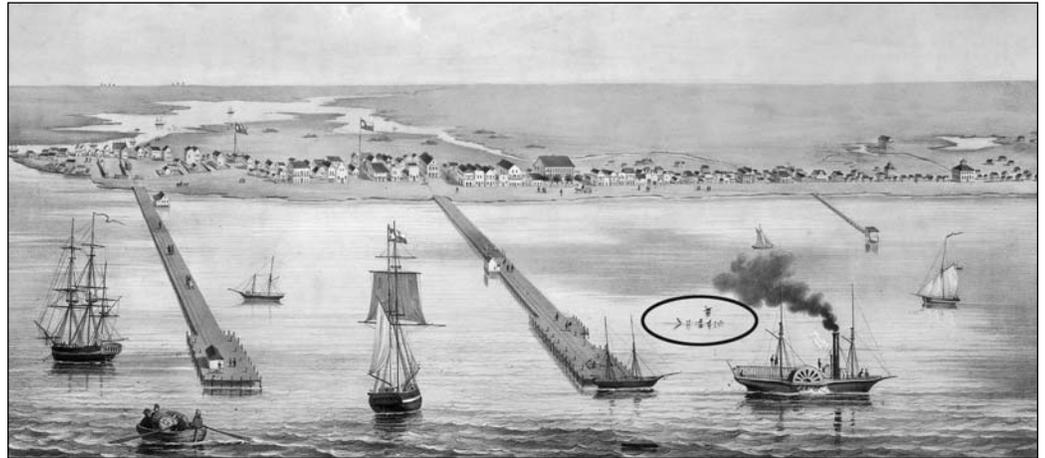


Current ARCHEOLOGY IN TEXAS

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Bird's-eye view of Indianola by Helmuth Holtz, 1860. The possible position of the Perseverance is circled. Courtesy San Jacinto Museum of History, Houston.

Is Shipwreck at Indianola the *Perseverance*?

by Steve Hoyt
State Marine Archeologist

We have to announce another heavy loss to Our New Orleans Steamship Company. The *Perseverance* took fire while lying at her wharf in Indianola on Friday, the 5th inst., about 4 p.m. She had discharged her New Orleans freight, and had commenced taking in a return cargo, having on board 134 bales of cotton, and 279 hides in all, none of which was saved. . . . The first alarm was given by the boat's bell (*Galveston Weekly News*, October 14, 1856. Note: Friday was actually October 3, 1856).

So ended the career of another of the magnificent steamers so important to the economic viability of Texas in the 1800s. Unlike many other shipwrecks, however, this one did not take any lives:

Captain Sheppard and his crew, aided by a number of our citizens, used every means to arrest the progress of the fire, but without effect. She was dropped off from the wharf, and about five o'clock the flames broke through the upper deck and cabin, when the Captain and all who were on board had to abandon her and leave her to her fate. Almost immediately afterwards she was enveloped in one sheet of fire and, continued burning till she was consumed to the water's edge. Fortunately no lives have been lost. She had a considerable quantity of cotton on board, and how the fire originated is not known (from the *Indianola Bulletin* as reported in the *Galveston Weekly News*, October 14, 1856).



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Queen City of the West

Much has been written about Indianola and its role in Texas history (e.g., Malsch 1988). Anyone familiar with the story will realize that the loss of a single ship, particularly without deaths, was a small event in the short history of this thriving port town. Indianola, first known as Indian Point or Karlshafen, rose out of the sand on the western edge of Matagorda Bay in the 1840s as a point of debarkation for German immigrants headed inland for New Braunfels. Plagued by a continual shortage of water and ravaged by yellow fever and cholera, the little port finally took hold in the 1850s and started to grow rapidly. By this time, the Morgan Steamship Line ran a regular schedule between New Orleans, Galveston, and Indianola, with several ships arriving in Indianola each week, in addition to the numerous sailing vessels that served the port. It has been said that Indianola once rivaled Galveston as a port city. By late 1860, the Southern Steamship Company (also known as the Morgan Line) reportedly had nine steamships serving Indianola (*Charles Morgan, Texas, Mexico, Matagorda, Orizaba, Austin, Arizona, Atlantic, and Suwanee*), plus one independent vessel, the *Fashion*, providing the booming town with seven arrivals each week (*Indianola Courier*, November 3, 1860).

The prosperity of Indianola ended suddenly on September 12, 1875, when a hurricane came roaring across the Gulf with little warning. Although the town was almost completely wiped out, the citizens of Indianola were reluctant to leave. Many of them remained and gradually began to rebuild the town. They constructed new edifices, stocked stores with supplies, opened churches, and reopened school. The dream of rebuilding shattered on August 18, 1886, however, when a second hurricane, easily as strong as the first, raced over Indianola. When the Signal Station office (weather bureau) collapsed at the height of the storm, several people were killed and the lantern fell over and ignited the wooden structure. The fire, feeding on the dry timbers of the surrounding buildings and encouraged by fierce winds, engulfed much of the city. When it was over, an estimated 600 people were dead and most of the town lay in ruins. This time, no one attempted to rebuild. Survivors moved away, and buildings that could be salvaged were moved to Victoria, Cuero, and other points inland. The county seat, which had been relocated from Lavaca (now Port Lavaca) to Indianola in 1852, was returned to Lavaca. Indianola ceased to exist.

The Shipping Magnate, the Captain, and the Ship

Charles Morgan

Born in 1795 to a prosperous Connecticut farming and merchant family, Charles Morgan — future owner of the *Perseverance* — rose to become one of the preeminent ship-



Figure 1. Flag of the Morgan Line.

ping magnates of his day. He left home at the age of 14, typical of many young men of the era, to seek his fortune in New York. Beginning as a grocery clerk, he gradually moved into ship chandlery and then commercial shipping. Under the various compa-

nies generally referred to as the Morgan Steamship Company, Morgan and his companies owned 109 steamships between 1833 and 1885 (Baughman 1968:239–241). At least five of these wrecked in Texas: *Perseverance, Louisiana, Palmetto, Mary, and Portland*. *Perseverance* and *Portland* now rest at Indianola.

Morgan lived his entire adult life in New York, never moving to the Gulf Coast where he made his fortune. Instead, he operated his shipping concerns through agents in New Orleans. He was unusual for a northerner in that he owned at least 31 slaves who worked for his companies in the Gulf trade routes, both on board his ships and on the docks, and



NEW ORLEANS & TEXAS
U. S. MAIL LINE
OF
STEAM SHIPS.

The Public are respectfully informed that the following steamships now compose this line:

Perseverance,	" Henry Place.
CHAS. MORGAN,	" James Lawless.
LOUISIANA,	Capt. W. H. Talbot.
MEXICO,	" John Y. Lawless.

One of the above Steamers leaves New Orleans every **SUNDAY** and **THURSDAY**, at 8 o'clock, A.M., returning will leave Indianola every **WEDNESDAY** and **SATURDAY** at 2 P.M.

ALL freights for Points in Western Texas will be delivered at the end of the Ships' tackles at **POWDER HORN**. Consignees are requested to be in readiness to receive the same as landed from the ships, as all goods not called for will be stored at the risk and expense of the Owner.

AGENTS.	}	N. H. CALDWELL, Indianola, E. B. NICHOLS & Co. Galv. HARRIS & MORGAN, N. O.
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Figure 2. Advertisement from the Lavaca Herald, September 13, 1856.

he condoned the ownership of slaves by his New Orleans agents; this is surely the one blight on an extraordinarily successful career (Baughman 1968:113, 246–247).

An advertisement in the *Texian Advocate* of January 3, 1852, promotes three steamships of the U.S. Mail Line (also known as the Southern Steamship Company, the Harris and Morgan Line, or the Morgan Line) sailing from Indianola to New Orleans via Galveston (see Morgan flag in Figure 1). A vessel left New Orleans every Sunday and Indianola every Saturday. On March 19, 1853, a *Texian Advocate* advertisement boasted of four ships on the route, *Texas*, *Louisiana*, *Mexico*, and *Perseverance*, with a ship leaving Indianola every Thursday morning and Saturday evening. By the time of the *Perseverance* disaster in 1856, the four ships on the route were the *Perseverance*, *Charles Morgan*, *Louisiana*, and *Mexico*, with a ship leaving Indianola every Wednesday and Saturday at 2 p.m. (Figure 2, *Lavaca Herald*, September 13, 1856.)

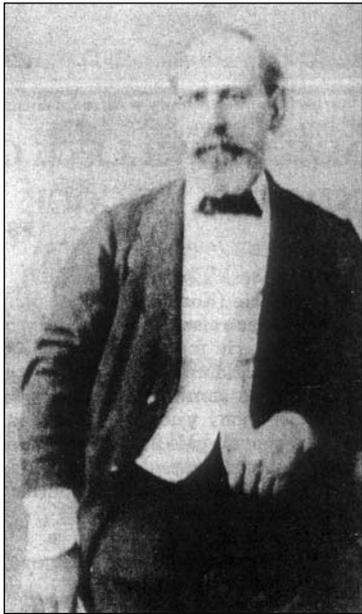


Figure 3. Captain Henry Sheppard. Courtesy Dewitt County Historical Commission.

28-year-old captain was operating the *Perseverance* between New Orleans and Indianola.

In 1857, Sheppard, pictured in Figure 3, moved his young family to Indianola to become wharfmaster for Charles Morgan, a decision that may have been influenced by two major disasters. The first was the loss of his ship *Perseverance* by fire at the wharf in 1856. The second — and far more calamitous — event occurred only eight months later. In the early morning hours of May 31, 1857, the *Louisiana*, inbound for Galveston with cargo and passengers, caught fire as the passengers slept (Figure 4). The fire reportedly broke out between the decks approximately amidships, possibly in stored hay, and spread so rapidly that firefighting equipment

Captain Henry Sheppard

The last to leave his burning ship and in the sea gave up his supporting plank to save a drowning passenger

— Sheppard's epitaph

It might be supposed, judging from historical records, that Henry Sheppard was born to be a man of the sea. At the age of 21, he commanded a ship sailing between New York and Liverpool (*The History of DeWitt County*, 1991, pp. 730–731), and by the summer of 1855 the

TERRIBLE CALAMITY. BURNING OF STEAMER LOUISIANA, IN THE GULF.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

About 1 o'clock, Sunday morning, the steamer ship *Louisiana*, Capt. Sheppard, of the Southern Steamship Company, took fire, six or eight miles southeast of Galveston, in the Gulf, and the result was the total loss of the vessel, a large amount of property, and, what is worse than all, a great number of human lives.

Figure 4. The Daily Picayune, New Orleans, June 2, 1857.

ceased to function and communications from one end of the vessel to the other were cut. Some passengers and crew succeeded in launching lifeboats and reaching shore, some drifted on flotsam and were rescued by other vessels. Nevertheless, more than 30 people died in the disaster. *The Daily Picayune* of June 2, 1857, reported:

Captain Sheppard Safe! The revenue cutter is just in. She brings Capt. Sheppard alive! He was picked up, clinging to some life preserving chairs, nearly exhausted. Great joy is manifested at the news of his safety. . . . The efforts of Capt. Sheppard to do all that could be done to save the lives of his passengers are spoken of by all as deserving of the highest praise. He was the very last to leave his vessel, and could scarcely have survived ten minutes longer when picked up. The last words he was heard to utter when he threw himself into the water with only a chair to support himself, were inquiries for the safety of the passengers.

Sheppard became a prominent figure in the booming city of Indianola. When federal forces entered Matagorda Bay in 1862 and demanded surrender of the city, Sheppard was part of the small delegation that went aboard the Union flagship *Westfield* to discuss terms. Captain William B. Renshaw of the *Westfield* offered a peaceful takeover of the town. Renshaw clearly stated that the city and necessary provisions would be taken by force if the delegation refused his offer. Sheppard and the Indianola delegation declined to surrender their city to federal forces. At this, Renshaw proved to be a man of his word and took Indianola after a short bombardment. However, he did allow time for the evacuation of women, children, and the sick (Malsch 1988:167–168).

