the Ransom Williams site for a public symposium. He also participated in excavations at the Drover site with fellow steward Doug Wilkens, conducted a tool demonstration and presentation on the archeology of tools at the Deaf Smith County Courthouse Centennial Celebration, participated in a period reenactment of the 19th century for Fannin Middle School in Amarillo, and presented a program to the Panhandle Archeological Society on the 2010 Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Field School at Medina. During this period, Rogers also began teaching an introductory course on archeology for West Texas A&M University’s Anthropology Department.

Rolla Shaller recorded one new site, investigated another, and monitored three sites during this reporting period. He continues to work with steward Alvin Lynn on the cleaning, cataloging, and conservation of artifacts collected from the A.W. Evans military supply depot (41RB111). In addition to volunteering several hours a week at the PPHM Archeology Department, he recently worked with other archeologists in his region to gather materials for an upcoming manuscript on the Jack Allen site (41HC219). In September, Shaller and a number of other volunteers spent several days conducting metal detection work with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. In addition, Shaller worked with a group of Boy Scouts, teaching them techniques and processes involved in cataloguing artifacts. Finally, Shaller presented programs all day at an Archeology Day event held at PPHM in January.

Evans Turpin spent a significant amount of time helping landowners with concerns about proposed electric line routes through their properties. He helped determine which areas have potential and known archeological or historic sites nearby. This is a very valuable service that stewards can offer across Texas. During the course of these projects, Turpin visited and studied several historic abandoned towns, stage stops, and landmarks on historic trails. In addition, he recorded two new sites and monitored or assessed 57 known sites!

Doug Wilkens monitored five previously recorded sites, investigated one site, and assisted three landowners during the preceding months. Wilkens also spent a significant amount of time documenting collections housed at the PPHM. During a September field session in West Pasture on the M-Cross Ranch, he uncovered a hearth and floor surface belonging to a previously unidentified structure at the Whistling Squaw site (41RB108). There was even a baked clay “trivet” in the bottom of the hearth, presumably for positioning a ceramic pot. Very exciting work!

Pinky Robertson recorded three new sites, investigated two sites, and analyzed one collection over the preceding six-month period. In his report, Robertson noted the increasing difficulty of getting access to private property to record and investigate sites. Part of this is due to limited access as a result of the hunting season as well as the many acres of land that have been shut down by oil companies because of recent theft on leases and related liability issues.
Forts/Hill Country & Lakes/Brazos
Before listing individual steward reports from the Central and North Texas regions, we want to thank all stewards who worked with us over the past year. The reports demonstrate how all TASN members, collectively and individually, contributed a tremendous amount of time, labor, enthusiasm, and money (gas prices are high!) to help the THC pursue its important mission. Thanks to all the stewards, and congratulations on their participation in the most successful program of its kind in the nation.

Tom Adams monitored three sites, analyzed a collection, and gave four presentations in recent months. He also assisted eight landowners in the Brown County area.

Del Barnet monitored a number of sites in Mills County and was active in the continuing planning and fundraising for the Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center in Goldthwaite. Barnet notes that the center received a $1.6 million grant from the Texas Department of Transportation recently.

Joe Beavin logged a ton of miles and hours recently to help landowners in the Central Texas region. Since joining TASN, Beavin has been one of our most active stewards in the area of site survey and landowner assistance.

Frank Binetti recorded a new site, spoke to a combined audience of 250, and monitored two sites.

Jay Blaine, knower of all things metal (and much more), presented a paper at the SHA annual conference (see story, page 22), among many other activities.

Wayne Clampitt in Hays County worked on an artifact collection and presented a program on archeology.

Kay Clarke of Liberty Hill monitored or assessed three sites and presented two workshops.

Dorothy Grayson recently married, and one of the first things she did was survey her new spouse’s land for archeological sites. None were found, but unwanted evidence of feral hogs was located.

Doris Howard recorded six new sites and assisted 13 landowners. She also has been monitoring the progress of a Llano preservation ordinance. (Way to go Doris!)

Bryan Jameson reports 80 hours of volunteer work, which included nearly 1,500 miles worth of wear and tear on his vehicle. Like all stewards, Jameson contributes an incredible amount of time, effort, and expense to help further archeology in Texas. He and Carol McCauley recently moved to a new home in the Meridian area, and they have already become active in that area.

Richard Jarnagin monitored or assessed five sites and assisted a landowner.

Roger Johnson’s archeological work includes monitoring more than 20 sites in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve in western Travis County, and he also gave a number of archeological talks to local groups.

