

TIME CAPSULE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association

500 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469

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January 2021



January 19, 2021. 7PM

Speaker: John Nova Lomax

Topic: The Songhunter Strikes Gold on the Brazos

Please join us to hear John Nova Lomax's presentation about his great-grandfather's work capturing American folk music for the Library of Congress.



John Nova Lomax

The Songhunter Strikes Gold on the Brazos: *John Avery Lomax's Musical Discoveries in the Depression Era Prisons of Fort Bend and Brazoria Counties.* Though you've probably never heard of John Avery Lomax Sr., you've almost certainly heard the songs he saved from oblivion. It was he who discovered and saved "Home on the Range," which he heard first from a drunken man in an alley behind a San Antonio saloon, and many another cowboy song on other trips, including "Goodbye Old Paint," "The Old Chisholm Trail," "Get Along Little Dogies," and "Sweet Betsy from Pike." In later years, among other song collecting trips for the Library of Congress, he toured Southern prisons and there met the singer and 12-string guitarist, whose release he won from Angola Prison in Louisiana, and who went on to immortality through songs like "Goodnight Irene" and "The Midnight Special," which, as it happens was in part composed right here in Fort Bend County, likely at Central Prison Farm, in the early 20th Century. In this

talk, John Lomax will discuss his great-grandfather's many amazing musical discoveries made in Fort Bend and Brazoria counties in 1933, some of which live on only in old recordings, and others which have remained astonishingly contemporary, recontextualized in innovative ways and taken to the very top of the pop charts by the world's most popular recording artists.

Bio: *John Nova Lomax* is a freelance writer currently living in Brazoria County. John spent eleven years at the Houston Press as a music editor and staff writer and received the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award in 2008. John's work has also appeared in the Texas Monthly, Spin, the New York Times, the Village Voice, and LA Weekly. John is also the author of *Houston's Best Dive Bars: Drinking and Diving in the Bayou City*, a guidebook to Houston dive bars, and co-author of *Murder & Mayhem in Houston: Historic Bayou City Crime, a compilation of notorious Houston crimes.*

Location: **Gus George Law Enforcement Academy** - 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, Texas.

Masks Are Required

Meeting Minutes from the December Meeting

FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes from December 15, 2020

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, Richmond TX. In attendance were ten members and one guest. Jay Roussel, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes from November 17, 2020: No objections, minutes stand as approved.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of December 11, 2020 is \$4,823.16. No objections, Treasurer's Report stands accepted.

Old Business:

- Paul Spana reported on the GPR work performed by FBAS members at the Bowser site 41FB03 in Fulshear and an update of the work at the Lamar site.
- Spana also reported there was no update on plans for conservation work of metal artifacts found at the Bullhead Creek Cemetery site.

New Business:

- Jay Roussel mentioned he would like the society to consider purchasing a better microphone for guest speakers.
- Jessie Roussel read the slate of officers for 2021. The candidates are Jay Roussel - President, Rich Murphy - Vice-President, Paul Spana - Secretary, Claire Rogers - Treasurer, David Rose - Board Member and Kevon Hunter - Membership Chair. Bruce Grethen and Dottie Allen will stay on as Board Members through December 2021 and December 2022 respectfully. Jessie Roussel motioned to vote as one by acclamation, Kevon Hunter seconded the motion.

Announcements:

- The next meeting will be held on January 19 at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy.

Presentation:

Roussel introduced Ross Arlen Tieken. His talk featured an overview of the agriculture, manufacture, and consumption of tobacco products in Texas.

Meeting adjourned 7:52 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Paul Spana

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of December 11, 2020				\$4,823.16
Deposit	12/17/2020	Loretta Pisegna	membership dues	20.00
Deposit	1/4/2021	Anna Marie Weller	membership dues	60.00
1959	1/7/2021	FBHA	postage - May, July, Aug, Oct - Dec	30.00
1960	1/7/2021	FBHA	Association membership for Weller	50.00
Balance as of January 13, 2021				\$4,823.16

Submitted by Claire Rogers, Treasurer