Henry Sheppard died at Indianola in 1879 (*The History of DeWitt County*, 1991, pp. 730–731). He is buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Cuero, along with his wife and other



Figure 5. Tombstone of Captain Henry Sheppard, Hillside Cemetery, Cuero. Photo by Steve Hoyt.

family members. Charles Morgan apparently thought quite highly of his former employee, as he donated funds for Sheppard's imposing tombstone (Figure 5), on which the epitaph on page 3 is engraved.

The *Perseverance*

Charles Morgan embarked on a plan to upgrade his aging Gulf fleet in the early 1850s, building five new vessels in just over two years (Baughman 1968:88). Among these was the *Perseverance*, built by the Westervelt and Mackay yard in New York and launched in 1852. The new vessel was constructed of oak fastened with iron and copper bolts. She was a propeller-driven steamship rather than a paddlewheel, but, typical of steamships of the day, was also rigged with masts and sails (schooner rig) to supplement the often unreliable and fuel-hungry steam engine. A vertical beam engine with a single cylinder 42 inches in diameter drove the propeller. The 827-

ton vessel drew seven feet of water, allowing her to operate in the shallow waters of Matagorda Bay. When she was surveyed in 1855 for insurance coverage, her "Security Against Fire" was listed as "Insufficient" (New York Marine Register, 1857).

An advertisement in a New Orleans newspaper extolled her virtues:

To sail on THURSDAY, October 16 at 8 A.M., SOUTHERN STEAMSHIP COMPANY. For Brazos Santiago, Direct — U.S. Mail Line — The new and magnificent steamship PERSEVERANCE, H. Shepherd [sic], commander, will leave as above, punctually. For freight or passage, having elegant state room accommodations, apply to HARRIS, MORGAN & CO., foot of Julia Street (*The Daily Picayune*, New Orleans, October 5, 1856, two days after the ship burned in Indianola).

We may never know what caused the fire on the *Perseverance* while she lay at the Morgan dock in Indianola. The captain's own words give no clue:

About 4 o'clock, P.M., while engaged in taking in a cargo of cotton and hides, smoke was seen coming out of the after hold. The alarm of fire was immediately given, and the pumps set to work throwing water in the hold. Opened all the cocks connected with the engine to let in water, in order to fill the ship. In the meantime assistance had been obtained from shore, and every effort was made to put the fire out. By sinking the ship and throwing water on the flames with the hose and buckets from above. The ship was then shoved off from the wharf and anchored; in a few minutes she brought up on the bottom, there not being water enough to cover the lower deck. By this time the flames had increased so rapidly that the men were compelled to abandon the after pumps. The fire increased so rapidly that it was impossible to save anything from the ship; the books and papers had been sent on shore before she was shoved off. At 5:30 P.M. the fire had increased so that all hands were compelled to abandon the vessel, the flames driving the men over the bows. At 12 at midnight the ship had burned to the water's edge (*The Daily Picayune*, New Orleans, October 13, 1856).

Unofficial accounts add interesting aspects to the story. Mrs. Lelia Seeligson wrote:

Perseverance was securely moored to the T-head at Indianola and Mrs. Sheppard was entertaining a dinner party on board. Only one mate was on duty, when the cry of "Fire" was sounded. When discovered it was too far advanced to be extinguished but the guests and passengers were safely landed and the vessel steamed out into the Bay and burned all night. Ever after when the tide is low the boiler of *Perseverance* is still seen in Matagorda Bay. The bell was salvaged by the three Holzheuser and two Wasserman boys and given to the Lutheran church in Cuero. The Cuero Fire Company afterwards bought it (*A History of Indianola*, undated).

Frank Bates Sheppard in *The History of DeWitt County* relates the same story, adding that the bell of the *Perseverance* now hangs in the belfry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero. A call to Pastor Stephen Byrne and a visit to the church's web site (<http://stmarks-cuero.org>) revealed additional information. According to local lore, the Lutheran church in Indianola received permission from Charles Morgan to recover the bell of the *Perseverance* for use at the church, where it served for nine years. During the Civil War, the bell was seized by federal forces, but recovered during the night by Mr. Wasserman, Dr. Lewis, and Mr. Holzheuser. These gentlemen buried the bell at Indianola, where it remained for some 25 years until recovered by Mr. Wasserman for the new Lutheran church building in Cuero. After five years of service in the church, a new bell was purchased and the *Perseverance* bell was donated to the Cuero Volunteer Fire Department. When firefighters no longer needed the bell, they threw it in the trash. A member of the Lutheran church in Cuero found



Figure 6. Belfry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Cuero. The bell from the *Perseverance* is on the lower right. Photo by Steve Hoyt.

the bell in the trash and returned it to the church. It has served as the prayer bell since the present church was constructed in 1939 (Figure 6).

Texas Historical Commission Investigations

The image on the cover of this issue is a well-known depiction of Indianola before its demise. Helmuth Holtz produced the lithograph in 1860 from sketches made while perched in the upper rigging of the sailing vessel *Texana*. The lithograph shows the structures along the shore and the two long wharves that extended into the bay at that time. Holtz drew a series of small objects protruding from the water near the end of one of the wharves. Close examination led researchers to believe that Holtz was representing the remains of a shipwreck at that location. By creating computer overlays of historical maps (from as early as 1858), modern maps, and aerial photographs, an approximate latitude and longitude position was determined for the wreck.

The limited staff of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) relies heavily on volunteer efforts to investigate historic resources in the state. Taking advantage of a private firm's generous offer to conduct a remote-sensing survey over the area, the THC's State Marine Archeologist provided coordinates for the possible shipwreck shown in Holtz's lithograph, as well as a second possible wreck at Indianola. With that information in hand, marine archeologists from the Austin office of PBS&J, a private engineering and environmental consulting firm, surveyed the designated locations using both magnetometer and side-scan sonar. In water depths averaging nine feet, PBS&J recorded significant magnetic anomalies (see Figure 7) at both predicted locations and a sonar target at the approximate location of the wreck depicted in Holtz's birds-eye view.

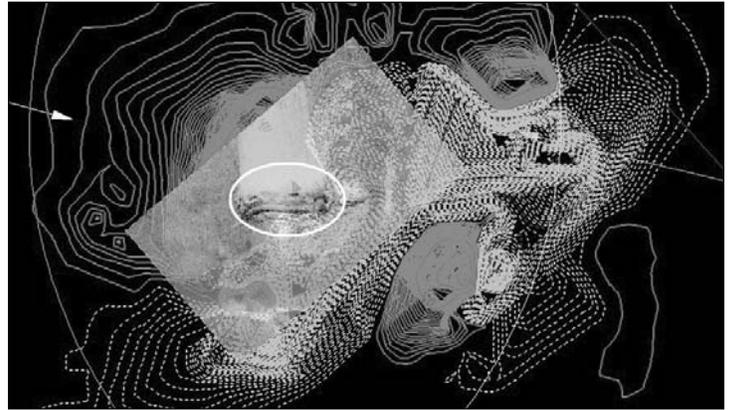


Figure 7. Magnetic anomaly produced by wreck near pier. The large rectangle in the center is the side-scan sonar image overlay, within which the boiler may be seen (circled). Provided by PBS&J, Austin.

Early in June 2005, the State Marine Archeologist organized an investigation of the remote-sensing targets using the invaluable labor of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network marine stewards (Figures 8 and 9). Five of the eight marine stewards were able to participate: Andy Hall, Don Hyett, Gary McKee, Doug Nowell, and Russell Potocki. Thea and David King, part-time residents of Indianola, generously donated the use of their vacation house as a staging area and quarters for volunteers during the two-day project. David King also launched his boat to provide surface support for the divers.



Figure 8. State Marine Archeologist Steve Hoyt (left) and marine steward Doug Nowell prepare the THC survey boat. Photo by Gary McKee.



Figure 9. Marine steward Andy "Cool Hand" Hall prepares to dive on the site. Volunteer David King is on the right. Photo by Gary McKee.

Both sites were investigated during this June expedition. By probing the first target location with an eight-foot rod, one site was found to be buried under about five feet of mud. That site was reserved for later investigation, and we turned our attention to the other site, the one located near the end of the wharf in the 1860 lithograph. At this second site, divers quickly located shipwreck remains in about nine feet of water. Considerable time was spent trying to decipher the remains in the extremely low visibility of the bay. By the end of the day, the major component of the site was determined to be the steam boiler of a shipwreck. Other bits of machinery and piping were located nearby, but no effort was made to expand the search beyond the immediate vicinity of the boilers.

In August, the State Marine Archeologist, accompanied by marine stewards Craig Hlavinka and Doug Nowell, made a second trip to the site. Jack Jackson, part-time Port O'Connor resident and friend of the THC, also assisted and provided his boat for surface support. The purposes of this second trip were to lay a baseline on the site, map in the previously located major components of the site, conduct an organized search for engines and other key parts of the wreck, and gather additional detail on the boiler. In spite of extensive searches from the baseline, no additional major machinery was located. However, a large area of well-preserved deck planks was located at one end of the boilers. These planks are approximately 12 inches wide, lay side-by-side with no gaps between them, and extend over an area at least 26 feet in length. The planks are on approximately the same level as the bottom of the boiler and are probably the remains of a lower deck in the vessel. Three large bronze fasteners protruded

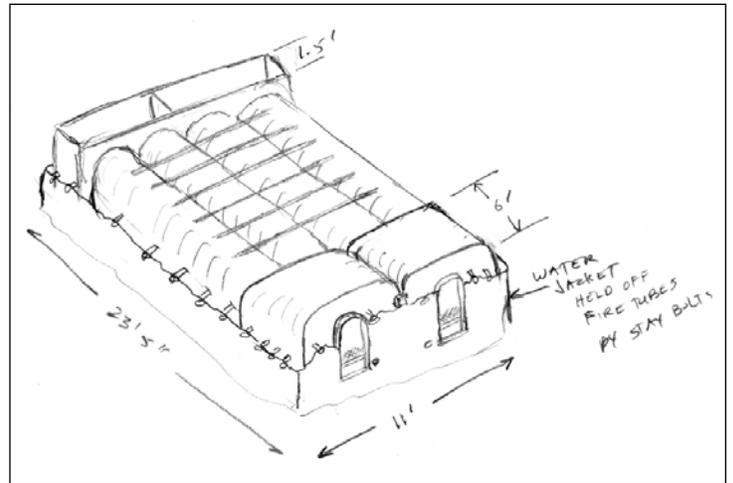


Figure 10. Field sketch of boiler. Handwritten note reads, "Water jacket held off fire tubes by stay bolts."

from the top of the planks in a line parallel to the keel and approximately two feet apart. Each spike stuck up from the planks approximately eight inches, and each was bent over in the same direction, indicating they originally held a major timber in place on the deck and that the timber had been removed forcefully.

The boiler type has not yet been identified in spite of extensive research. The design elements indicate an early, rather inefficient boiler development (Figure 10). It consists of two fireboxes at one end and four horizontal flues, two extending from the back of each firebox and passing into a smoke box or vertical flue at the far end from the fireboxes. Each horizontal flue is approximately 30 inches in diameter. The smoke box is divided into two chambers, each receiving

CURRENT RESEARCH

The Quakertown Well: Historical Archeology of a Displaced African American Community in Denton, Texas

by Douglas K. Boyd, Kim McCoig Cupit, and Nita Thurman

In April 2003, a large cavity was discovered in Denton's Civic Center Park. Subsequent investigation by members of the Denton County Historical Commission and Texas Historical Commission archeological steward Jim Blanton revealed that the cavity was a rock-lined well. Nita Thurman,

chair of the county historical commission's archeology committee, speculated that the well was associated with the former African American community called Quakertown. Prewitt and Associates, Inc. was then contracted to conduct an archeological investigation of the well to determine its

the end of two horizontal flues. All these components are enclosed in an outer jacket held at least four inches away by large iron stay bolts. Water would have circulated around the fireboxes and flues within this outer jacket. The upper portion of the jacket where steam would have accumulated is gone, possibly from damage by shrimp boats which have often snagged the wreckage, or from intentional demolition to make the wreck less hazardous to navigation.

