TIME CAPSULE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association 500 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469 281-342-6478 / FAX 281-342-2439 April 2019 A LEVO TATALO TO THE SOCIOLO TO THE SOCIOLO TATALO TO THE SOCIOLO TATALO TATALO

General Meeting: April 16, 2019. 7PM

Speaker: Dr. Gregg Dimmick

Topic: The Almonte Surrender Site at San Jacinto

Dr. Gregg J. Dimmick will address "The Surrender of Almonte at the Battle of San Jacinto." He will discuss the discovery of a Mexican army site 1 1/2 miles southeast of the San Jacinto Battleground. He will show the artifacts and the facts that eventually led the archeological team to conclude that it was likely the site of the surrender of approximately 300 Mexican soldiers who had fled the battleground. Dimmick will explain



how, as in this case, the archeological and the historical accounts seem to fit together smoothly.

Dr. Gregg Dimmick is a pediatrician, a published author, and an avocational archaeologist who has also co-authored two archaeological reports on excavations of the retreating Mexican army of 1836. He has participated in archaeological digs at the Fannin battle site as well as the San Jacinto battlefield.

Dimmick is the author of: "Sea of Mud, The Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto, An Archaeological Investigation." Dr. Dimmick has appeared on the History Channel and the Discovery Channel in relation to his work on the archaeology of the Mexican army. He has spoken at various conferences on Texas History including the San Jacinto Conference, the DRT's conference at the Alamo and the Texas Philosophical Society. Dimmick has served for several years on the board of directors and as chairman of the archeology committee for the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy.

Location: Gus George Law Enforcement Academy - 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, Texas. Everyone is welcome - the program is free and open to the public.

FIELD NOTES: Current Field Site

By the time of our next meeting, we will be able to provide an update on the first anomaly. You won't want to miss it. Or, if you prefer, get active on the site. Several factors make it a great site for people interested in learning from experienced professional and avocational archeologists. An update will be provided at our next meeting.



How did the Brazos River get its name?

By John Rich

Article excerpted with permission from John Rich.

The Brazos is the 11th-longest river in the United States at 1,280 miles from its headwaters in New Mexico to its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico. It is also the longest river in the State of Texas at 840 miles, and drains a land area of 44,000 square miles, an area the size of the state of Pennsylvania.





Brazos River watershed

Brazos River tributaries

Originally, the Brazos River was called "Tokonohono" by the Caddo Indians of East Texas. This is known from preserved accounts of 17th century French explorer René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle (that's the name of just one person!). La Salle explored the Great Lakes region, the Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico. He is best known for a 1682 expedition in which he canoed the Mississippi River from the Illinois River down to the Gulf of Mexico, claiming the entire Mississippi River valley for France.

La Salle must have had trouble pronouncing the Caddo name "Tokonohono", because he instead named the river "Maligne". "Maligne" in French has numerous possible translations, which include things like; ghastly, appalling, detestable and abominable. You get the idea of the common theme here. La Salle obviously didn't care much for the Brazos River.

Later accounts from early Spanish explorers call it "Los Brazos de Dios", or "The Arms of God".

So, why did the Spanish choose to call it "Los Brazos de Dios"? There are several legends explaining why it was given this name, as follows:

The first and earliest story is that Spanish explorer Francisco Vázquez de Coronado and his men, wandering through Texas searching for the Seven Cities of Gold, were about to perish from lack of water. The Indians guided them to a stream, which the men then named Brazos de Dios for its life-saving water. But they never did find the Seven Cities of Gold.

Another account tells of a Spanish ship tossed about by a storm in the Gulf of Mexico that had exhausted its supply of drinking water. The sailors were parched with thirst, lost, and unable to determine which direction they should go to find land, when one of the crew noticed a muddy streak in the water. Yes, that's a good sign of the Brazos. The ship followed the streak to the mouth of a wide river, and sailed up the river, where the sailors drank fresh water and were saved. In gratitude they christened the unknown stream Brazos de Dios.

A third account occurs in the 1760's, when an extreme drought made it impossible for the Spanish miners on the San Saba to continue work. They had heard that the drought was even worse toward the south. So, they headed north-east toward the Waco Indian village where there was a never-failing stream. Many of the men and beasts died en route, and the precious bullion was buried, but the few who finally reached the stream named it Brazos de Dios.

And there you have it - that's how the Brazos River got its name. The common theme with each story involves the river being the first source of water fit to drink by desperate people in need of nourishment. Remember that theme, the next time you're cursing the Brazos' steep muddy riverbanks trying to get your canoe out of the river at the end of a paddle trip.

Wait... was that buried bullion ever recovered, or is that still out there somewhere?

Complete article can be found at <u>The Houston Canoe Club March Newsletter</u>.

Minutes from March 19, 2019 Meeting

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Gus George Academy in Richmond, TX. The meeting was called to order by President Jay Roussel at 7:00pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from the February 19, 2019 were circulated in the monthly newsletter sent by email and mail to all members. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was circulated in the newsletter. There were no additions or corrections. Treasurer's report accepted.

New Business:

- Bob Crosser reported on the Lamar Homestead site.
- Bruce Grethen was recognized for receiving the Bert E. Bleil Heritage Award for 2019.
- Jay Roussel introduced guests and new members Claudia Mena from Oaxaca, Mexico and John Dikeman studying Mayan Linguistics at UT.
- Jay Roussel spoke about the new sound system (which was in use during the meeting).
- Jay Roussel mentioned that volunteers are needed for the March 31st Brazos Heritage Festival which will be held at the Ft. Bend Museum from 1-5PM.

Old Business:

No Old Business

Program:

David Rose introduced our guest speaker Dirk Van Tuerenhout: How I spent my summers – Fieldwork in Belize and Guatemala

Meeting adjourned: 8:30pm

Treasurer's Report

April 1, 2019

Balance as of March 1, 2019

\$3,870.15

| 1932 | 3/26/2019 | VOID | | |
|------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 1933 | 3/26/2019 | Brody Gussert | carved trowel for speaker | 40.00 |
| 1934 | 3/26/2019 | FBHA | postage for April | 5.50 |

Balance as of April 1, 2019

\$3,824.65

Submitted by

Claire Rogers, Treasurer

Events

FBAS & HAS Meetings:

April 16: FBAS General Meeting: Dr. Gregg Dimmick - Matching the Archeology and History of the Almonte Surrender Site

April 18: HAS General Meeting: Jeffrey Girard, Discovery and Recovery of a 14th Century Dugout Canoe on Red River

May 16: HAS General Meeting Dr. Jason Barrett, Trade Trails and Meeting Locations in SE Texas Prehistory

May 21: FBAS General Meeting: Ron Ralph – Are you ready for the 2019 Field School in Palo Duro Canyon State Park??

JUNE – No meetings... See you at Field School!!!

HAS meets at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston FBAS meets at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy.

The FBAS meetings will be in Class Room 3 (SECOND FLOOR) of the Gus George Academy, 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, Texas

