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HCAA NEWS



Rock art from the
Hatfield shelter 41KR493

Ladies, Gentleman & Children of All Ages

As the new HCAA President, I greet you with enthusiasm and believe that this year will continue to be of great archeological interest to our membership. Especially, as seasoned archeologists gather with the many "wannabees" like me to share and let us actually participate in locating and preserving really neat stuff for future generations.

Since I am somewhat new to HCAA and literally unknown to many, it is only through my having climbed up and down hills on a survey with Steve, dug holes in the ground with John, filled up holes in the ground with the "Queen Bee", and listened in the classroom to Brian and Joe talk about rocks and history, that it is hoped to someday make a small contribution to their efforts.

As we proceed together on this adventure, please know that these experienced professionals really like to brag in the true Texas style and share knowledge in either little bits or big slices. However long your attention span is - they will teach, and they really love it when questions are asked so they can tell you how much they know.

We look forward to visiting with you at the meetings and will provide a few tidbits next time.

Respectfully,

Ron Holm

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday

March 17, 2012

12:30 pm at

Riverside Nature Center



Main entrance gate of Presidio San Sabá as it looks today. This is what remains of the 1936 Texas Centennial Commission reconstruction. Photograph by Grant D. Hall

Presidio San Sabá

The story of Presidio San Sabá is the story of Texas. It is the story of contentions and competing interests. It is the story of the Spanish Colonial pursuits of God, glory, and gold, and of the struggle of Native American groups to thwart the foreign invaders.

Today the *presidio* (Spanish for "fort") lies in ruins, but it is not hard to imagine how it looked at its height in the mid-1700s, when it was home to more than 300 Spanish soldiers and civilians, some of them women and children. You can picture the soldiers practicing drills in the presidio's open courtyard while herders tended cattle and farmers worked the nearby fields. With imagination, you might catch a whiff of fresh-baked bread and meat roasting on a spit or hear children playing in the courtyard. But then, suddenly, the reverie ends with the shout "Fore!" followed by the sharp thwack of a metal club striking its target, and then the quiet thud of a golf ball finding purchase on the green.

Today, Presidio San Sabá lies just outside the town of Menard, Texas, at the western edge of the Texas Hill Country. The presidio sits amid Menard's Municipal Golf Course, not far from the clear, winding San Saba River. The standing stone ruins are evocative, but they are not from the original 1760 stone construction. Instead, they are the remnants of a past project to reconstruct the presidio. In 1936 and 1937, a crew hired by the Texas Centennial Commission and paid for by a grant from the Texas Legislature reconstructed the northwest portion of Presidio San Sabá as a tangible reminder of the past. These reconstruction efforts, relatively faithful to the design of the original presidio, began to deteriorate not long after their completion. Today they are just a ruin, another crumbling testament to Texas history.

(Texas Beyond History)

Fort Lancaster Historic Site

After the Mexican War, the U.S. Army was charged with the defense of settlements and with the protection of travelers through Western Texas. On August 20, 1855, Companies H and K of the First Infantry Regiment, led by Captain Stephen D. Carpenter, established Camp Lancaster on Live Oak Creek where they found plenty of clear water near the San Antonio-El Paso Road crossing of the Pecos River. Camp Lancaster was strictly an infantry post and was officially designated a permanent fort on August 21, 1856, one year after its establishment.

One of the most isolated posts in Texas, Fort Lancaster's only civilian activities were a sutler and a stage stop for mail. Soldiers maintained the post, patrolled and protected the road, and occasionally came in contact with Native Americans. Soldiers constructed the permanent buildings at Fort Lancaster with a combination of limestone blocks and adobe. Stone was used for the foundations, corners, chimneys and sometimes the gable ends of the structure. Adobe bricks were laid in courses to form the walls. Exterior surfaces were plastered smooth, scored to resemble dressed masonry and then whitewashed. The buildings were generally thatched with grass cut from the area, although a few were built later with wooden shingles. During the days preceding the outbreak of the Civil War, the U.S. Army abandoned Fort Lancaster, ordering the evacuation of all federal troops in the state. Delayed by a lack of transportation, the soldiers of Company K at Fort Lancaster finally abandoned the post on March 19, 1861. For a time, Confederate troops attempted to maintain the frontier defense. The forts along the Lower San Antonio-El Paso Road were manned by companies of the Second Regiment, the Texas Mounted Rifles, under Col. John S. Ford; however, a revised defensive system in 1862 left Fort Lancaster and other far western forts deserted for the remainder of the war. It was revived in 1867 when Fort Lancaster began serving as a sub-post for the Buffalo Soldiers' 9th Cavalry assigned to Fort Stockton. In December 1867, more than 100 soldiers and officers held off roughly 1,000 Kickapoo

with only three casualties. Today, Fort Lancaster remains the only Texas fort that



was attacked by Native Americans.