Is this the *Perseverance*? At this point, we have insufficient information to make a determination. We know it was pushed off the dock and sank in very shallow water. The position of the wreck we investigated is consistent with the 1860 illustration by Holtz as well as the 1856 date the *Perseverance* sank. We know the *Perseverance* was a propeller-driven ship, not a paddlewheel vessel. So far we have found no evidence of paddlewheels, major mechanical structures that are usually very evident. Unfortunately, neither have we yet found evidence of a propeller. We know the *Perseverance* was built of oak with iron and bronze fasteners. We have heavy wooden structure and bronze fasteners, but these were common to most ships of the period.

The *Perseverance* was one of at least three steamships known lost at Indianola. The other two were the *Portland*, a Morgan Line side-wheeler, and the *Belvidere*, a side-wheel river steamer. Little is known of the *Belvidere* at this point, and the reported position of the *Portland* does not correspond to the position of the current wreck.

Funding is currently being sought to pursue a major program of investigation in the Indianola area. The goals are to conduct remote-sensing survey over a large area to locate potential sites, to identify additional wrecks (including sailing

ships lost during the two hurricanes), and to record the evidence of Indianola's history that now lies submerged beneath the bay. In the meantime, the State Marine Archeologist and the marine stewards will continue to investigate the current wreck to determine if it is the *Perseverance* and to document its condition.

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historical significance. Archeological testing of the well was done in October 2004, along with archival research to identify the historical property on which the well was located. The results of these investigations are reported by Boyd (2005).

Previous Work and Site Setting

The historic well is located in the northwest corner of Civic Center Park, just north of downtown Denton (Figure 1). It is part of archeological site 41DN481, which was initially recorded by the University of North Texas in 1990 (Lebo 1990). Archeologists from Wendy Lopez & Associates, Inc. did additional archeological work there in 1999 (Kahl and Proctor 1999). The site was known to be the location of historic Quakertown, which local historians had documented

as an African American community in Denton from about 1875 to 1922 (Glaze 1991; Odintz 2002). The community ended in 1922–1923 with the razing of the neighborhood and construction of the city park. The well was found in a grass-covered area about 35 feet north of Pecan Creek, which is now contained within a concrete-lined ditch constructed sometime after 1937.

Quakertown History

The origins of the name Quakertown are not known, but some believe it was named in honor of the Quakers who helped African Americans during Reconstruction years (Odintz 2002). Precisely when the settlement began is not known, but DeBurgos (1991:8) suggests that “Quakertown

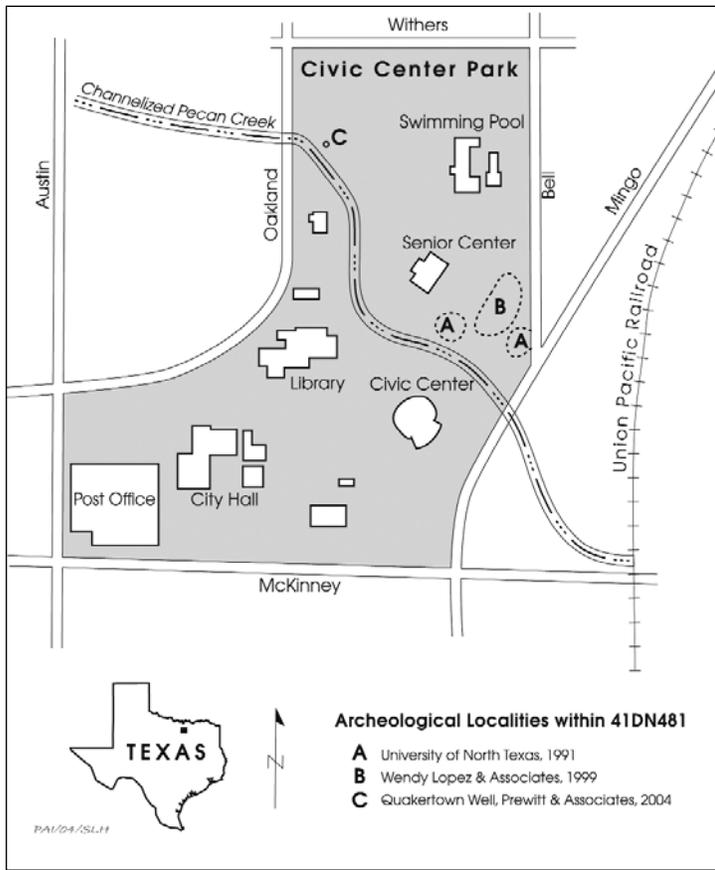


Figure 1. Map of Civic Center Park in Denton, Texas, showing location of the historic Quakertown well and previously investigated archeological areas in the park. Map by Sandy Hannum.

was a town within a town by the early 1870's." The U.S. Black Census for 1870 shows that there were already 187 African Americans living in the "Town of Denton, Prct. 1" (DeBurgos 1991:7, 28). A Denton County judge signed an order establishing "colored school #17" in August 1878.

By all accounts, Quakertown was a thriving African American community in the late-19th and early-20th centuries (DeBurgos 1991; Glaze 1991). Through the years, the neighborhood had various churches, a school, grocery stores and other businesses, and lodges for different men's and women's organizations. The 1921 Sanborn map shows more than 70 structures within the area that would become City Park, including three churches, a grocery store, a barbershop, two auto shops, and possibly other unspecified businesses.

The demise of Quakertown happened quickly and is documented in the Denton City Commission minutes kept by the city secretary (DeBurgos 1991:155–163). On March 1, 1921, the City Commission approved a petition brought before them by J.L. Hooper and 150 property-tax-paying voters. The petition called for a general election to approve bonds to purchase the property occupied by Quakertown and turn it into a park. The results of the election were documented on April 7, 1921, with the bond election passing by a vote of 367 for and 240 against. A committee was immedi-

ately formed "to arrange with the negroes in the park area, for a mass meeting of said negroes; at which meeting the committee should appear before the negroes and assure them of fair treatment in their removal." This meeting was apparently held not long after the City Commission's April meeting, and in September 1921 the city appointed members to a park board (DeBurgos 1991:14–15, 155–163).

The park development plan experienced some delays while people looked for a suitable area to relocate the Quakertown residents and property-value negotiations took place (Glaze 1991). Out of the 58 property owners involved, only one man openly protested the city's actions. Will Hill filed a lawsuit against the city, but he eventually dropped the suit "fearing reprisals against his family" (Glaze 1991:11). Price negotiations continued through most of 1922 and into 1923. Twenty-two property owners appeared before the City Commission on one night in May of 1922 to plead their cases. A few settlements seemed to favor the landowners, but many were unresolved and later went to condemnation. At about the same time, some white citizens filed petitions to prevent the Quakertown people from moving into adjacent white neighborhoods (Glaze 1991:11–12).

The city began buying Quakertown property in May 1922 (DeBurgos 1991:15), and by June 1922 a local rancher had platted a 35-acre pasture southeast of town and offered to sell lots to the displaced blacks (Glaze 1991:13–14). The area, about one half-mile east-southeast of Quakertown, became known as Solomon Hill. "Residents were given a choice of selling their land and property outright or having their houses moved to Solomon Hill" (Odintz 2002). By early 1923, most of the Quakertown land was vacant, and "equipment leveled and graded the once-vibrant residential area" (Glaze 1991:16).

The historical evidence shows there were two different perspectives on the Quakertown resettlement episode. Local historian Mike Cochran (1991) has studied documents prepared by some of Denton's white residents for the WPA Federal Writer's Project. A letter written in 1938 suggested that "no friction from the move has been reported." It went on to say that "Two old time colored men — Bill Maddox and Charlie Hinkle — inform the writer that the move was agreeable and smoothly executed so far as they know and believe" and that the displaced people reported "no dissatisfaction among their group." Cochran (1991:29) notes that "the statements of Maddox and Hinkle about the 'agreeable' circumstances of the Quakertown move should be read with skepticism. According to correspondence from the Federal Writer's Project, there was a tendency for African Americans of the period to tell white project interviewers 'what they wanted to hear.'"

In contrast to the contemporary white historical record, evidence that Glaze (1991:9–21) compiled from a variety of sources tells a different story. On the basis of oral

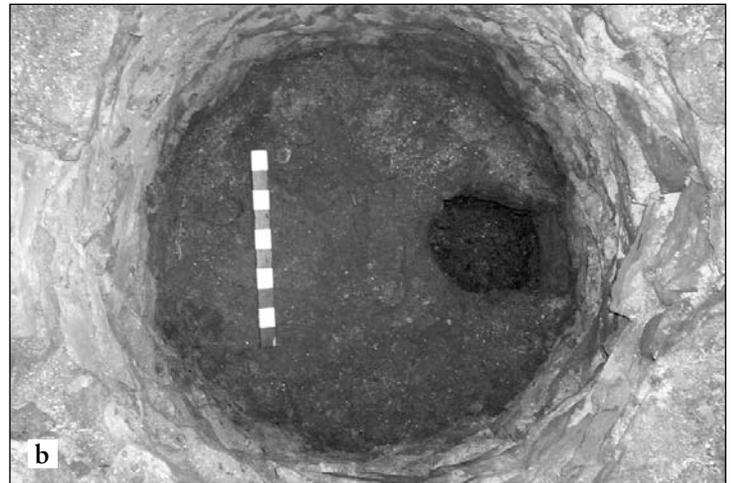


Figure 2. Photographs of the historic Quakertown well at 41DN481. (a) Overhead view (looking south) of the mechanical excavation and exposed well. (b) Overhead view (looking south) down into the well. The scale is 50 cm (20 inches), and the area on the right is the deep test. Photos by Doug Boyd.

histories and personal communications with African Americans, Glaze suggests that the Quakertown residents had little or no say in the relocation process, were usually paid less than market value for their property, and were threatened if they tried to resist the relocation plan or tried to move into white neighborhoods. Most had little choice but to move to Solomon Hill, a less than desirable area well outside of town. Some chose to move away completely, and at least one man was so bitter he “vowed never to return to Denton” (Glaze 1991:17). The black community was slow to recover, and the psychological trauma associated with the forced move had lasting effects (Glaze 1991:20–21).

Archeological Investigation of the Quakertown Well

Hand excavations were done inside the well in October 2004. The work revealed a rock-lined well about four feet below surface, but the top of the well had been removed by blading during park construction. The upper four feet of artificial fill was removed with a backhoe to allow safe and easy access to the well. Hand excavations revealed that the rest of the well was intact (Figure 2a). The fill inside the well was excavated in rough stratigraphic layers and was found to contain large amounts of historic artifacts. The fill was hand dug from 4 feet to a depth of 7.5 feet below surface. Probing revealed that the well went down several feet more, so a smaller hand test, measuring 16 x 10 inches, was then dug along the west wall of the well (Figure 2b). The fill became increasingly wet as this excavation proceeded. The deep test ended at approximately 11 feet below surface when the water table was encountered. Additional probing from that point revealed there were some large objects, presumably artifacts, below the water line. Probing also revealed that a continuous hard surface was present at about 13.5 feet below ground surface,

and this is presumed to be the bottom of the well. The water table in the well is at about the same elevation as the bottom of the modern concrete-lined channel of Pecan Creek (Figure 3).

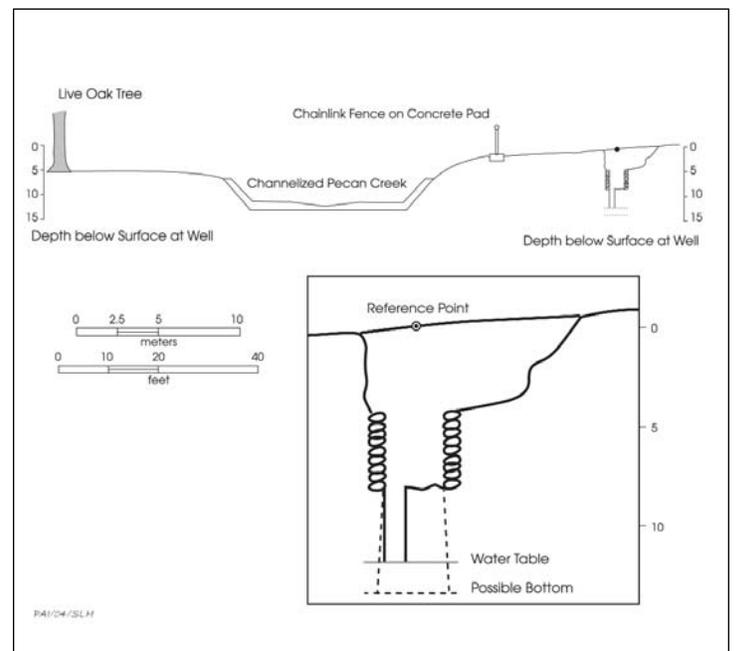


Figure 3. Cross sections of Pecan Creek and the historic well at 41DN481. View is looking northwest. Illustration by Sandy Hannum.

