



Tarrant County Archeological Society

President's Message

The brutal 100+ degree temperatures we have been experiencing make the thought of archeological field work less than desirable. August is historically a slow month for our activities and we still are awaiting a definitive update on the relocation of the Newberry Cabin in Parker County. The Doss Center has indicated that they would like to use the actual flagstone path on the backside of the cabin in an exhibit they are preparing for this Fall. We will need to finish mapping and excavating this area so the stones can be removed and transported to the center. Since the relocation date of the cabin has been changed several times, it will be good to get this area finished and the materials secured before they start dismantling the cabin and possibly damaging the pathway.

October 26th – 28th are the dates for this year's Texas Archeological Society's Annual Meeting. The location in San Antonio and the on-going 300th



Chris Meis, President

anniversary celebration for the city will make this year's annual meeting especially interesting. The meeting will be held at the historic Menger Hotel which has a special atmosphere of history and mystery. Being next door to the Alamo and just a short walk away from the Riverwalk make it that much more appealing. The Annual Meeting is a great way to hear fascinating presentations about Texas Archeology in concise 15 minute formats. There are concurrent sessions which mean you can roam from room to room depending on your interest. These sessions cover a wide-

variety of subjects and there are symposiums concentrating on specific topics or regional issues. This year the Journal of Texas History and Archeology is sponsoring an International Symposium: Colonial Roots of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Thanks to a grant from the Bob & Kathleen Gilmore Fund for Spanish & French Colonial Archeology, three Mexican scholars will be participating in this TAS Annual Meeting Symposium.

A significant part of the Annual Meeting fund raising comes from the Silent Auction proceeds. Please take some time to gather any items that are appropriate for the auction. You can get them to the Local Arrangements Committee or bring them with you to the meeting. Online registration is available at the TAS website (www.txarch.org).

The Doss Heritage and Culture Center curator, Amanda Edwards, will be our speaker in August. Amanda will give us her insight into artifact curation, cataloguing and labeling of archeological collections. You may learn that what we often do in the field is not what we

(Continued on page 2)

Connect with TCAS!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TCAS-Tarrant-County-ArcheologicalSociety>



Website: www.tarrantarch.org

Email: info@tarrantarch.org

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

should be doing, so make plans to learn from her.

We appreciate those members who volunteered at the last minute so we could have refreshments at last month's meeting. The refreshment table is important for the social atmosphere we foster at TCAS but we need others to take their turn in providing goodies. As always, thanks to Mike Shannon for hauling the coffee supplies back and forth and covering that side of the refreshments for us.

Hope to see you at our meeting on August 9th.

Thanks for being a TCAS member and supporter!

2019 TCAS Officer Election: Historian position open

The election for 2019 TCAS Officers will begin with nominations offered at the October 11th meeting, followed by voting by the membership at the November 8th meeting. Several of the current officers are available to serve for the next two-year term, which begins in January, 2019. There are, however, opportunities for those members who wish to become more involved in TCAS to volunteer to serve as officers. One of the available positions is that of the TCAS Historian.

Thanks to James Everett, the current TCAS Historian, for all that he does and has done to organize and preserve the history of the Tarrant County Archeological Society. His dedicated efforts to use the TCAS website as a tool to provide a view to the TCAS past is just one of his accomplishments. His work will certainly make it easier for the next Historian. What does the Historian actually do? Thanks to James for providing the following statement of duties:

The TCAS Historian should do the following things:

- **Collect TCAS materials that we do not currently have in the TCAS archives (e.g., paper copies of TCAS newsletters and fliers; copies of special publications; pamphlets that TCAS has used; photos of current and past TCAS projects and members)**
- **Scan/make digital copies of paper TCAS materials that have not already been digitized**
- **Provide a copy of newly digitized materials to the TCAS web site**
- **Update the inventory of paper and digital copies of materials that TCAS has**
- **Maintain the official TCAS archives (currently 5 small to medium plastic boxes)**
- **Periodically share extra copies of paper TCAS materials and new digital copies of newsletters and special publications with the Tarrant County Archivist**
- **Document TCAS history (e.g., names of early members, list of officers through the years)**

TCAS continues as a Society to support archeology because of you and your continued interest and involvement. Please let Chris Meis or James know that you are interested in volunteering to serve as the next TCAS Historian to preserve our past. Thanks!

Welcome to new TCAS members!