Tammy Kubecka recently monitored six sites, and she reorganized a prehistoric artifact collection at the Burleson County Museum with help from Regional Archeologist Dan Potter. In addition, she worked with Potter on a joint presentation on Burleson County history. The presentation was at the Caldwell courthouse, and it was well attended. Recently, Kubecka has been working on archival and background study on the Battle of Walker Creek, which took place in the area of present-day Kendall County.

Glynn Osburn helped one landowner and monitored or investigated five sites.

Ona B. Reed monitored two sites and participated in the annual Depot Day celebration in Gainesville as part of Texas Archeology Month (TAM) (see story, pages 24–25).

Larry Riemenschneider recorded four new sites and monitored or assessed a number of others. He also gave three presentations recently.

Jim Schmidt gave a number of talks in the past months to a combined audience of about 845 people. He also participated in the French Legation Museum’s Archeology Day in Austin during TAM (see story, pages 24–25).

May Schmidt reports working on a collection, participating in numerous events about archeology (to a combined audience of more than 800), and volunteering in the TAS lab. The TAS work appears to be never-ending.

Frank Sprague gave a presentation in Hamilton and assisted six landowners in recent months.

Alice Stultz distributed 25 pieces of archeological literature, assessed three collections, and helped two landowners.

Art Tawater recorded nine new archeological sites recently and assisted six landowners in Jones, Parker, Jack, and Stephens counties. (Thanks Art—we really appreciate the time and mileage you’ve spent doing those surveys.)

Bob Ward worked on the James Coryell and Bernardo Plantation projects (see stories, pages 1 and 16) in recent months and volunteered at the SHA annual meeting in Austin (see story, page 22).

Buddy Whitley continued monitoring four sites in the San Saba County area and joined the San Saba County Historical Commission.

Kay Woodward recorded two new sites and monitored or assessed a number of others while Woody Woodward recorded four more sites. Both of them were active public speakers in recent months.

John Yates monitored two sites, gave a public presentation, and assisted several landowners and others.
Forest & Independence/Tropical

Bill Birmingham of Victoria County remains very active analyzing and documenting several artifact collections donated to the Museum of the Coastal Bend. He has worked on this task for several years and remains devoted to completing the task. In addition to his work at the museum, Birmingham also remains active with the ongoing research at the McNeill-Gonzales site (41VT141) located on the Guadalupe River in Victoria County.

Pat Braun of Aransas County also continues to make a significant contribution to the project at the McNeill-Gonzales site (41VT141) in Victoria County. She continues to travel from Rockport to Victoria to help enter data into the computer database containing all the McNeill-Gonzales excavation records. Braun also has worked with several landowners in Aransas and Refugio counties to record both historic and prehistoric sites. In addition, she was instrumental in conducting a search for unmarked burials related to the George Fulton family. The graves are located in the Rockport Cemetery and date to the late 1800s. Braun assisted THC Regional Archeologist Tiffany Osburn with a ground-penetrating radar search at the small family plot.

Morris Jackson of Nacogdoches County was extremely active during the past few months identifying and recording the long-lost Spanish colonial site of the mission of Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de los Hainai. Established on the Angelina River in East Texas in 1716 to serve the Hainai tribe, the mission was closed for a short period because of the threat of French invasion into East Texas and reopened in 1721. In 1730, it moved temporarily to present-day Austin before moving to its final location in San Antonio in 1731. Jackson, working with fellow TASN steward Tom Middlebrook and others, continues to record the site.

Tom Middlebrook of Nacogdoches County has worked for many years to locate the site of the mission of Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de los Hainai. His hard work and tenacity paid off, and the site was finally located in 2010. Middlebrook’s search for the site began in earnest in 2005 after the passing of Professor Jim Corbin of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. Corbin’s archival research was instrumental in locating the site. The recovery of Spanish colonial ceramics and metal artifacts from the time period helped delineate the site, which is situated on a privately owned ranch about 1 mi from the Angelina River in Nacogdoches County. Working with others, Middlebrook recently organized a magnetometer survey of the site to help define the site boundaries. Serving as president of the East Texas Archeological Society, Middlebrook also has been active over the past few months reviving that group.

Sandra Rogers of Walker County has been busy as usual traveling across the state working on various projects. Working with a private landowner in San Jacinto County, Rogers secured a State Archeological Landmark designation for a site where slave cabins once stood in association with the old Robinson Plantation. She also recently curated a rock art image exhibit for the Sam Houston Museum in Huntsville and arranged for Dr. Carolyn Boyd, a rock art expert, to make a presentation on the rock art of Texas. Rogers continues to be very involved with the work that is taking place at the Bernardo Plantation in Waller County (see story, page 16).