The rocks used to construct the walls are ferruginous sandstone from the local Woodbine Formation (Bureau of Economic Geology 1967). The interior wall is rather smooth, indicating intentional size selection and great care in the placement of the rocks. The builders intentionally laid the rocks so the walls constricted as they went upward.

The artifacts were analyzed in the field, but only a small sample of 38 diagnostic specimens was collected for permanent curation. The 163 analyzed artifacts, which are

described in more detail in Boyd (2005), were grouped into functional categories defined by South (1977) as follows:

Activities	3
Architecture	47
Clothing	2
Kitchen	59
Personal	1
Unclassified	51
TOTAL	163

Most of the unclassified artifacts are rusted iron specimens that could not be positively identified. Of the 112 items classified by function, kitchen items are dominant and consist mainly of ceramic vessel sherds (plate and bowl pieces), glass fragments (bottles and drinking glasses), and metal pieces (kettle and stove parts). Kitchen items also include pig and cow bones that exhibit cut and saw marks from hand butchering. The next best represented functional group is architecture, which includes bricks, a concrete fragment, a ceramic tile, window glass, and a variety of metal construction items (such as nails, a door hinge, and electrical wire). Items related to activities are limited to flowerpots and probable flower-vase fragments, and one wagon box strap bolt that was used to attach horizontal side boards to a wagon or truck bed. A small, clear glass medicine bottle and a one-pint brown glass liquor bottle were also found. The two clothing specimens are a shell button and brass brooch pin.

The artifacts are particularly interesting from a chronological perspective. Most of the material remains found in the well are characteristic of mass-produced material cultural from the very late 1800s and early 1900s. Both cut and wire nails were found, which is typical of sites occupied from the 1870s to 1920s. A glass medicine bottle and other bottle-neck fragments lacked mold seams over the lips, a characteristic of machine-made bottles with hand-tooled lips dating between about 1890 and the 1920s. A pint liquor bottle with an Owens suction scar on its base was manufactured on an automatic bottle-making machine after 1905. Also found were a variety of stoneware and whiteware ceramic sherds typical of homesteads from the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

Three artifacts stand out as particularly good temporal indicators. A red brick fragment had an impressed marking “ACME [BRICK]” and “FORT [WORTH]” and was made by the Acme Brick Company at their Bennett plant in Parker County between 1895 and 1912, according to a company vice-president (Acme Brick Company 2004; Bill Sidel, personal communication, 2005). A second brick fragment had an impressed diamond on its face, which is the mark of the Diamond Brick Company of Ellis County, which operated from 1910 to 1923 (Ellis County Museum, Inc. 2003; Stein-

bomer 1982:258). Finally, a fragment of a soda bottle had distinctive embossed lettering showing that it was made for the Alliance Ice Company, which operated in Denton from 1901 to 1924 (Kim Cupit, personal communication, 2005).

Historical Significance and Conclusions

The artifacts recovered from the well generally date from the 1880s to the 1920s, and the assemblage looks like typical structural and household items that would have been present in Quakertown in the early 1920s. The combined archeological and historical data provides insights into the history of the Quakertown neighborhood and African American life there around the turn of the century. By comparing modern city maps and aerial photographs with the historic Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, we were able to precisely plot the location of the well onto the historic maps showing individual property lots and structure locations. On the 1912, 1917, and 1921 Sanborn maps, the well is located one lot south of the “St. Emmanuel Baptist Church,” which is marked with the notation “(Negro)” or “(Colored).” By the time the 1926 Sanborn map was compiled, the Quakertown neighborhood was gone and replaced by the “City Park.”

The 1921 Sanborn map provides a snapshot of the Quakertown community just before it was destroyed (Figure 4). The well was located on the west, or back side, of a wooden house owned by a man named George Sanders who lived at 709 Commercial St. (also called Sanders Street in some

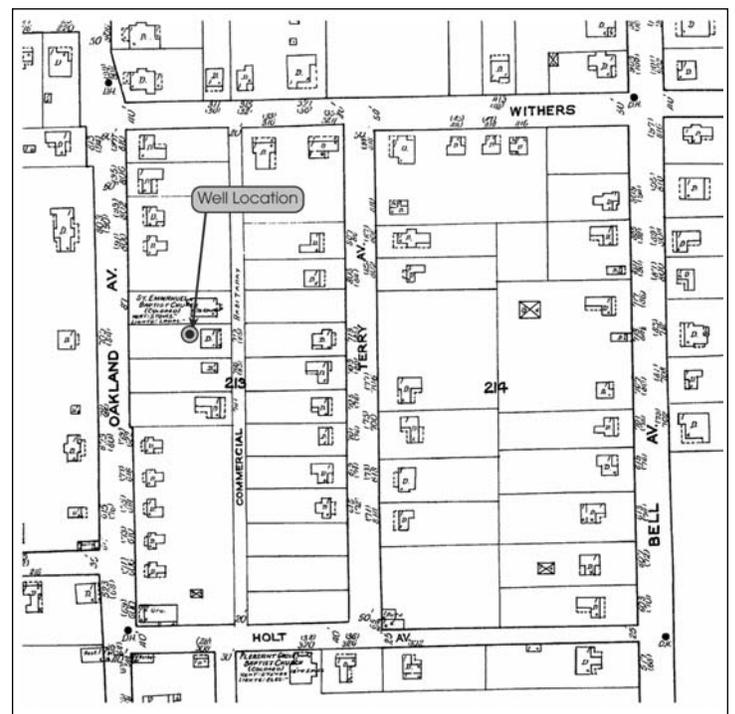


Figure 4. Section of 1921 Sanborn map showing northern portion of the Quakertown community and the location of the historic well (Sanborn Map Company 1921).

sources). This identification is confirmed by an entry in the 1920 Denton City Directory and a 1922 map entitled “Park Site of Denton, Texas” (reproduced by Glaze 1991) that shows Sanders as the owner of this lot at the time the city acquired the park property.

Historical information indicates that Sanders arrived in Quakertown after 1900 but before 1910. U.S. Census data for 1910 and 1920 show that Sanders lived at Quakertown with his wife Ella. George Sanders was listed as a wagoner and laborer, and his wife Ella was a laundress. In 1910, their family included a 14-year-old daughter, Mary, and a 13-year-old son, Sellow. The Tax Assessor’s Abstract of City Lots (compiled by DeBurgos 1991:57) shows that George Sanders’ Lot No. 7 was valued at \$320 in 1920.

Ella Sanders died in September 1920, leaving George behind. Because he owned a house and lot in Quakertown, it is likely that George Sanders attended the mass meeting held in late 1921 between the city’s parks committee and the African Americans. Not long after this meeting occurred, George Sanders was forced to move from his home, along with all his neighbors. No records have been found to indicate where he went, but it appears that he left Denton.

As for the well on George Sanders’ property, there is no indication when it was constructed or who built it. It may have been built before Sanders came to Quakertown, and it may have served as the family’s personal well. It also is possible that the well provided water for the St. Emmanuel Baptist Church located on the lot north of Sanders’. The archeological and historical evidence suggests that the well was used until 1922–1923 when the Quakertown community was razed. The top of the well was damaged at the time the park was built, and about four feet of sediment was placed over the old well. The fill was placed inside and above the well during park construction, and it contained artifacts that almost certainly represent remnants of the Quakertown community.

Quakertown residents were moved out in 1922–1923, and the events must have been traumatic for the black community. George Sanders’ old well, which has now been backfilled with clean sand and re-covered with grass, is but one of the many remnants of the old neighborhood. Looking back after more than 80 years, the taking of the property was obviously unfair and racially motivated, but few people today know anything about this aspect of Denton’s history. Most people who walk across Civic Center Park are not aware of the historical events that happened there or have any idea that portions of the Quakertown community lie buried beneath their feet. The remains of the old neighborhood, although extensively disturbed, are in fact preserved by the nearly instantaneous destruction and burial, a situation archeologists sometimes call the Pompeii effect.

The Denton County Historical Commission and the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum are committed to telling the story of the history of Denton County’s African American

residents. The museum currently displays an exhibit titled “Historical African-American Families of Denton County” that features the Quakertown story. The museum, in partnership with the Historical Park Foundation of Denton County, Inc., is developing a new Denton County African American Museum that will be located in a former Quakertown house moved to the Historical Park of Denton County. This museum, scheduled to open in 2007, will be devoted to the rich African American history of the region and will serve as a much-needed research center for local African American history.

The artifacts and research materials obtained through the Quakertown well investigation will be used in exhibits and educational programs and made available to researchers interested in Quakertown. The stories of Quakertown and other African American communities in Denton County are a very important part of the region’s history, and interest in the community has increased over the years. The Quakertown neighborhood essentially disappeared when the city of Denton cleared the land for the park in 1922, and no known original residents are alive today. There are family photos of the early African American families in Denton, but few artifacts of that era exist. Some church histories and personal memoirs discuss the early African American communities, and family stories of the forced Quakertown relocation have been handed down to descendants who still live in the Denton community today. The new African American museum must rely on historical records and archeological investigations to get a glimpse of daily life in Quakertown and other African American communities in Denton County.

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Doug Boyd is vice-president of Prewitt and Associates, Inc., Austin.

Kim McCoig Cupit is the curator of collections at the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum in Denton.

Nita Thurman is chair of the Denton County Historical Commission Archeology Committee.

Archeological Study of a Disappearing Port Settlement at Copano Bay

by Robert Drolet



Figure 1. Architectural remains on an eroding cliff at the El Cópamo site. Photo courtesy Robert Drolet.

In July 2005, an initial archeological survey was conducted at the El Cópamo site located in Refugio County on the back side of Copano Bay. The site consists of the remains of an 1830s port settlement. Work is considered urgent since the cliff is eroding due to recurrent beach and storm erosion (Figure 1). Most of the historic buildings have collapsed, and architectural remains are falling down the cliff or lying on the beach. Robert Drolet, Ph.D., Corpus Christi Museum Archaeologist and Adjunct Professor at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK), and a crew of graduate students, trained archeologists, and TAMUK Archaeology Field School students, began the work of clearing and mapping the site. Since the site has no public access, logistical support from the Texas Maritime Museum and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided essential boat transportation.

El Cópamo was a vital colonial port in the 18th century and eventually became the location of an early-19th century European settlement. In the 1780s, the Spanish used the area as a landing for food and equipment to supply the Spanish

missions at Goliad, Refugio, and San Antonio de Béxar. In the late 1820s and 1830s, El Cópano was under Mexican control and served as the focal point of immigration by land-grant Irish colonists destined for San Patricio and Refugio. From 1830 to 1833, Copano Bay became a major port for regulating trade and linking the Central Texas gulf area with inland centers at Refugio and Goliad. Later, during the Texas Revolution, military supplies passed through the port.

In 1836, El Cópano began the transformation from a coastal landing to a port and town. Colonists from the Power and Hewetson Land Grant Colony, including Joseph Plummer, Walter Lambert, and Patrick Shelly, established a new settlement and built shellcrete houses with cisterns along the coast. By 1838, James Power, *empresario* of the land grant colony, had a warehouse in El Cópano. Between 1840 and 1852, more residents arrived and built single and two-story homes, a school, a post office, two stores, a warehouse, a lumber shed, three wharves, and a cemetery. By the 1870s, the port was involved in a thriving shipping business with trade in tallow and hides. However, the growth of nearby towns and lack of a permanent water supply led to its abandonment in the 1880s.

