

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

March 2023, Volume 31, Number 3



Archeology News

In addition to our excavation projects, the Fort Bend Archeological Society (FBAS) occasionally works at cemeteries. Several of the FBAS members serve on the cemetery committee of the Fort Bend County Historical Commission. Often times we are asked to help at a cemetery to locate unmarked graves. This is done without digging by using a ground penetrating radar. Recently, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) offered a free workshop on preservation work for cemeteries. A couple of the society's members attended the workshop, held at the Wharton City Cemetery, to learn methods and techniques for cemetery repairs.

Two historic gravestone specialists lead the active-participation, hands-on workshop. Participants learned gravestone repair and restoration techniques that cemetery caretakers can use both before and after a disaster. Participants learned to level, reset and make other repairs to historic gravestones in a historic cemetery setting.

The hands-on workshop was built on information presented in the THC's webinar series in 2022, which addressed fundamental actions cemetery caretakers can take to safeguard the valuable cultural landscapes under their care. The webinars and workshops are made possible by a grant from the National Park Service's Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund to address the consequences of 2017's Hurricane Harvey on historic properties in Texas.



Upcoming Meetings

Our next meeting will be a virtual meeting and will be held on Zoom. It will be a quick meeting and may only last about 15 minutes. We'll approve the minutes from the February meeting and take a look at the treasurer's report. We'll also share updates on our current field work. Everyone is welcome to join in to keep in touch with the group. We'll also have another virtual meeting in April. In May, we'll all meet in person again, a guest archeologist will talk about the prehistoric people of West Texas. **For next week's meeting, you can join us on Zoom.com using this code - Meeting ID: 738 1097 7167, Passcode: jjZa93.**

Field Notes

Excavation Site - FBAS volunteers continue to investigate a historic homesite near Richmond.

Want a closer look? We dig every Saturday morning and welcome all new volunteers - come join us, or just come out to watch!



After keeping several excavation pits open for a long time, it's time to fill them in. The pits, seen in the upper left, remained open while we studied a soil feature. We learned what we could from the excavation and began backfilling the pits for safety. A new 2' x 2' pit was opened a few feet away. Merrick and Don, pictured above right, stopped by to shoot a video of the day's excavation work. During their visit, they took the opportunity to learn some archeological techniques.

A couple weeks ago, we were surprised to find this small delicate ring pictured below. The ring band was broken and its stone was missing. Despite this, it was a rare find for our group. Later, we'll determine if it is pewter or silver. The design on each side is a single flower within a heart-shaped outline.





Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Fort Bend Museum, Richmond, TX. In attendance were 20 members and 2 guests.

President Paul Spana, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve minutes of meeting held on January 17, 2023

The minutes of the January meeting were emailed to members in advance of the meeting. There were no corrections or additions. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Accept Treasurer's Report: Financial statement for December 13, 2022

The treasurer's report was sent by email to members prior to the meeting. The balance in the account on December 13, 2022 was \$5,425.05. The financial report was accepted as written.

Old Business:

- Excavation work continues at the Lamar site. FBAS members continue to investigate possible root cellar at the Lamar home site. For an update of the excavation site, Spana showed slides of the most recent work.

New Business:

- Madeleine Calcote-Garcia was introduced to the society as the new executive director of the Fort Bend History Association.

Announcements:

- The next in person meeting will be May 16. The guest presenter is archeologist Harry Shafer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kevon Hunter, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of February 15, 2023				\$5,425.05
1989	3/2/2023	Paul Spana	Facebook ad for February meeting	-25.20
Balance as of March 15, 2023				\$5,399.85

Submitted by
Claire Rogers, Treasurer