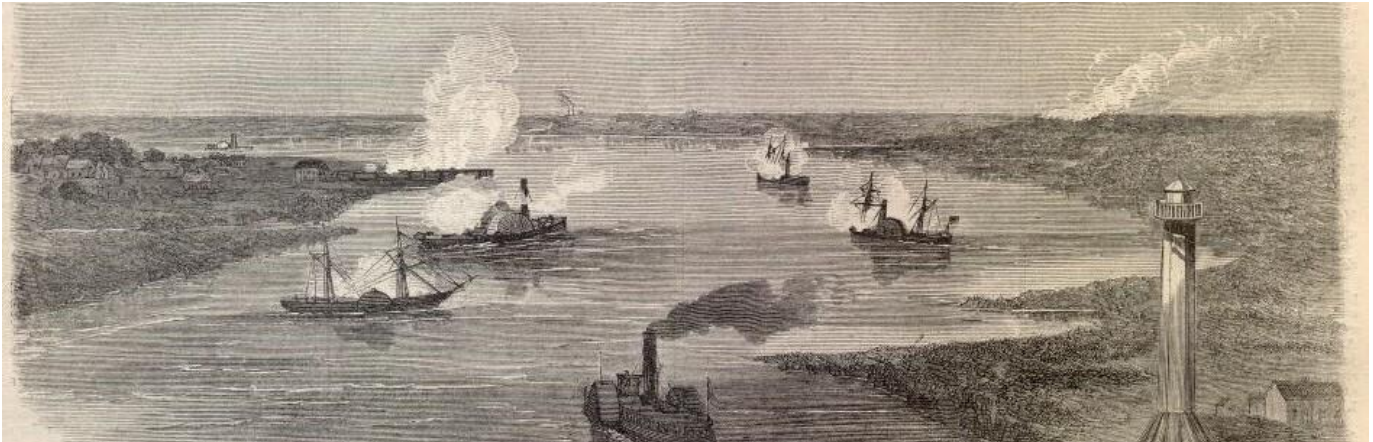


TIME CAPSULE

Newsletter of the **FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**
An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association
600 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469, 281-342-6478 ext. 1301
February 2023, Volume 31, Number 2



General Meeting, February 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

The battle of Sabine Pass, on September 8, 1863, turned back one of several Union attempts to invade and occupy part of Texas during the Civil War. The United States Navy blockaded the Texas coast beginning in the summer of 1861, while Confederates fortified the major ports. Union interest in Texas and other parts of the Confederacy west of the Mississippi River resulted primarily from the need for cotton by northern textile mills and concern about French intervention in the Mexican civil war. In September 1863, Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks sent by transport from New Orleans 4,000 soldiers under the command of Gen. William B. Franklin to gain a foothold at Sabine Pass, where the Sabine River flows into the Gulf of Mexico.

On February 21, **Ed Cotham** will speak on the subject of how Texas shipwreck archeology has affected his thoughts about the battle of Sabine Pass. Ed Cotham is the prize-winning author of many books and articles on Civil War history, particularly the battles and skirmishes in Texas. He is also very interested in nautical history and has served as project historian for several important Civil War shipwreck projects.

Meeting location: Fort Bend Museum, 410 S. Fifth Street in Richmond, Texas. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome - the program is free and open to the public.



Author, Ed Cotham

Save the Date After the February 21st presentation, our next scheduled guest speaker will be on May 16 when we host Texas archeologist Harry Shafer.

Field Notes

Excavation Site – After a few weather delays, FBAS volunteers continue to investigate a historic homesite close to downtown Richmond. Want to see the site in person? If so, join us one Saturday morning. We dig every weekend and welcome new volunteers or visitors who just want to watch.



Above left, we've confirmed we have found the southwest corner of what we believe is a root cellar from the mid-1800s. The dark colored soil is the undisturbed soil. The tan colored soil in the upper center of the photo is a 90 degree corner of room of some type. This is the third corner we've found so we now know where the fourth is, which tells us how big the room is. The top right photo is an example of what we discovered at the 40" level. It's not much to look at now but when its cleaned up you'll see it includes clear glass, a square nail, brick fragments and pieces of ferrous metal.

We normally don't leave several pits open but in this situation it is necessary. The 2x4s, plywood and caution tape are to help keep the site safe inbetween excavations. All of the rain has taken a toll on our sharp squared corners. All will be filled in very soon.





Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2023

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Fort Bend Museum, Richmond, TX.

In attendance were board members Paul Spana, Kevon Hunter, Rich Murphy, Bruce Grethen, and David Rose.

President Paul Spana, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes from December 20, 2022 - No objections, minutes stand as submitted.

Treasurer's Report - No objections, Treasurer's Report is accepted.

Old Business:

- Excavation work continues at the Lamar site. FBAS members continue to investigate possible root cellar at the Lamar home site.

New Business:

- Discussion of meeting structure changes for 2023. In person meetings with speakers will take place every quarter. Future in person meetings will be Feb 21, May 16, August 15, and Nov 14. Virtual Zoom meetings of the board will take place for all other monthly meetings.
- David Rose suggested having someone give a presentation on archeological techniques.
- Rich Murphy suggested inviting archeologist Reign Clark and a former professor from Rice University who has presented to the society in the past.

Announcements:

- Discussion on selection of speakers. Ed Cotham will present in February and Dr. Harry Shafer will speak in May.

Meeting adjourned around 7:21 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kevon Hunter

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of December 13, 2022 – last full meeting **\$5,425.05**

No debits or credits

Balance as of February 15, 2023 **\$5,425.05**

Submitted by
Claire Rogers, Treasurer