Work conducted in 2005 involved intensive survey, clearing the heavy vegetation along the shoreline, and identifying and mapping architectural and surface features. The survey extended 1,200 m along the shoreline cliff and 300 m inland. Fifteen features were found associated with the 1830s El Cópano settlement. These included ruins of 10 residential structures; two shell mounds that were used as building construction materials; a trash feature containing fragmentary glass, brick, pottery, and metal remains; a cemetery; and the gravesite of Joseph Plummer, a prominent resident of the settlement (Figure 2). The structural features, shell mounds, and trash area were clustered along a 700 m stretch of the western shoreline cliff. Remains of cisterns, standing walls, and portions of collapsed wall and floor sections mark the location of individual structures. Fragments of bottle glass, porcelain, pottery wares, roofing slate, and metal artifacts were found at each structure. The houses originally appear to have been situated in a double row, 100 m or more back from the shoreline along the bluff. Since the 1880s, the shoreline cliff has eroded, resulting in the disappearance of some and the continuing collapse of others. Today, the beach contains wall and floor elements washed down from the remaining structures.

The El Cópano community cemetery was located nearly a kilometer east of the residences, along a small inland terrace fronting a slough. One resident, Joseph Plummer, reportedly lived outside the main settlement in the vicinity of the cemetery. His residential structure was not located, although the Plummer family gravesite containing a marked marble tombstone and footstones was identified. Maps dating from the 1860s to 1935 show the Plummer residence close to

this gravesite. Remains of the building may be submerged, according to local fishermen from the nearby community of Bayside.

The intensive survey also recovered evidence of prehistoric occupation along the coast. One small shell midden was located 200 m inland, along the banks of Plummer's Slough. Unfortunately, preservation is poor due to bulldozing and pasture clearing. Several lithic artifacts, including a chert blade and projectile point, were found on the beach in the vicinity of the El Cópano ruins. The artifacts appear to have eroded from the shoreline cliff. While the evidence for prehistoric occupation of the area is minimal, the single shell midden feature and lithic artifacts indicate the back bay area was used by indigenous groups for seasonal shell collection and fishing prior to European settlement.

Future work will continue the intensive survey to document additional information about the size and internal characteristics of the historic settlement at El Cópano. Addi-

tional features and existing structural remains will be identified so an accurate map can be made of the settlement. Testing will be conducted at specific residential structures to obtain further information about their architectural characteristics and use as homes, stores, or warehouses. Limited excavations should complement archival research in identifying specific family residences and their locations within the settlement.

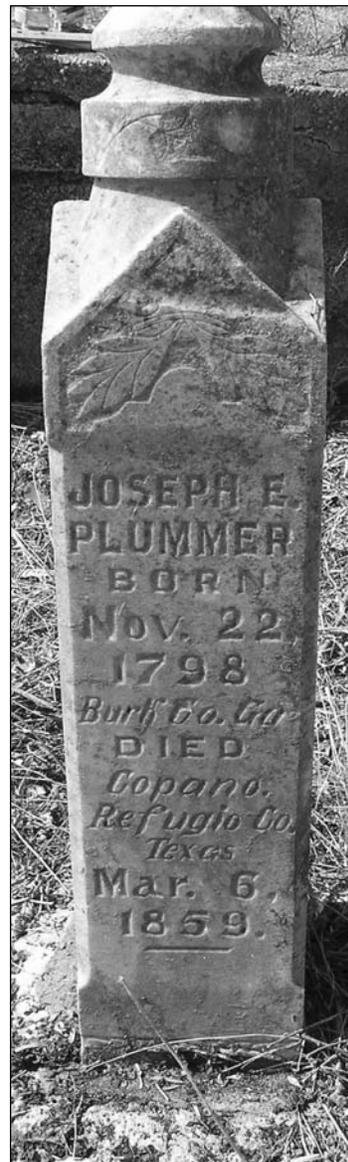


Figure 2. Gravestone of Joseph Plummer, prominent resident of the El Cópano settlement. Photo courtesy Robert Drolet.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NEWS

What Are 106 Reviews?

by Mark Denton

Archeologists often talk about the “106 process” or “106 reviews,” but many people not directly involved in the process are unsure about the meaning of these terms. We therefore offer this primer in the federal review process.

The “106 process” is the staff-level review of proposed development projects around the state. The “106” refers to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), but reviewers in the Archeology, History Programs, and Architecture divisions of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) use the term informally to denote both the NHPA reviews and reviews performed under the Antiquities Code of Texas. There is virtually no difference between reviews the staff performs under the NHPA and those performed under the Antiquities Code of Texas.

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their “undertakings,” which are defined as projects funded, permitted, or licensed by the federal government through its agencies — such as the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Housing and Urban Development — on historic properties. A historic property is an archeological site, historic building or structure, or historic landscape. The historic preservation review process mandated by Section 106 is outlined in regulations issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The federal agency must identify the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to consult during the process. In Texas, the SHPO is the executive director of the THC.

The responsible federal agency is supposed to determine whether an undertaking is a type of activity that could affect historic properties. In Texas, however, the federal agencies usually have their client (grantee, permittee, or licensee) ask the THC what it thinks. The Archeology Division receives about 10,000 of these project-related questions each year.

Identifying Historic Properties. Historic properties are properties that are included in the National Register of Historic Places or that meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Register. The federal agency or its client consults with the SHPO and others to seek information from knowledgeable parties, and conducts additional studies as necessary

to determine whether significant historic properties exist within the “area of potential effect” of the undertaking. If questions arise about the eligibility of a given property, the federal agency may seek a formal determination of eligibility from the National Park Service. The Section 106 review process gives equal consideration to properties that are already in the National Register and those that have not been included but meet the criteria.

Assessing Adverse Effects. The federal agency, in consultation with the SHPO, assesses possible adverse effects on the identified historic properties based on criteria found in the ACHP’s regulations. If the parties agree that there will be no adverse effects, the agency proceeds with the undertaking and any agreed-upon conditions.

If the parties find there are adverse effects, or if the parties cannot agree and the ACHP determines within 15 days that there are adverse effects, the agency begins consultation to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects.

Resolving Adverse Effects. The agency and its client consult to resolve issues of adverse effects with the SHPO and others, who may include Native American tribes, local governments, and members of the public. Consultation may result in a Memorandum of Agreement that outlines agreed-upon measures the agency will take to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects. In some cases, the consulting parties may agree that no such measures are possible and that in the public interest the adverse effects must be accepted.

Failure to Resolve Adverse Effects. If consultation proves unproductive, the agency or the SHPO, or the ACHP itself, may terminate consultation. If a SHPO terminates consultation, the federal agency and the ACHP may conclude a Memorandum of Agreement without the SHPO’s involvement. The federal agency must submit appropriate documentation to the ACHP and request the ACHP’s written comments. The federal agency head must take into account the ACHP’s written comments in deciding how to proceed.



Sandbur site archeologists receive Awards of Merit. Shown left to right are THC Commissioner Eileen Johnson; awardees Ardi Kalter, Michael Smith, and Robert Rogers of PBS&J, and Nancy Kenmotsu of the Texas Department of Transportation; and THC Chairman John Nau.

Recent Awards of Merit in Archeology

At the July 2005 Texas Historical Commission quarterly meeting, the following individuals and organizations received Awards of Merit for exceptional archeological projects completed this year.

- Robert M. Rogers, PBS&J, and the Environmental Affairs Division of the Texas Department of Transportation — archeological fieldwork, artifact analysis, and report production associated with the Sandbur site investigations. Their report, *Analysis and Reporting for 41FY135, the Sandbur Site, Fayette County, Texas*, is an excellent example of how limited new archeological field investigations can be combined with thorough research to convert a 25-year-old project investigation into a meaningful contribution to Central Texas archeology.

- Richard B. Mahoney, John J. Leffler, and the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San

Antonio — archeological fieldwork, archival research, oral history documentation, and report production for their investigations of a POW camp at Camp Bullis in San Antonio. The report is titled *Intensive Survey and Testing at 41BX1576, a World War II German POW Camp at Camp Bullis Military Reservation, Bexar County, Texas*.

- Melissa M. Green and Geo-Marine, Inc. — archeological fieldwork, artifact analysis, archival research, and report production for the Roseland Homes project in Dallas. *From Freedmantown to Roseland Homes: A Pioneering Community in Dallas, Texas* demonstrates how limited, cost-effective archeological field investigations, thorough archival research, and focused artifact analysis can contribute significantly to understanding sites of the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

CURRENT NEWS AND EVENTS

The Red River War Museum Project

Interpreting Conflict and Displacement on the Panhandle Plains

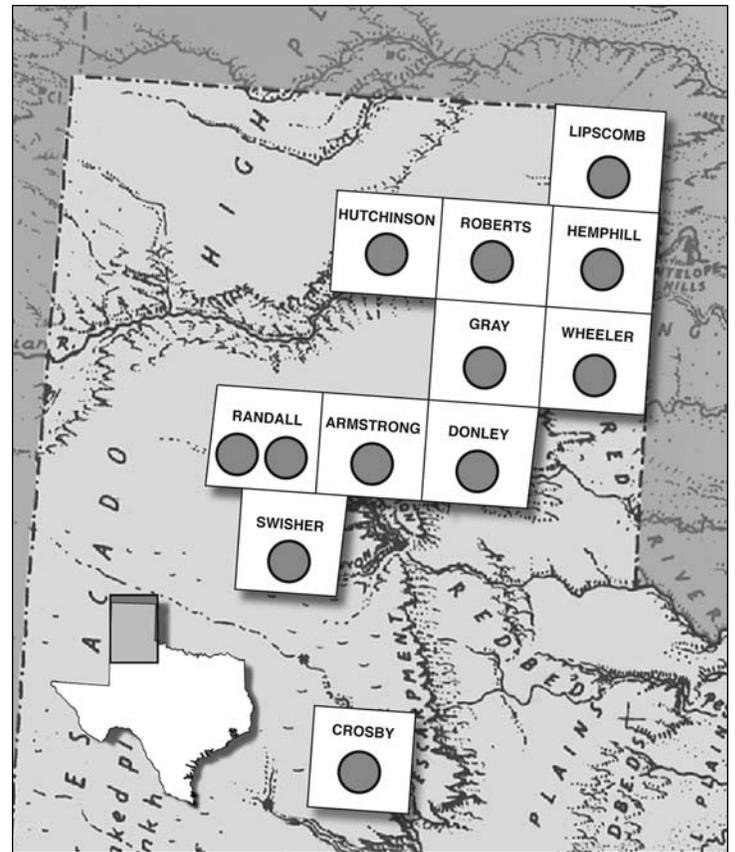
by Patricia A. Mercado-Allinger

The Red River War of 1874–1875, waged mostly in the Texas Panhandle near the headwaters of the Red River, resulted in the removal of Southern Plains tribes to reservation lands in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Recognizing the historical significance of this pivotal campaign, the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) initiated a multi-year project in 1998 to precisely locate and document several of the major battle sites and assess the condition and potential of each to yield important information that could supplement historical records.

Early on, THC archeologists recognized that on-site historical interpretation for the public was not a viable option for the majority of battle sites studied. Most are located on private property, and several are in isolated and remote locales. Off-site interpretation was identified as the preferred option for interpreting this important chapter in the history of the western frontier. This would entail the development of educational displays and associated programming in museums and other public facilities. The following museums and a state park have agreed to participate in the Red River War Museum Project:

- Armstrong County Museum in Claude
- Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum in Crosbyton
- Hutchinson County Museum in Borger
- Mobeetie Jail Museum in Mobeetie
- Palo Duro Canyon State Park in Canyon
- Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon
- River Valley Pioneer Museum in Canadian
- Roberts County Museum in Miami
- Saints' Roost Museum in Clarendon
- Swisher County Archives and Museum in Tulia
- White Deer Land Museum in Pampa
- Wolf Creek Museum in Lipscomb

The map below shows the counties involved in this endeavor. A preliminary master plan prepared by Steve Harding Design, Inc., forms the basis of the fundraising campaign currently under way.



Counties participating in the Red River War Museum Project (circles denote the number of participating museums within each county).



Sample plan for the Swisher County exhibit in Tulia.

THC to Study Battle of Sabine Pass

State Marine Archeologist Steve Hoyt plans to begin investigating archeological evidence of the 1863 Battle of Sabine Pass, thanks in part to an American Battlefield Protection Program grant of \$46,690 to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission.

