

TIME CAPSULE

THE 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 / FAX 281-342-2439

September 2021



September 21, 2021. 7PM

Topic: Investigations of Early Norwegian Settlers on the Texas Frontier Discover the Home of Cleng Peerson



The search for the home of Cleng Peerson, founding father of Texas's earliest Norwegian settlement in Bosque County, began when a curious landowner contacted the Texas Historical Commission (THC) History Division. Members of the Texas Archeological Stewards Network (TASN) began field investigations and consulted with staff in the Architecture and Archeology divisions. After extensive archival research and excavations, TASN members verified that Peerson acquired 320 acres outside of Clifton in 1859, had given 160 acres to Ovee Colwick in 1860 in exchange for a place to live and be cared for in his final years, and the landowner was indeed living on property that contained the remains of the

homestead. Excavations revealed the remains of a stone house with an earthen walled cellar. The floorplan aligns with the 1896 insurance documents of the Colwick home. Numerous family histories share the story of Peerson's commitment to the community and provide pictorial evidence of the various construction phases of the house through multiple generations of the Colwick family. In 2015, the homestead was nominated and subsequently listed to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) because of its potential to yield important information regarding the acculturation of a relatively isolated immigrant community which is underrepresented in the archeological record. A summary of the archival research, field investigations and NRHP nomination process will be presented.

Becky Shelton received her Master's in Anthropology from the University of Texas, Arlington in 2008. Currently Becky is a THC regional archeologist where she provides technical reviews on state and federal undertakings related to the Antiquities Code of Texas and Section 106. Within the Archeology Division, she works with landowners and consultants to preserve significant archeological sites and assists with providing protective designation. In addition, she assists in promoting Historic Texas Land Plaque program, handles public inquiries and requests concerning archeological issues, and coordinates with regional archeology societies. She also participates in archeological investigations, conducts site evaluations and analysis, and prepares reports on the results of these investigations.

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

Meeting Minutes from the August Meeting

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, Richmond TX. In attendance were 5 members and no guests. In attendance were Jay Roussel, Paul Spana, Tom Cutlett, Kevon Hunter and James LeGate.

Jay Roussel, President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes from July 20, 2021

No objections, minutes stand as approved.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of August 12, 2021 is \$4,778.29.

No objections, Treasurer's Report stands accepted.

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- No new business was discussed.

Announcements:

- President Jay Roussel talked about the search for speakers for the rest of the year. There is a speaker for September, none for October and Moore Archeological is planned for November. The society will host a holiday party for our final meeting in December.

Presentation:

Those in attendance listened to an online presentation called The Rise and Fall of the Teotihuacan with David Carballo.

Meeting adjourned 7:54 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Paul Spana

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of August 12, 2021 **\$4,778.29**

1970	9/14/2021	FBHA	postage - June - Sept 2021	20.60
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Balance as of September 14, 2021 **\$4,757.69**

Submitted by

Claire Rogers, Treasurer