Mark Walters of Smith County never fails to make a stellar contribution to the archeology of East Texas. He recently organized the 18th Annual East Texas Archeological Conference at the University of Texas at Tyler campus. Additionally, over the past few months Walters has authored and co-authored six new publications, an impressive feat.

Johnney and Sandra Pollan of Brazoria County both stay very active with steward activities in their county. Recently, Johnney worked with a local landowner to help record a lithic cache containing more than 30 specimens. These include bifacial preforms, manufacturing rejects, and various broken tools. Johnney also gave a recent presentation on the Belle shipwreck to the members of the local chapter of the Master Naturalist. Sandra was recently elected as chair of the Brazoria County Historical Commission and, along with Johnney, has been indexing and organizing the Archeology Department library for the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science. The museum is located in the Brazosport Center for the Arts & Sciences in Clute.
TASN Members and Advisor Honored by Texas Archeological Society

The work and accomplishments of several members of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) were honored at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS). Held in Corpus Christi in October, the annual TAS meeting also incorporated the fall 2010 TASN business meeting.

Texas Historical Commission stewards and an advisor for the group were honored at the meeting. They are listed here.
- Volunteers working on collections at the Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria received a Distinguished Service Award. The group—which includes THC stewards Bill Birmingham, Jimmy Bluhm, Pat Braun, Frank Condron, Nelson Marek, Ben McReynolds, and nine other volunteers—averaged 396 volunteer hours per month for about a year. In addition to processing museum collections, many of the volunteers serve as exhibit guides and lead student tours.
- Bryan Jameson received a Distinguished Service Award for noteworthy contributions made to TAS and his unflawing presence at such events as the TAS field school, annual meeting, quarterly meetings, and archeology academies. According to Texas Archeology, the TAS newsletter, it is impossible to tally all the hours Jameson spends on TAS and Texas archeology projects. He was elected TAS president-elect in October 2010 and will serve as president beginning October 2011.
- Bill Young received the Golden Pen Award for his work as a columnist for the Corsicana Daily Sun. According to Texas Archeology, Young “has written . . . hundreds of articles on the prehistory and history of the region.” Sadly, Young died in December (see story, page 29).
- TASN Advisor Carolyn Spock, who is affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin’s Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), was named a TAS Fellow. Presented annually, this is the most prestigious award given by the professional group. It acknowledges major contributions made to the society and Texas archeology. This year, the award was presented by THC steward Joe Rogers, who is TAS immediate past president. Spock, who received the TAS Distinguished Service Award in 1996, served as TAS secretary-elect and secretary from 2003 to 2005. She also served as president-elect and president of the society in 2006 and 2007. According to Texas Archeology, Spock has “helped almost every professional and avocational archeologist who has ever worked in Texas” in her role as TARL head of records.
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH (TAM) • OCTOBER 2011

EVENT FORM

EVENT TITLE
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

EVENT DESCRIPTION—Be as specific as possible and give details. Provide descriptions of activities and presentations, lecture topics, demonstrations, and any other interesting details that will attract public attendance. Attach separate sheet if necessary.
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

EVENT DATE(S) ____________________________ EVENT HOURS ____________________________

EVENT OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC? (a requirement for calendar listing) ______________

ADMISSION FEES ____________________________

EVENT LOCATION—Include name of place where event will be held, such as Blank County Museum.

Name of Place __________________________________________________________________________________________________
Street Address (include directions if necessary) _________________________________________________________________________
City _______________________________________________________________________County _____________________________

EVENT SPONSOR(S)
______________________________________________________________________________________________

CONTACT INFORMATION—Provide name, phone number, and email address (if available) of one or two people who can be reached easily and web address of organization. This information may be printed in the Calendar of Events booklet and listed on the THC website.

(1) Name ________________________________________ Phone ____________________ Email ______________________________
(2) Name ________________________________________ Phone ____________________ Email ______________________________
Website (if any) _________________________________________________________________________________________________

Name, organization, and mail address for main event coordinator:

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Organization ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address _________________________________________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________ State _____________________ Zip ______________________________

TAM MATERIALS ORDER FORM—Download and submit this form to request brochures, posters, calendars, and other materials for your TAM event. The form is available at www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM_ordr_frm_11.pdf.

DEADLINE—Complete one Event Form for each event and return it by June 1, 2011, or email the required information by the same date.

PHOTOS—We welcome color photos of TAM 2010 for possible publication in the TAM 2011 Calendar of Events booklet.

MAILING ADDRESS
TAM, Archeology Division, Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Fax: 512.463.8927

FOR MORE INFORMATION—Contact the TAM Coordinator, 512.463.9505, marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us; or the Archeology Division, 512.463.6096, archeology@thc.state.tx.us.