

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
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Excavation Site Update

For the past year or more, we've been fortunate to experience favorable weather every Saturday. However, the recent heavy rain in January and the first week of February has inundated our excavation site. Despite the challenges, the FBAS archeology team managed some excavation, but our focus has shifted to cleaning and maintaining the pits. Despite the use of plywood sheets to cover the pits, the persistent heavy rain caused significant water erosion along the pit's sides.

Typically, we work on one or two pits, but this time, we aim to have both the east and south sides of the historic root cellar simultaneously exposed. Our goal is to showcase an entire corner of the root cellar's floor, including excavating its center. Although we have made significant progress in the cellar, we want to complete the excavation entirely.

The current swampy conditions and eroded walls have temporarily slowed our progress. Once the pits have dried out, we anticipate resuming excavation at a faster pace. Meanwhile, we are diligently cleaning up the pits without causing additional damage. All excavated dirt, including that eroded from the sides, undergoes thorough screening. Any artifacts discovered are meticulously recorded based on the originating pit. The upcoming page will feature some of the latest artifacts we've unearthed. Stay tuned for more updates on our ongoing archaeological exploration.

Paul Spana
FBAS President

Excavation Site Photos

We're currently exploring the root cellar of an historic home from the 1850s timeframe. Our hopes are to find artifacts from that era but much of what we find seems to be from the early 20th century, perhaps around 1920. Of course, it's exciting to find these items and makes the few we find from the 1800s even more special. FBAS volunteers dig every Saturday morning. Want a closer look? All are welcome to visit the site. You can join us or just come out to watch! Work begins almost every Saturday at 9:00 am.



It's fun to find a item such as a tool that is easily identifiable. The object shown in the top left image is a rasp or file. The rasp is about 32 cm or 12 inches long. The image on the top right is more of a mystery. It's about 20 cm or almost 8 inches long. It may be a piece of farm machinery but it's hard to tell. Maybe we'll find other pieces to help determine what it is.



The object on the left is an engine valve. Valves play a crucial role in engines, with some facilitating the intake of a fuel and air mixture, while others open to release exhaust from a cylinder following combustion. The right image shows two ceramic fragments. The smaller is white and undecorated. The more noteworthy fragment is the larger one. Handcrafted and notably thicker, it exhibits a distinct yellowish hue in its glaze. This shard corresponds with other discovered pieces identified as remnants of beer bottles dating back to the mid-1800s. Significantly, this aligns with the historical period of the house under investigation.

FBAS Online



For many years, the Fort Bend Archeological Society (FBAS) has been sharing weekly updates through its group page on Facebook. Those who follow the group on this social media platform may have observed a significant drop in activity. Unfortunately, the site fell victim to hacking and has been forcibly shut down by Facebook. Although the page is still accessible online, our team has lost control of the account. We are actively working towards restoring access, but the process of making an appeal seems nearly impossible. If efforts to regain access to the group page prove unsuccessful, we may need to initiate a new one. Please stay tuned for further updates.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of January 11, 2024 **\$6,597.56**

No activity in this period

Balance as of February 12, 2024 **\$6,597.56**

Submitted by
Claire Rogers
Treasurer