In its six years of occupation on the cusp of the Civil War, this frontier fort on the San Antonio-El Paso Road saw mail, settlers and even army camels pass through. Reoccupied in 1867, it became the only Texas outpost attacked by Indians. Ruins of barracks and more remain today. Fort Lancaster's 82 acres preserve the remnants of one of four posts established in 1855 to protect the overland route between San Antonio and El Paso. Visitors can explore the ruins, imagining the once-impressive establishment of 25 permanent buildings—including officers' quarters, barracks, a blacksmith shop, hospital, sutler's store and bakery—and enjoy the sights, sounds and wildlife of this real place in West Texas.

Surrounded by the wide open spaces of West Texas, Fort Lancaster State Historic Site, a [Texas Historical Commission](#) property, sits between Sheffield and Ozona in Crockett County. It was one of several frontier posts that played an important role in westward expansion by providing escorts for mail carriers, wagon trains and settlers on the San Antonio-El Paso Road in route to California. Today, the site contains the ruins of what once constituted a sizable military installation as well as an interpretive trail and a visitors center with exhibits and a gift shop. Self-guided tours of the fort are available along with picnic areas. The 82-acre historic site was opened to the public in 1969. It was designated a State Archaeological Landmark in 1983 and is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Archaeological excavations from 1966 and 1971 yielded the discovery of artifacts indicating that prehistoric Native Americans lived at the site around 1,000-8,000 years ago. **Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Admission charge applies. Eight miles east of Sheffield off I-10 on Texas 290.**

**FIELD WORK GETS UNDERWAY
FOR THE 2012 SEASON**



Steve Stoutamire

Field work has begun for the HCAA 2012 season according to Steve Stoutamire, chairman of the HCAA field committee. Bryant Saner and Stoutamire recently checked a previously recorded midden site on Harper road near Kerrville for recent erosion and looting activity.

Both activities appear to have damaged the midden and Saner has reported this to Al McGraw, archeologist for the TexDOT. McGraw will determine if the site needs future maintenance work to further preserve it.

New site work was done on March 1 in Medina County at the Dead Man Hollow Ranch owned by Penny Bryant,



HCAA member and Treasurer and News Letter Editor

for the HCAA. Three sites were identified and surveyed by a team of HCAA members. All three sites are surface lithic scatters and one has an additional quarry (lithic procurement) element. The three sites have been given temporary field identification numbers of HCAA-ME-1, HCAA-ME-2 and HCAA-ME-3 and, should



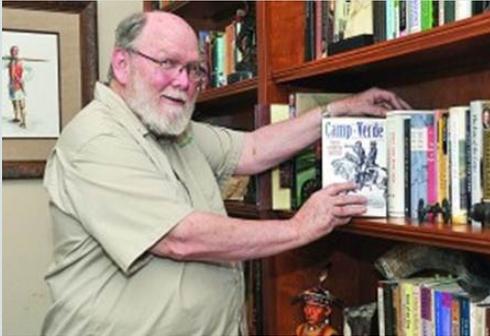
the owner desire, these will be converted to trinomials when recorded with the State of Texas. The ranch also has the distinction of containing an unmarked grave of a Texas Ranger who was killed approximately 1861

*Gower or Baker
dart points from
HCAA-ME-2
(field ID)*



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SPEAKER FOR MARCH 17 HCAA MEETING



Joe Luther is the author of the well-received new book – *Camp Verde: Texas Frontier Defense* – that was just released by The History Press this month. He has affectionately donated 10 copies to the Hill Country Archeological Association and they are for sale here at our meeting today. He will be pleased to inscribe a copy for you.