Welcome to our newest TCAS members: Meghan Betz, Reign Clark, Deb Larson, Laurie Hicks Larson, Alyssa Martinez, Gabriela Martinez, Isabela Martinez, Leroy Martinez, Amy Renfro, and Theresa Storto. We're delighted that you have decided to join TCAS and look forward to getting to know you!



August Speaker: Amanda Edwards

The **TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (TCAS)** will welcome Amanda Edwards, Curator, as the featured speaker for the August 9th meeting. TCAS meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.



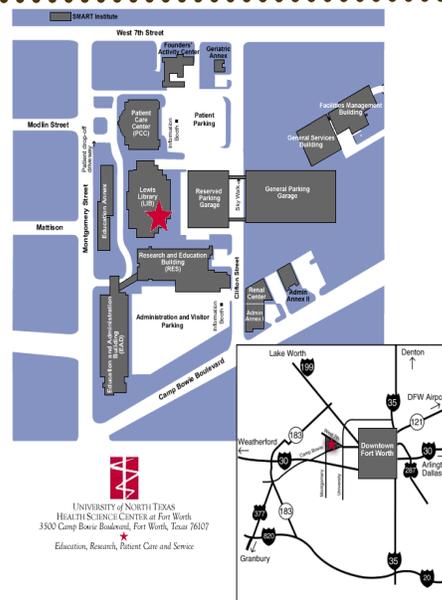
Bio Amanda Edwards is the Curator at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center. She graduated from George Washington University in Washington D.C., with a Master's in Museum Studies, concentrating on exhibition development. She has a Bachelors in History from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. She has interned and completed fellowships at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and Air and Space Museum. She lives in Parker County with her husband and two year old son.

Topic From Dig to Display: Cataloging and Labeling Archeological Collections

Abstract What happens when artifacts are given to a museum after an archeological dig? How are they labeled, classified, and stored? What makes an artifact a good candidate for display to the public? Amanda Edwards from the Doss Heritage and Culture Center (DHCC) will be exploring these questions and more through an in depth look at how a small to mid-sized museum handles archeological collections. Using examples from the

DHCC's permanent collection and examples from a recent dig at the Newberry Cabin we will explore the journey the artifact takes from the time it is excavated to when it is put on display for public viewing. By examining environmental concerns, preventative conservation, and artifact storage we will learn how to best preserve the artifact. We also look at ways in which artifacts help museum's bring history to life and why they are important to the exhibition process.

TCAS meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month (except June and December) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, in the Lewis Library Building, Room 110, near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street. Traveling west on I30 from downtown, take the Montgomery Street exit. Turn right on Montgomery and continue to the five-way intersection at Camp Bowie. Turn right onto Camp Bowie, followed by an immediate left onto Clifton Street. Continue on Clifton to Parking Lot "1" on your left (past the Parking Garage and Sky bridge). Park in the patient spaces (after 5:00 p.m.) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to Room 110 in the Lewis Library building.



Update: Donations being accepted for historic cemetery

Plans for Johnson Plantation Cemetery are shaping future for historic site

By Bill Perdue

Things are moving along, but as with most projects that have some government involvement, not as fast as one would like. We are working on a new name for the cemetery that would encompass all that it is. Some suggestions are: Arlington Historical Cemetery Grounds/ Garden/ Memorial Park. Any suggestions you may have would be welcome.

A final budget is not done yet as the designs for the memorial stele and the fence around the area it will encompass are not yet finalized. The cemetery is officially closed – no new interments will be allowed.

The Arlington Historical Society (who owns the property) is seeking donations for the project and donations are being accepted at the Fielder Museum. A plan is in the works to acknowledge all donors to the project. Due to all the individual projects still in the works, the tentative completion of the project is now slated for the Spring of 2019.

If you haven't been by the cemetery lately, please go by and see what has been done. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Update your calendar: TCAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

September 13th: Brad Jones, October 11th: Jeff Durst, November 8th: Dr. Ashley Lemke

News from Gault/Texas State University: humans were in the Americas long before Bering Land Bridge existed

A team of archeologists, geologists and independent scholars released a report in July that discusses the artifacts dug up between 2007 and 2013 at the Gault site. The research and documentation present findings that some of these artifacts are estimated to be 16,000 years old. Thomas Williams, Assistant Director of the Gault School of Archeological Research at Texas State, is credited as being the lead author. Members of the team of included Sergio Ayala and Elton Prewitt, who are both well-known in Texas archeology.

The original report, entitled "Evidence of an early projectile point technology in North America at the Gault Site, Texas, USA," was published in the July 11, 2018, issue of *Science Advances*, Vol. 4, no. 7.