The Battle of Sabine Pass was a major victory for the Confederate forces in Texas. On September 8, 1863, Lt. Richard W. Dowling and a small group of soldiers successfully defended the pass from invasion by some 4,000 seaborne Union troops when they beat back the advance gunboats sent

into the pass to take their small dirt fortification, Fort Griffin. Using tactical surprise, Dowling and his men captured more than 300 Union troops and two gunboats, the *Clifton* and the *Sachem*, and turned back the larger invading force.

Hoyt plans to develop a revised boundary of the battle and gather basic land and underwater data about the six sunken vessels lost near Fort Griffin during the Civil War. More than 400 linear miles of waterway in Texas and Louisiana will be surveyed to document the battlefield remains. Hoyt said he does not yet know how Hurricane Rita affected the site.

The Sabine Pass project is one of 12 receiving grants this year from the National Park Service's battlefield protection program. The grant recipients represent a historical cross section ranging from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War.



Jim Corbin at the 2001 Piney Woods Archeology Fair. Photo by Jim Bonar.

James E. Corbin Honored Posthumously with Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award

by Bill Martin

At the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Austin last May, Mrs. Debbie Corbin accepted the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology on behalf of her late husband, Dr. James E. Corbin. The award, named after Curtis Tunnell, who served as the first state archeologist and later as THC executive director, is the highest archeological honor awarded by the commission.

Dr. Corbin spent nearly his entire archeological career working in Texas, beginning as an instructor in archeology at the Austin Natural Science Center in 1962. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969. After briefly leaving the state to attend Washington State University, where he was awarded his doctorate in 1975, Dr. Corbin returned to Texas and joined the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. He headed the archeology program there until his retirement in the spring of 2004.

His first publication in Texas was a study of materials from the shore of Corpus Christi Bay, published in the *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* in 1963. He later became an expert on the Caddoan archeology of East Texas and conducted archeological surveys and important excavations at Caddo sites in and near Nacogdoches. However, he is equally well known for his expertise in historical archeology, and was a charter member of the Society for Historical Archaeology. Beginning in 1964, he worked with Curtis Tunnell on excavations at Independence Hall at Washington-on-the-Brazos. He later conducted major excavations at other

sites important in Texas history, such as Mission Dolores de los Ais in San Augustine, the Adolphus Stearne Home, and the T.J. Rusk Plantation.

Dr. Corbin taught his students both prehistoric and historic archeology through a series of field school excavations, many conducted within the Nacogdoches city limits. Multiple field seasons were spent excavating in people's lawns and on school property along Mound Street at the Washington Square Mound site in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Later field schools were conducted at the Mast site, a relatively intact pre-Caddo site with no mixing of materials from later Caddoan occupations.

The committees and professional societies Dr. Corbin served on include the Council of Texas Archeologists, Texas Archeological Society, Texas National Register Review Board, Nacogdoches Historical Landmark Preservation Committee, Northeast Texas Cultural Resources Protection Committee, Texas Antiquities Committee, and Texas State Historic Preser-

vation Board. He served as president of the Council of Texas Archeologists (1989–1990) and was vice-chairman of the Texas Antiquities Committee (1992–1993), becoming chairman in 1993 and serving in that capacity until 1995 when the committee was disbanded and its duties assigned to the Texas Historical Commission. He was editor of the *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* from 1986 to 1988 and editor of *La Tinaja, A Newsletter of Archaeological Ceramics*, beginning in 1988.

Dr. Corbin died on November 26, 2004. Throughout his long and distinguished career, he made lasting contributions to the understanding of Texas history and prehistory. His publications and research were contribution enough to qualify for this award, but he also trained many students who went on to careers in archeology, some of whom work for state agencies and archeological firms in Texas. His cumulative achievements have been overwhelming, and he will be missed by all students of East Texas history and prehistory.

TAM 2005 Archeology Fairs Receive TPTF Grants

by Patricia A. Mercado-Allinger

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) approved the use of \$10,000 of available Texas Preservation Trust Fund FY 05 grant funds for the purpose of pass-through grants to support Texas Archeology Month (TAM) archeology fairs in 2005. This year, nine applications were received, requesting a total of \$17,050. Awards were granted for the following eight events:

- **Farmers Branch Archeology Fair** (\$1,600). The City of Farmers Branch/Farmers Branch Historical Park, Dallas Archeological Society, and Southern Methodist University's Anthropology Club joined forces for this event at Farmers Branch Historical Park.
- **Archeology Day at the San Antonio Missions: Protecting Yesterday for Tomorrow** (\$1,560). The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, in concert with Legacy: Hands on the Past Outreach Program (Center for Archaeological Research, University of Texas at San Antonio) and the Southern Texas Archaeological Association, sponsored this event at Mission San José in San Antonio.
- **Museum of the Coastal Bend Archeology Fair** (\$1,400). The Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria organized an archeology fair at its facility on the Victoria College campus.

- **“Discover the Past” Fifth Annual Archeology Fair** (\$1,400). The Shumla School, Inc., together with Amistad National Recreation Area and Whitehead Memorial Museum, conducted this archeology fair at the Whitehead Memorial Museum in Del Rio.
- **Guadalupe-Brazos River Authority Archeology Fair** (\$1,200). The Guadalupe-Brazos River Authority, Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, and Seguin Independent School District sponsored another ambitious two-day event for fourth-grade students in Guadalupe, Caldwell, Gonzales, Hays, and Comal counties.
- **Archeology Fair: Germans and German Americans in Texas** (\$1,090). This archeology fair was sponsored by the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History and the Texas A&M University Department of Anthropology, including the Center for the Study of the First Americans.
- **Chambers County Archeology Outreach Project** (\$1,090). Chambers County Economic Development, assisted by Hicks & Company, organized a variety of programs at Fort Anahuac Park in Anahuac, featuring the recent excavations at historic Fort Anahuac.
- **Kaufman County Archeology Day** (\$660). The Kaufman County Historical Commission, assisted by Kaufman County 4-H and Friends of the Kaufman County Historical Commission, offered numerous educational activities, exhibits, and a lecture at the Kaufman County Poor Farm in Kaufman.

Partnerships Make Texas Archeology Month Possible



Children at a Del Rio archeology fair show off their miniature pictographs. Photo courtesy Amistad National Recreation Area.

Each October, thousands of Texans enjoy educational events across the state during Texas Archeology Month (TAM). These events, numbering about 80 annually, contribute significantly to the public's appreciation for and dedication to the preservation of Texas' archeological heritage.

TAM events run the gamut from lectures on the latest archeological finds to actual digs open to the public, tours of Native American rock art sites, and family-friendly archeology fairs. The increasingly popular archeology fairs offer fun, hands-on experiences for children, as well as informative exhibits and demonstrations of Native American and pioneer crafts.

It takes many partners in the archeological and historic preservation communities to make TAM a reality each year. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) coordinates the statewide celebration in cooperation with the Texas Archeological Society and the Council of Texas Archeologists. Dedicated members of the THC's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, the Texas Archeological Society, and local archeological and historical societies organize numerous TAM events, as do museums, state and federal agencies, and private companies.

The THC staff compiles event information to produce the *Texas Archeology Month Calendar of Events* booklet, a widely distributed promotional publication that local event organizers rely on for much-needed publicity. Printing costs for the booklets are covered entirely by donations. The THC would like to express its heartfelt thanks to the following organizations and individuals — and to the anonymous donors — for their generous contributions.

Organizations

A.L.T.
 Archeological & Environmental Consultants,
 L.L.C., *in memory of Jim Corbin*
 Bosque County Historical Commission
 Council of Texas Archeologists
 CRC International, L.L.C.
 Ensor-Frio Company
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 Moore Archeological Consulting
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 Texas Archeological Society
 Webb County Archeological Society

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 Pat Mercado-Allinger, *in memory of Curtis Tunnell and Jim Corbin*
 Eldred Miller
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 Chuck and Suzanne Patrick, *in memory of Dr. Betty Coody*

Continues on next page

Morris T. Peterson
 Elton and Kerza Prewitt, *in memory of*
Cecil Calhoun, Wayne Cox, and
Brownie Roberts
 Sue Prock, *in memory of Mandy Pearce*
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 Judy Wayland
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Wolf, and in memory of Juan Leal
 J. Ned Woodall

Show your support for archeological preservation in Texas by making a donation to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission. Please be sure to specify that your contribution be earmarked for Texas Archeology Month 2006. Donation forms are available at www.thc.state.tx.us/forms/archeology/TAMfriends.pdf, by calling 512/936-2241, or by

writing Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 13497, Austin, TX 78711. All contributors, unless they prefer to remain anonymous, will be acknowledged on the THC web site and in the printed *Texas Archeology Month 2006 Calendar of Events* booklets.

REGIONAL AND STEWARD NEWS

Skip Kennedy Remembered

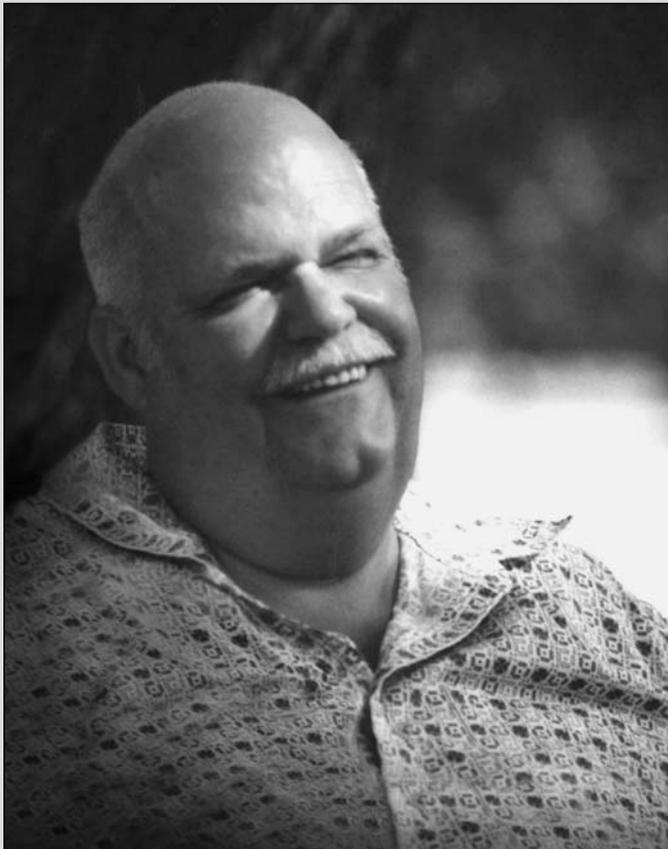


Photo by Gary McKeel

Skip Kennedy

Glenn W. Kennedy, Jr., passed away in his home in San Antonio on August 18, 2005. While many of us knew him only by his nickname — “Skip” — we knew of his constant and passionate pursuit of interests in Texas history and archeology. A native of Austin, Skip spent many of his adult years living in the Corpus Christi area where he was a member of the Coastal Bend Archaeological Society, the Nueces County Historical Commission, and the Southern Texas Archaeological Association. He joined the ranks of the Texas Historical Commission’s Texas Archeological Stewardship Network in 1993 and was an active member of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS). He was elected to the office of TAS president in 2001 and served on numerous committees.

Skip was quick to volunteer his services and insights to such endeavors as southern coastal corridor “palavers,” metal-detector surveys at locales such as the Fort Lipantitlan Historic Site, and other field projects along the Texas coast and beyond. He was a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and joined the San Antonio Living History Association after relocating to San Antonio. We will sorely miss Skip’s constant smile and seemingly boundless energy, and we extend our sincerest sympathies to his wife Beverly, daughter Tricia, and father Glenn W. Kennedy, Sr.

— Patricia A. Mercado-Allinger

TASN 2005 Workshop Highlights

by Patricia A. Mercado-Allinger

The theme for the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) workshop, held in Austin July 9–10, 2005, could have easily been “Roll up your sleeves!” The annual training session involved intensive overviews of the newly improved archeological Atlas database and the TexSite software for recording sites. Each presentation was reinforced with exercises involving these important electronic tools. Thanks to Texas Historical Commission (THC) staff members Dan Julien and Bill Pierson, computers with Internet access were available for steward training at the Saturday workshop and at the Sunday morning Open House, held at the THC’s Archeology Lab in East Austin.