Joseph Luther is a sixth-generation Texan who lives in Kerrville, Texas. He is a BNR Kerrvert, graduating from Tivy High School in 1961. He then went off to see the world. He came back home to retire in 2005. Much happened along his journey. He flew 192 combat missions as a flight medic with an Air Rescue Detachment in Vietnam, he is a life member of the USAF Air Commando Association. He has travelled and taught in much of the world. He was involved in at least six great bar fights of note on three continents before settling down. He earned his doctorate at Texas A&M University and is a professor emeritus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he taught for twenty-three years, serving as associate dean of the College of Architecture. He also taught for ten years at Eastern Washington University. Joe was a nationally-recognized west-coast environmental analyst and wrote the environmental statements for several world's fairs, including Los Angeles, Spokane and Knoxville. An enthusiastic avocational archaeologist and historian, Dr. Luther is a member of the Hill Country Archeological Association and is their web master (hcarcheology.org). He is also an active member of the Texas State Historical Association, the Texas Archeological Society, the South Texas Archeological

Association and the Historical Archeology Association. Dr. Luther is a correspondent to the Kerrville Daily Times and has written a number of articles about local history.

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On March 7 John Benedict acted as Principal Archeologist leading another group of HCAA members as they surveyed three sites on a ranch in Kendall County. All three sites appear to be occupation areas that have been extensively disturbed by historic agricultural activity.

These three sites have been given temporary field identification numbers of HCAA-KE-2, HCAA-KE-3 and HCAA-KE-4. At least one site may be a burned rock midden site. All three of these will be recorded with the State of Texas and receive official trinomial ID's. Additional work is still planned on this ranch and John will be notifying members of dates for the next site visits.

Stoutamire said that the HCAA has a reasonable inventory of areas to survey and a sustained effort will be put forth this year to map and record as many of these as possible. New areas continue to be added to this inventory as private property owners hear of the HCAA's reputation and ethics and therefore request site surveys.

We have the possibility of a much better field season this year because we now have a reasonable number of HCAA members who are trained well enough in field and lab methods to act as Principal Archeologists, that is, supervisor of field teams and head of report creation and recording procedures, said Stoutamire. He also said that a new group of adult HCAA members are undergoing a 6 part training course to become proficient in field and lab methods. These people will also be qualified to act as PA's when fully trained, if they so choose.

Who Are Archeologists?

Archeologists are anthropologists, meaning they study people, but they are not geologists (who study rocks and minerals) or paleontologists (who study very ancient reptiles). Archeologists look at old things and sites to investigate how people lived in the past.

field crews Excavators + an excavation = A field crew

A field crew is the team of people who excavate sites. Many archeologists on field crews have lots of experience and excavate as their job. They might have a graduate or doctoral degree in archeology. Many archeology projects have field crews who are new to archeology, like students and volunteers, who want field experience.

collections specialists Artifacts + analysis = Collections specialist

Also called curators and archeological technicians, collections specialists take care of excavation records and artifacts. Collections specialists work everywhere archeological collections go, including museums, historical societies, colleges and universities, and parks. They help to preserve archeological materials and work with researchers and the public.

zooarcheologists Animals + archeology = Zooarcheologist

Zooarcheologists study animal remains, or fauna, from archeological sites. Their work shows what people ate, the animals they hunted and raised, and about their health.

underwater archeologists Scuba diving + archeology = Underwater archeologist

A little water won't stop archeologists! Underwater archeologists use **similar methods** as landlubbing archeologists. They excavate everything from rock shelters to abandoned ships to **airplanes**. Their work tells us about seafaring life and culture, such as war or the cargo carried for trade on shipwrecks.

historical archeologists History + archeology = Historical archeologist

If you like to read family records, diaries, letters and maps, historical archeology might be for you. Historical archeologists compare **documentary sources** with what they find at sites. Sometimes they find the actual events or artifacts described in the texts hidden in the ground.

environmental archeologists Nature + archeology = Environmental archeologist

Environmental archeologists look for answers about the relationships between the Earth and people. They look for **ecofacts**—natural remains—such as those of wild and domesticated **plants and animals** found in the archeological record.

geoarcheologists Geology + archeology = Geoarcheologist

Geoarcheologists look at the changing relationships between people and rocky places over thousands of years. Geoarcheologists tell us about what earlier landforms were like and how people may have used them.

oral historians Talking + listening = Oral historian

Archeologists talk with people to learn about what they remember about growing up in a place, how they lived and worked, and how they used the objects archeologists dig up.