Thanks to Catrina Whitley and Elton Prewitt for providing this link: <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/7/eaar5954> The Power Points, photos and charts available in this report are a big plus.

Another take on the story is provided in an article entitled "Ancient tools found by Texas State archaeologists could change understanding of history in America", which was published in the *San Antonio Express News*. The article, written by Chase Karacostas and published on July 18th, is an interview with Thomas Williams and Nancy Velchoff, a co-author and Gault Project Director. The article is available at <https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/article/Ancient-tools-found-by-Texas-State-archaeologists-13085078.php>.

This article was also printed in the *Dallas Morning News*, Page 3B, July 23, 2018.

Sugar Land: Preliminary analysis indicates 95 unmarked graves are those of convict-laborers from Imperial State Prison Farm site

Note: Archeology news this summer provided a story about the work that is ongoing in Sugar Land, Texas. Bioarcheologist Catrina Banks-Whitley (TCAS VP, Projects, and TAS Secretary), and Reign Clark (TCAS member), archeologist and Cultural Resources Director, Goshawk Environmental Consulting, are part of the team working together to analyze and catalog the remains of those 95 bodies that were found buried two to five feet below ground on a site at the Imperial State Prison Farm. The graves are believed to be those of convict laborers who were leased to the sugar cane plantations. This story is also about the quest of Reginald Moore, a former prison guard, who “believed that the bodies of former slaves and black prisoners were still buried in Sugar Land’s backyard. ... For 19 years, he searched for their bodies, stopping just short of sticking a shovel in the dirt himself.” The following excerpts are from Meagan Flynn’s article, cited below.



The graves discovered near the site of a new school. (Fort Bend Independent School District), *The Washington Post*, July 18, 2018

Reginald Moore’s struggles to document the history of convict leasing and the plantations in Sugar Land are featured in a story by Texas Monthly at <http://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/sugar-land-slave-convict-labor-history/>

By Meagan Flynn. “Bodies believed to be those of 95 black forced-labor prisoners from Jim Crow era unearthed in Sugar Land after one man’s quest ” *The Washington Post*, July 18, 2018

At the site, the archaeologists found chains but uncovered few personal effects inside the graves save for a single ring. Of the roughly two dozen intact skeletons the archaeologists have analyzed so far, all had African American traits, bioarchaeologist **Catrina Banks Whitley** told The Post. They all appeared to be muscularly built, many with the same misshapen bones that indicate repetitive wear — indicating hard labor, she said. They were estimated to be as young as 14 and as old as 70.

“I think we’re going to be able to paint a very vivid picture of how these people lived and what they went through here,” Clark said. “This is a completely rare site. It’s going to change how we think about Texas history and how we think about ourselves and how we built this state, how all of us built this state.”

Watch Reign and Catrina on the video from **CBS News** at: <https://youtu.be/jUznbz1YmrI>

Click here to read Meagan’s article: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2018/07/18/bodies-of-95-black-forced-labor-prisoners-from-jim-crow-era-unearthed-in-sugar-land-after-one-mans-quest/?utm_term=.ef687057f795

Meagan Flynn’s article was also carried by **The Dallas Morning News**, Page 3B, July 22, 2018.

TCAS: Preserving the Past for the Future

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Catrina Banks Whitley
Vice President - Projects

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Bryan Jameson
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Newsletter Editor

Three easy and quick ways to pay your 2018 TCAS dues!

By PayPal: Complete the Application Form and pay online using your PayPal account at the TCAS website, www.tarrantarch.org

By mail: Complete the application below and mail it with your check to:
Tarrant County Arch Society, PO Box 24679, Fort Worth, TX 76124

In person: Give your dues and completed application to Lloyd Erwin at the monthly meetings.

August 2018

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (TCAS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Type of Membership and Fee

New _____ Renewal _____

Address _____

_____ Individual \$20 _____ \$10 USPS Mail Fee

City\State\Zip _____

_____ Family \$25 _____ \$10 USPS Mail Fee

Preferred Phone _____

_____ Student \$10 (**enrolled in grade school through college/university whose coursework is considered to be half time or more**)

Email Address _____

I want my newsletter delivered by _____ email or _____

_____ Contributing \$30 _____ \$10 USPS Mail Fee

by USPS mail. Thank you for choosing delivery by email.

_____ Optional Memorial Fund Contribution

Membership Term: January to December

Code of Ethics (signature required): I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ANTIQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICES OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature _____

Date _____