Thanks to the generosity of the Lower Colorado River Authority, Scholtzsky’s Deli, and an anonymous donor, refreshments, box lunches, and dinner were provided to workshop participants. Following dinner at El Mercado Mexican Restaurant (no relation to the author!), certificates of appreciation were presented to TASN members for exemplary work during the past year. The stewards honored are listed below by region.

Marine

Andrew Hall (Galveston)

Mountain/Pecos and Plains Regions

Alvin Lynn (Amarillo)

Enrique Madrid (Redford)

Forts/Hill Country and Lakes/Brazos Regions

Jay Blaine (Allen)

Bryan Jameson (Benbrook)

Jim Schmidt (Austin)

May Schmidt (Austin)

Alice Stultz (San Angelo)

Forest and Independence/Tropical Regions

Beth Aucoin (Houston)

Pat Aucoin (Houston)

Bill Birmingham (Victoria)

Jimmy Bluhm (Victoria)

Pat Braun (Rockport)

Johnney Pollan (Lake Jackson)

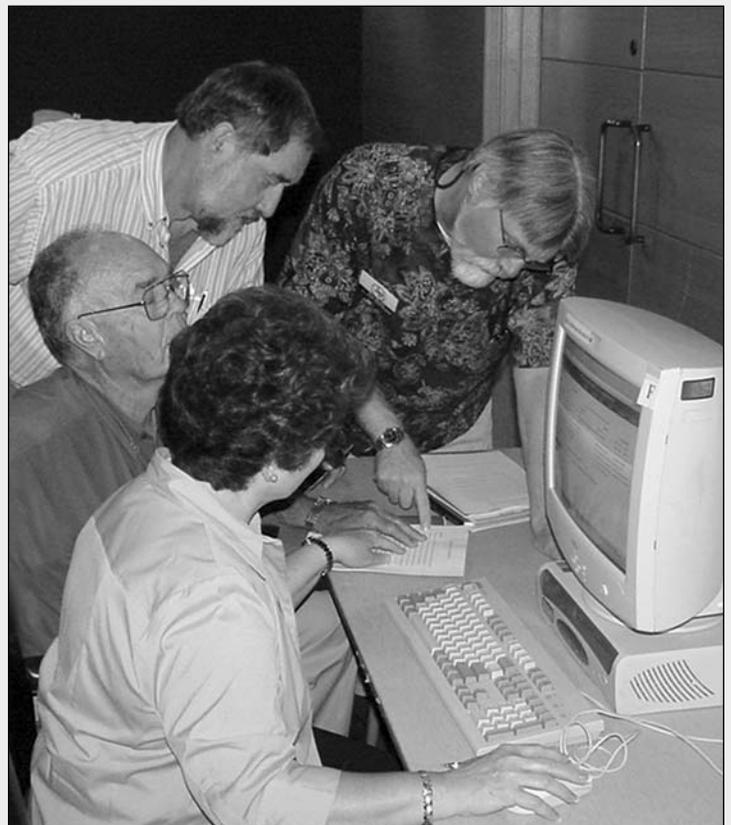
Sandra Pollan (Lake Jackson)

Sandra Rogers (Huntsville)

Mark Walters (Kilgore)



Pat Mercado-Allinger presents a certificate of appreciation to Jimmy Bluhm.



Dan Julien instructs workshop participants in the finer points of the redesigned Texas Archeological Sites Atlas.



Rolla Shaller in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum archaeology lab. Photo by Rik Anderson.

Steward Profile

Panhandle-Plainsman

Rolla Shaller

Rolla Shaller must have one of the longest and most respected archeological careers in the stewardship network. Bitten by the bug at the tender age of 12, the assistant curator of archeology at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum has been a steward since 1993 and a member of the Texas Archeological Society for more than 30 years.

Shaller's earliest archeological recollection is visiting Mesa Verde with his father and brother more than half a century ago. He remembers the Cliff Palace and a kiva, but what stuck in his mind the most was an exhibit of a projectile point embedded in a human skull. The sight "must have attached to a memory cell," he said,

because when he went back almost 30 years later he recognized the same skull and point on display.

After high school graduation and a tour of duty in the Army, the native of Canadian in Hemphill County returned to the Panhandle and enrolled in West Texas State University, where he came under the tutelage of Jack T. Hughes, the legendary dean of Panhandle archeology. Hughes assigned him the job of relocating sites in Hemphill, Roberts, Lipscomb, and Ochiltree counties, and later had Shaller cataloging artifacts at the Panhandle-Plains Museum.

From Hughes and Billy R. Harrison, then curator of archeology at the museum, he learned that "a good set of field notes and records are sometimes worth more to researchers than what is in the bag." He also made lifelong friendships with Hughes, Harrison, Bobbie Speer, and C. Boone McClure, who was the museum's director at the time.

But most noteworthy, Shaller said, the museum was where he met his wife Sidney, who was McClure's secretary.

"My first mistake was to take Sidney to a field excavation at Gun Site Shelter near Vega, Texas. It was one of those early spring Panhandle days when all four seasons want to fight for domination — warm, windy, cool, rain, sleet, cold. She has never been back to the field since then."

Hired as curator of exhibits soon after college graduation, Shaller spent six years at the Panhandle-Plains Museum before leaving for 14 years in commercial construction. But he was not able to abandon archeology entirely and used his time off to pursue his passion. He returned to the museum in 1992 and became assistant curator of archeology in 1998.

As a steward he has performed a wide range of tasks for the Texas Historical Commission: assisting in the Red River War Project, recording sites, consulting with area museums, participating in excavations, leading bus tours to archeological sites, and presenting Archeology Month programs — among many other projects.

Shaller is also an active member of the Randall County Historical Commission and one of the few remaining active charter members of the Panhandle Archeological Society, serving as president in 1989 and later as secretary of the Southwest Federation of Archaeological Societies.

Any plans to retire? "Why retire when you enjoy what you're doing?"

— Molly Gardner

Regional Archeologists' Reports

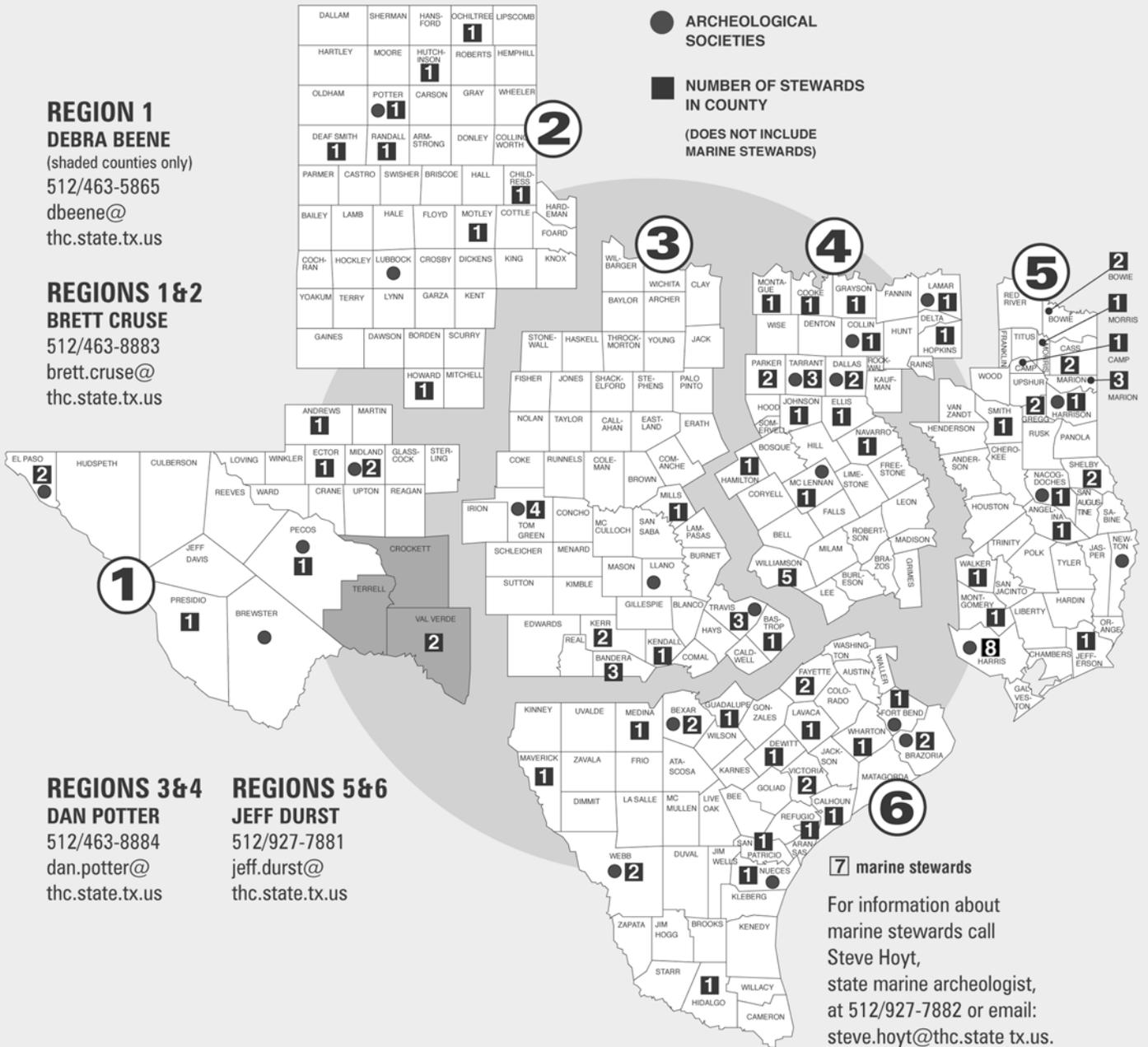
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REGIONS 5&6
JEFF DURST
 512/927-7881
 jeff.durst@
 thc.state.tx.us

● ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
 ■ NUMBER OF STEWARDS IN COUNTY
 (DOES NOT INCLUDE MARINE STEWARDS)



7 marine stewards
 For information about marine stewards call Steve Hoyt, state marine archeologist, at 512/927-7882 or email: steve.hoyt@thc.state.tx.us.



Trans-Pecos Region

Jack Skiles continues to actively pursue preservation and protection of major sites in the Lower Pecos. He continues to monitor archeological sites, present workshops, and work with local landowners and research institutions. He is also assisting Dr. Solveig Turpin and the volunteers of the Rock Art Foundation at the Lewis Canyon petro-

glyph site. Skiles used his tractor front-end loader to remove brush and dirt to help uncover newly found buried petroglyphs.
 Emery “Smokey” Lehnert has been working with the City of Del Rio to replace a weathered historical plaque at the “Camel Corps watering hole,” as well as initiating the placement of a historic marker for the historic wagon trail adjacent to State Hwy 277. The wagon ruts, six inches deep, are highly visible in the limestone bedrock. He is also interested in identifying significant cultural resources in the areas targeted for new construction; the surge in new construction in the Del Rio area is at an all-time high.
 S. Evans Turpin continues to work at the Bill Bissell sites in Pecos and Crockett counties. Turpin mapped burned rock midden

deposits, mortar holes, and lithic tool caches at this Late Archaic site. He put the collected data into a slide presentation for the Southwest Federation of Archaeological Societies meeting in San Angelo. He is now writing the report, which the Southwest Federation will publish in April 2006.

Turpin made preliminary site visits to the Cash Ranch in Val Verde County, where he observed prehistoric rock shelters and burned rock middens that most likely represent the Middle and Late Archaic cultural periods. He also visited the multicomponent Santa Rosa Springs site in northern Pecos County. This site consists of an 1870s to 1880s army encampment and prehistoric campsites yet to be dated.

In March, **Claude Hudspeth** presented a program on the Terlingua Abaja and the Mariscal Mine in Big Bend National Park at a meeting of the Midland Archaeological Society. The crowd was so enthusiastic that he continued with a shortened version of his program on the Butterfield Station and the John James Giddings monument at Steins Peak and Doubtful Canyon on the Arizona–New Mexico state line. Hudspeth also attended the TAS lithics academy in San Angelo. This popular course, led by Ron Ralph and Dr. Harry Shafer, attracted 51 attendees, 15 of whom are new TAS members.

Hudspeth assisted in the Concho Valley Archeological Society excavations at the Ft. Chadbourne barracks site, working alongside fellow steward **Larry Riemenschneider**. Twelve Boy Scouts earned their archeology merit badges by working at this important site.



REGIONS 1 & 2 • BRETT CRUSE

Mountain/Pecos & Plains Regions

During the last reporting period stewards in the Mountain/Pecos and Plains regions contributed approximately 835 hours toward steward activities. Stewards distributed more than 1,000 pieces of educational materials and gave presentations to more than 150 people. They assisted 64 landowners, other individuals, and agencies, and recorded seven new sites and monitored or investigated 40 other sites.

Several stewards have been involved in special or ongoing projects. **Alvin Lynn** continues to work on locating and mapping sites in the Panhandle associated with Kit Carson and his march along the Canadian River in 1864. Carson led volunteer troops from California and New Mexico as they sought to attack the Kiowa and Comanche Indians at Adobe Walls. Lynn recently identified the location where Carson placed his cannons at the 1864 Adobe Walls battle. In addition, he continues to investigate the 1868 army supply depot site on the Canadian River in Roberts County, and he located a number of other military camps in the region, including one on Bonita Creek thought to be associated with Colonel Whipple's trek through the region in 1853.

Enrique Madrid has been busy giving lectures to groups and monitoring sites in Presidio County. In February, he toured the Big Bend region with several archeologists and other scholars, looking at archeological sites and discussing the past, present, and future of western Texas and the United States–Mexico borderlands. Madrid

spent several days monitoring canal construction activities near the Polvo site, a State Archeological Landmark.

Rolla Shaller is recuperating from an operation on his left shoulder, but he still manages to participate in several steward activities. In May, he assisted members of the Panhandle Archeological Society and other volunteers with salvage excavations at the Isaacs site in Gray County. In June, Shaller worked with fellow steward **Alvin Lynn** at the Evans supply depot site and manned the Randall County Historical Commission's rest stop for the Wheels in the Wind bicycle race sponsored by the Canyon Main Street program. In July, Shaller attended the steward's workshop in Austin.

Teddy Stickney attended a number of meetings and continued to work on recording rock art sites during the last reporting period. In February, she worked with Sul Ross State University to record rock art on the Graef Ranch at Balmorhea. During the spring and summer, Stickney attended the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Salt Lake City; the Archeological Society of New Mexico annual meeting in Las Cruces, where she presented a paper on rock art; the American Rock Art Research Association annual meeting in Reno, where she presented another paper on rock art; and the TAS field school, where she worked with the kids program.

During this reporting period **Deborah Summers** continued to work on the Stinnett Pool bison site, analyzing the collections for the City of Stinnett.

Doug Wilkens cleaned and cataloged artifacts from site 41RB110, which was tested last year on the M-Cross Ranch in Roberts County. The test excavations were of a probable prehistoric house structure that had been partially exposed by erosion and was found by Wilkens and landowner John Erickson. Wilkens also assisted with the ongoing excavations of a large prehistoric stone enclosure and probable house at site 41RB81, also on the M-Cross Ranch.



REGIONS 3 & 4 • DAN POTTER

Forts/Hill Country & Lakes/Brazos Regions

Stewards and Texas Historical Commission (THC) staff were saddened by the recent loss of **Skip Kennedy**, a long-time member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network. He was a leading figure in the Texas archeological community, a past president of the TAS and a past chair of the Southern Texas Archaeological Association. He had been battling heart disease over the last several years, and passed away in Austin last August. His absence is deeply felt.

Jay Blaine reports a wide range of activities. He responded to a number of requests to identify artifacts from researchers in Texas and outside the state. Blaine says his most important work by far was with the Benton Collection in Nocona and the public program on the archeology of Spanish Fort.

Kay Clarke organized a new archeology fair in Liberty Hill (Williamson County) for Texas Archeology Month in October.

The event included a public program, tours, and displays. Clarke also conducted private land surveys, gave several public talks, and assisted the THC with its World War II site assessment.

Jose Contreras reports two requests for landowner consultation, but noted that ill health kept him from his usual activities. **Doris Howard**, our new steward in Llano County, has already begun recording archeological sites in the area and assisted at the Nightengale Archaeological Center in Kingsland.

Bryan Jameson assisted several landowners, gave guest lectures at Baylor University on the Texas Archaic and in early April presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City, Utah. The paper, coauthored with State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger, was titled "The Texas Archeological Stewardship Network: A Unique and Productive Partnership Between Avocational and Professional Archeologists."

Reeda Peel reports more than a week of volunteer time, including presentations to a combined audience of 251 people and assistance to two organizations. **Ona B. Reed** responded to five calls for assistance, monitored two sites, and attended a number of archeological meetings and workshops. **Larry Riemenschneider** logged more than 500 hours of stewardship time over the last reporting period. He distributed hundreds of pieces of archeological literature, recorded 53 new archeological sites, and responded to inquiries from more than 20 landowners in the San Angelo area. These accomplishments are just a small sample of his work over the period. Riemenschneider's efforts continue to be among the very best in the stewardship network.

Frank Sprague devoted about a week of time to stewardship work, including assistance to local landowners and other members of the public in Hamilton and the surrounding country. **Alice Stultz** has also been active, recording and monitoring sites and participating in a small archeological testing project at site 41CC328 near Eden.

Kay and Woody Woodward spent a great deal of time and effort clearing looter damage at site 41KR626, a burned rock midden/occupation site on the Guadalupe River. Called upon by local landowners, the Woodwards and members of the Hill Country Archeological Association have been salvaging information from looters' pits through controlled excavation and profile recording. A report is planned for publication through the archeological association. Woody notes he and Kay drove nearly 3,000 miles to conduct volunteer work during the last reporting period. With rapidly rising gasoline prices, the THC is keenly aware of the expense involved, and we are deeply grateful to the Woodwards and all our stewards who continue to bear these growing expenses.



REGIONS 5 & 6 • JEFF DURST

Forest & Independence/Tropical Regions

The stewards in Regions 5 and 6 have been extremely active. **Beth and Pat Aucoin** remain steadfast in their commitment to several

ongoing projects, continuing to monitor sites in and around Harris County and assisting at San Felipe de Austin and the San Jacinto Battlefield. In addition, they are involved in the search for the French site of Champ d'Asile in Liberty County and are recording plantation sites in Brazoria County. The Aucoins are truly a dynamic duo whose efforts to preserve Texas heritage have not gone unnoticed.

Bill Birmingham remains a highly motivated preservationist in the Victoria County area. His most recent efforts focus on recording several large collections, including his own, for accessioning to the Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria. Birmingham now serves on the museum's board of directors. Victoria County is very fortunate to have such a devoted steward in their midst.

Another highly motivated steward serving the Victoria County area is **Jimmy Bluhm**. He has been steadily involved in the excavation, documentation, and analysis of site 41VT141, an extremely important early occupation site in Victoria County. Through Bluhm's efforts, this site was saved from imminent destruction by a soil mining operation. It now appears the University of Texas at Austin will soon conduct a field school there.

Pat Braun from Aransas County travels thousands of miles each year to stay involved in projects important to her. Every week for the last two years she has traveled to the Victoria area to volunteer at the excavation of site 41VT141 and to process artifacts at the Museum of the Coastal Bend. Braun recently coauthored a book with her friend Helen Shook on the flora of the Coastal Bend area that features the various uses of native plants in the region. The book is brilliantly illustrated with photos of native plants.

Bob Crosser from Fort Bend County also travels a great deal to assist at many sites throughout the state. With his skill in the use of conductivity surveying equipment, Crosser was invaluable at the Bryson-Paddock site in Oklahoma, as well as the TAS field school at the Stallings Ranch site in Lamar County. His recent induction into the stewardship network is a great addition to the program.

Bob Everett concentrates a great deal of time and effort on promoting Black History Month in Guadalupe County, and for several years he has led the ongoing investigations at the Wilson Pottery site in that county. The Wilson Pottery was a ceramic-production company of the late-19th century and early-20th century run by the Wilson family. Everett was instrumental in rallying the descendants to purchase and preserve the site. His efforts to protect this fascinating piece of black history in Guadalupe County are admirable.

Dick Gregg of Harris County is involved in excavations at the San Felipe de Austin site, continues to assist in the San Jacinto Battlefield research, and volunteers in the search for the site of Champ d'Asile. Gregg traveled to Oklahoma recently to assist in a ground conductivity survey at the Bryson-Paddock site. He also performed a ground conductivity survey of the Stallings Ranch site.

Johnney and Sandra Pollan of Brazoria County have been extremely busy with projects at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science and beyond. Besides their efforts at the museum, they are actively involved in the Brazoria County Antebellum Plantation Survey, assisting in both field research and archival research aimed at documenting all the plantations in Brazoria County.

Patti Haskins now adds research into historic Cherokee Indian cemeteries to her long list of activities. Haskins spent many hours conducting archival research in abstract offices, libraries, and museums over the past few months in an attempt to track down

information on the individuals buried in these cemeteries. She also continues to monitor several sites in her area.

Rick Proctor from Lamar County, a valuable new addition to the stewardship network, acted as the TAS Field School Camp Boss at the Stallings Ranch and was instrumental in securing the site as the location for the field school. Proctor is president of the Valley of the Caddo Archeological Society, which hosted the recent East Texas Archeological Conference in Paris.

Sandy Rogers of Walker County doesn't let the vast size of the state keep her from participating in archeological projects across Texas. She is involved in the San Jacinto Battlefield project and the

Brazoria County Antebellum Plantation Survey, as well as numerous other projects. Her connection to and knowledge of the Texas criminal justice system was instrumental in gaining access to sites on state prison farm properties for the plantation survey in Brazoria County.

Mark Walters of Smith County is acquiring a reputation as one of the most prolific site recorders in the state. Recording archeological sites is one of the most important activities stewards perform. Walters recently helped conduct a TAS academy on site recording in Tyler, which resulted in the documentation of four new sites. We wish him well in his recovery from quadruple bypass surgery on September 9. We hear he is doing fine.

Sunset Review of the Texas Historical Commission

The mission and performance of the Texas Historical Commission is currently being reviewed by the Legislature as required under the Texas Sunset Act. The Act provides that the Sunset Commission, composed of legislators and public members, periodically evaluate a state agency to determine if the agency is still needed, and what improvements are needed to ensure that state funds are well spent. Based on the recommendations of the Sunset Commission, the Texas Legislature ultimately decides whether an agency continues to operate into the future.

The Sunset review involves three steps. First, Sunset Commission staff will evaluate the Texas Historical Commission and, in January 2006, will issue a report recommending solutions to problems found. The Sunset Commission will then meet to hear public testimony on the agency and the recommendations of the Sunset staff. This meeting will likely be scheduled for spring 2006. Please refer to the Sunset Commission web site or call the Sunset Commission office for updated meeting schedule information. Based on public input and the Sunset staff report, the Sunset Commission will adopt

recommendations for the full Legislature to consider when it convenes in January 2007.

Through the Sunset review, every Texan has the opportunity to suggest ways in which the mission and operations of the Texas Historical Commission can be strengthened. If you would like to share your ideas about the agency, please contact Chloe Lieberknecht of the Sunset staff. Suggestions are preferred by November 4, so they can be fully considered by the Commission staff.

Sunset Advisory Commission
 P.O. Box 13066
 Austin, Texas 78711
 512/463-1300
 Fax: 512/463-0705
 Email: sunset@sunset.state.tx.us

Information about the Sunset process, including information on Sunset Commission meetings, can be found at www.sunset.state.tx.us.

THC Archeology Brochures Available



The Texas Historical Commission Archeology Division offers 10 educational brochures on topics ranging from "What Does an Archeologist Do?" to "State Archeological Landmark Designation: A User's Guide." A special folder designed to hold the brochures is also available.

Free. To request brochures, call 512/463-6090.

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