What about site names and numbers?

from Texas Beyond History

Q. Do all archeological sites have names and numbers?

A. Today when an archeological site is formally recorded by a legitimate archeologist, it is always assigned a unique site number, and may or may not have a name.

Most archeologists name the sites they excavate or study in detail. Sites are named for landowners, landscape features, and various other namesakes and the names may not be unique or easy to reference. In Texas alone, for example, there are dozens of sites that have the name "Smith" as part of the site name. But many sites never get named—during a large archeological survey hundreds of sites may be recorded, most of which are never excavated. So to keep track of all the sites archeologists identify, we use individual site numbers.

Since the 1950s archeologists in Texas have assigned a unique number to each site they record using a simple and flexible numbering system developed by the Smithsonian Institution that is known as the **Smithsonian Trinomial System**. In brief, each site is assigned a three-part number that gives the site a unique identification number that avoids confusion between site localities. This site number is used on all site records, field notes, and collection bags and is a critical reference.

For example, the famous site now under Amistad Reservoir known as **Arenosa Shelter** is formally known as **41VV99**. Texas was the 41st state at the time the Smithsonian Trinomial System was devised. VV stands for Val Verde County. And, Arenosa was the 99th site officially recorded in Val Verde County, Texas.

Nonetheless, serious students of archeology who seek further information about a particular site need to know the site number because that is how all the site records and collections are stored at archeological repositories such as the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), publisher of this website. To make cross-referencing easier for the serious readers, we sometimes provide site numbers in parenthesis. Or, in cases where all of the sites being discussed are clearly in Texas, we drop the "41" and give an abbreviated version in parenthesis. For example, **Bonfire Shelter (41VV218)** or **Arenosa Shelter (VV99)**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Archaeology Magazine has an Interactive Dig website that "brings the excavations to you". You can "follow online as ancient civilizations are unearthed. Get full access to frequently updated field notes, Q&A with archaeologists, personal journals and more!" They also have information available on previous digs. You can find all the interesting sites available at <http://www.archaeology.org/interactive/>

Archaeological Institute of America has a website that lists fieldwork opportunities for students to attend field school, adults to volunteer and professionals to apply for staff positions.

<http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/afob>

Upcoming Events:

- Exhibition Opening:
San Antonio Collects: **Theodore Gentilz and Mission Life of San Antonio and Northern Mexico** March 2 through May 20, 2012
- **Archeology Fair at the Museum of the Coastal Bend on March 22-24.**
- The 48th Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies Symposium will be held in Iraan, Texas, on Saturday, April 14th. The Iraan Archeological Society (IAS) is hosting the 2012 SWFAS Symposium and other planned activities on this April weekend. Registration fee is \$10 per person.
- **Texas Archeological Society Field School - Jun 09, 2012 - Jun 16, 2012.** Devils River State Natural Area, south unit.
- **150th Anniversary of the Civil War at the Nueces River—Folk Opera, Memorial Service, Meal and Symposium.** August 10 - 11.
www.fortmartinscott.org

HILL COUNTRY
ARCHEOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

HCAA BOARD WILL
MEET SATURDAY
MORNING,
MARCH 17, 2012
AT 10:00 A.M. AT
RIVERSIDE NATURE
CENTER. MEMBERS
ARE WELCOME TO
ATTEND.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Help yourself and the HCAA while you shop for new and used books on all aspects of archeology. When you go to our HCAA web site, <http://www.hcarcheology.org>, you will find a link to Amazon.com to help you browse for and purchase books.

The link is: [Archeology Books Available Here](#)

A REMINDER

The HCAA is thankful that many landowners allow us to survey their property for archeological sites. We should constantly remind ourselves:

All artifacts found on their property belong to the landowner. HCAA members keep no artifacts.

If an archeological site is identified on the landowner's property, the location of the ranch should remain confidential.

We visit a property only with the owner's permission.

We do not hold a land-owner liable for injuries which occur while on their property.

We encourage and enjoy the participation of the landowner in our activities.

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE