

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FIELD SCHOOL is ON!

Welcome to Kerrville 2021!

June 12-19, 2021

**Tiffany Osburn, Chairman, Field School Committee,
and Erik Oksanen, 2021 TAS Field School Director**

This year, the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) invites members to attend the annual summer Field School along the banks of the Guadalupe River in Kerr County. Kerrville offers much to visitors year-round and will be the ideal location for the upcoming field school. TAS is being welcomed with open arms by the Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA), the City of Kerrville as well as Kerr County. [Online registration is open now!](#)

Camping

The TAS campground will be located within two adjacent parks; River Star Park (main campground) and Flat Rock Park. Registration, Meals, and Evening Programs will be held at the Pavilion in River Star Park. When you arrive Friday to set up your camp in the park or check into your hotel, come to the registration area to sign in and receive your name tag, crew assignments, and other

information. Unlike last year, these parks do not offer formal campsites with water and electricity. There are electrical outlets available throughout River Star Park for battery charging and other necessities, but these all will be shared between campers. Water will also be available in River Star Park near the main pavilion as well as a few

other locations in the park. River Star Park will offer the best security to TAS campers, this park is fenced entirely and will be locked to outsiders during the day and night. Jack Pool, our camp boss will be stationed near the Pavilion at River Star Park. Flat Rock Park is just downhill and adjacent to River Star Park right along the river's edge. This park

is not fenced but we should be able to control vehicle entry through a gate. No electrical outlets are available in this park. There are numerous shade trees in both parks but, as always, we encourage attendees to bring a shade shelter for use in camp or in the field.

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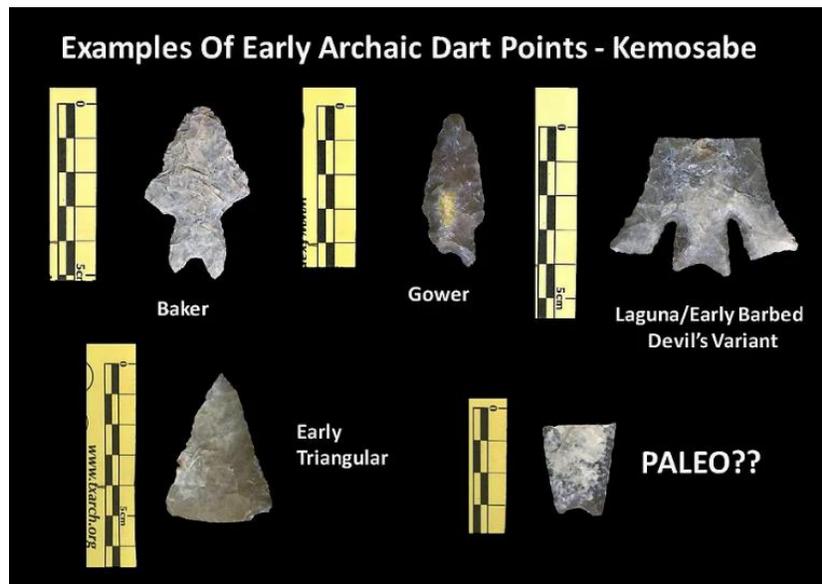


Photo courtesy Steve Stoutamire.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY® ETHICS

- Members of TAS must abide by all terms and conditions of the TAS bylaws and all Federal and State antiquities laws or regulations.
- TAS does not condone the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes.
- TAS does not condone the disregard of proper archeological field techniques or the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data.

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Office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9a.m. to 2p.m. During other hours please leave a message on the answering machine.

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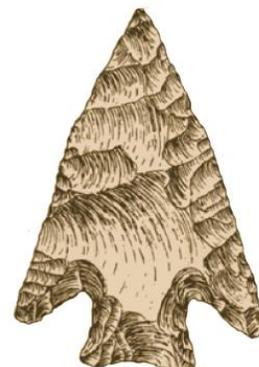
NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Friday, May 21, 2021 - Summer Edition
 Friday, August 20, 2021 – Fall Edition
 Friday, November 19, 2021 – Winter Edition

TAS BOARD MEETINGS

June 13, 2021 – by Zoom and in person at Field School
September 18, 2021 - TBD
October 22, 2021 - Annual Meeting, TBD

A digital version of this newsletter can be found on the TAS website: <http://www.txarch.org>.



(continued from page 1)

The cooking trailer will be conveniently located near registration at the Pavilion in River Star Park. Registrants may prepare their own meals, or our cooks will be serving breakfast and supper all week for paying customers. See the registration form to sign up for meals. Ice will also be available for purchase near the registration area. Portable toilets will be scattered throughout the campground and adjacent to the excavation areas. A trash container will be provided at camp for your use, so bag your trash and use the dumpsters.

Please see the [General Info and Camp](#) page for what to expect in camp, camp rules, suggested camp equipment and a general daily schedule. The camp boss or designee will remain in camp at River Star Park during the day to provide security.

Nearby Lodging and Restaurants

As always, we encourage TAS members to camp at the arranged field school campground and join us for breakfast and evening meals. However, for those requiring alternatives, there are numerous hotels and other accommodations available in the Kerrville area. Please visit the Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau website at www.kerrvilletexascvb.com for links containing a wealth of information about accommodations, dining, and "things to do".

2021 Field School Activities

Other activities include evening lectures, workshops, flintknapping demonstrations, the Archeolympics competition, and of course the Wally margarita party with live music by local band, *Exit 505*. Also, teachers receive CPE credit hours for most Field School activities including afternoon and evening programs (please indicate your interest on the registration form).

On Thursday evening of field school, the TAS will host an artifact identification night and public presentation for the local community. Professional and avocational archeologists will be available to provide artifact type identifications and other information about private collections. We encourage everyone to come and talk with the archeologists about their artifacts and the unique history of the Kerrville area! This event will take place at the Pavilion at River Star Park.

Archeolympics 2021

All are invited to compete in the fifth annual field school Archeolympics on Wednesday. Archeolympics are a series of games and activities designed mostly to test knowledge of tasks, or skills, that prehistoric people relied on for daily survival, such as hunting skills and fire starting. This event is all about having fun and learning about ancient lifeways. This year we will have three primitive skill events, Friction Fire Starting, Atlatl and Rabbit Stick throwing. We may also have a couple of other events, Cordage Making and 1-x-1 m Unit Layout.

Sign-up sheets will be available during Field School and we look forward to having lots of folks give it a try. Winners will receive award certificates.

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For fire starting, participants must provide their own spindle, hearth board, and kindling. Both hand and bow drills are fine and the first person to produce a visible flame will be the winner. Rabbit stick throwing will have two categories, youth 12 and under and adult 13 and over. Soccer balls will be used as targets simulating small game and scoring will be for accuracy. Rabbit Sticks will be provided but you may bring your own. The Atlatl competition will be divided into novice and skilled classes. We will probably have enough darts for all but if you have an atlatl and darts, please bring them. There will also be a team contest with 2-5 person teams. Targets will be set up on hay bales and again, accuracy will determine winners. If you have your own atlatl or darts, consider bringing them. Sign up will be available at registration. Several instructors will be available to help you practice to win!

The Archeology

The subjects of archeological investigation are rich this year. The primary Field School goal will include

excavation of a prehistoric archeological site on a terrace of the Guadalupe River and the historic component will excavate and map a historic community dancehall and one room schoolhouse. The [Youth Group](#) will have an exciting excavation area as well at the main prehistoric site. As always participants can choose to spend the week conducting [historic excavation, prehistoric excavation, survey, or lab](#). The survey option offers the opportunity to discover new archeological sites and learn proper recording techniques on nearby ranches while the lab participants will help process the volumes of artifacts as they come in from the field excavations. The dates for the 2021 Field School will be June 12-19. We know this will be a field school to remember!

Burned rock, lithic debitage, and the occasional tool projectile point, are visible on the surface where the oldest diagnostic artifact, a Late Paleoindian dart point (ca. 8,500 years B.P.), and the youngest, an arrow point (ca. 800 B.P.) were recovered. However, the significance of the site lies beneath the surface, where HCAA have recorded archeological deposits spanning the Archaic (ca. 8,500-1,200 B.P), beginning with an Early Archaic hearth, dated with charcoal to ca. 7,400 years B.P., and associated Bandy dart point. *(continued, page 5)*

Excavation Area



(continued from page 4)



Backhoe Trench through Main Midden. Photo by Steve Stoutamire.

The Early Archaic was a period of climatic transition to which the inhabitants of Central Texas adapted by adopting new foods and cooking methods. We see this at the 41KR744-Kemosabe Site- with the numerous rock hearths and evidence of earth ovens, a cooking technique requiring long periods of cooking, access to limestone, and firewood. This tradition continued for thousands of years, culminating in the creation of at least four burned rock middens. The surrounding environment contains abundant resources for the inhabitants-a variety of plants and animals, water, limestone and access to a variety of excellent chert deposits in rounded and tabular cobbles and chunks. This chert was used to make tools for use at the site and elsewhere. We know people traveled and traded across regions in Texas and beyond, and that Hill Country chert was carried or traded long distances from the source. Rivers such as the Guadalupe may have served as travel corridors between the Central Plains and the Texas coast.

Having a record of human activity and environmental data spanning thousands of years, allows us to explore changes through time at one location. At many Central Texas sites, thousands of years of occupation are intermixed and it is difficult to associate material and features with a distinct moment. At the field school, we will investigate a range of Archaic occupations represented in the buried deposits, with discrete features providing opportunity to collect detailed information about climate and the environment,

technology, food, and social structure and interactions as snapshots in time.

Less than 800 meters to the east is the Gatlin Site (41KR621), excavated and analyzed from 2003 to 2008. The Gatlin Site is on the same terrace and is likely contemporaneous with 41KR744 and this gives us the opportunity to contrast and compare two locations. Initial comparison suggests the sites were used for different purposes.



Entrance to the Ranch from the River. All photos this page courtesy Steve Stoutamire.

Objectives of the 2021 TAS Field School:

Preserved distinct and discrete features are essential to creating an accurate cultural and paleoenvironment record. The field school investigations will:

- Integrate with the ongoing investigations and objectives of the HCAA
- Refine the depth and boundaries of the site.
- Refine the depositional history and physical characteristics of the site.
- Expand the existing excavation at the Early Archaic strata and sample Middle and Late Archaic components.
- Document and sample one of the middens.
- Collect associated data of the past environment and climate.



Don't forget to order your shirt!



<https://youtu.be/DP1x2VTkUtU>

First Timer? Catch the replay of Tiffany's Field School Discussion!

Campground area at River Star Park. Photo courtesy Steve Stoutamire.

Get your printable forms here:



FS Registration pdf.pdf



FS Legal Release.pdf



2021 TAS Field School Director

Eric R. Oksanen

I'm Eric Oksanen, the supervising archeologist for the 2020 Kerrville field school. When not at field school, I am a staff archeologist at the Texas Department of Transportation with 25 years archeological experience throughout Texas. My introduction to archeology was at the University of Toronto, where I studied history and archeometry and conducted my first field work – winter-time remote sensing surveys at First Nations sites and nineteenth century historic sites. I discovered archeology in Texas was a warmer paying job.

In 2003 I had the good fortune to join the first graduate class in Anthropology at Texas State University. In San Marcos at the invitation of Britt Bousman. I started class three days after the birth of our daughter, Elizabeth, whom I carried around campus and occasionally penned in a 1-x-1. Working for the Center of Archeological Studies (CAS), I conducted field work in Texas and in South Africa. My main area of research has been the Late Paleoindian transition to the Early Archaic. My thesis examined the Late Paleoindian and Early Archaic occupations at the edge of the Balcones Escarpment and the Blackland Prairie.

At SWCA, I spent two (!) years examining the extensive trove of data and artifacts from the Gatlin Site (41KR621), SWCA's data recovery excavations in Kerrville for TxDOT. The Gatlin Site is approximately 800 meters from the 2020 field school. Years later, after I joined TxDOT, Steve Stoutamire and the Hill Country Archeological Association were kind to host me on several occasions to lecture on the Gatlin Site. It was during one of these meetings that they showed me artifacts from a nearby property and introduced me to the owner, Marvin Gohlke. Marvin's site had similar diagnostics and sediments but several significant differences. The enthusiasm of the HCAA and Marvin's stewardship of his property were key factors for accepting the role of field school archeologist. As a TxDOT archeologist, Marvin's backhoe was another enticement.

I currently live in the hinterlands between Buda and South Austin with my wife, Alison, and our five children,

Monica, Elizabeth, David, Sarah Jane, and Violet, some cats, and a guinea pig. My spare time is spent experiencing our fine state highway system between Buda, north Austin, and San Marcos. Any remaining spare time is then used making vegetarian lomein and fried rice, and washing dishes.



2021 TAS Field School Director Erik Oksanen at work in the field. Photo courtesy the author.

SEE Y'ALL IN JUNE!

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

92nd TAS ANNUAL MEETING

To be Held October 22-23, 2021, Houston, TX

**Jason W. Barrett and Jon C. Lohse, 2021 TAS
Annual Meeting Program Co-chairs**

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for posters, papers, and symposia to be presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society to be held October 22-23, 2021. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, and professional archeologist members on any topic of archeological interest. According to TAS policy, all presenters must be TAS members and be registered for the meeting. The Registrar and Program Committee will ensure membership compliance.

The TAS Board is committed to the safety of our members during the Covid-19 pandemic. The 92nd Annual Meeting will be held in an online format to help ensure participant safety while Covid limits in-person gatherings and complicates the logistics of travel. **The Local Arrangements Committee and the TAS Board are working diligently to provide an option for having some “in person” symposia and other events, depending on the future state of the pandemic.** These details will be forthcoming, but our hope is that registrants will have the opportunity to attend an “in person” meeting with “virtual synchronous” attendance as an option as well.

Presenters should be prepared to deliver their papers or posters virtually; these will either be pre-recorded in advance or presented during live sessions. Presenters will be notified with options and instructions closer to the date of the conference. All presentations must adhere to a 20-minute time limit. A virtual platform allows TAS members who register for the conference to move virtually from program to program to attend talks of interest, with live “Q&A” sessions. The final deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is September 1, 2021.

Symposia may be organized around any topic, area, major project, and/or time period. All symposia will be limited to four papers due to platform limitations.

Symposium organizers must ensure that all abstracts for symposia and symposium papers meet an earlier deadline of August 15, 2021.

Poster presentations can effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information and posters reach a larger audience than oral papers. Members are encouraged to consider poster presentations as an alternative to papers. All posters will be uploaded to a virtual bookroom, and opportunities for poster presenters to engage an audience live and/or in person for questions and comments are being explored. Poster abstracts must be received by September 1, 2021.

Other presentation formats such as panel discussions and demonstrations must receive prior approval from the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers. Alternative presentation formats require additional planning, so proposals for such presentations must be received by August 8, 2021.

Proposals must be submitted through the Program Co-Chairs. Please include the proposed format, whether the presenter prefers in person or virtual attendance, and whether the paper is part of a symposium. All abstracts, posters, symposium, or demonstration proposals should be emailed to am-papers@txarch.org.

Contact the Program Co-Chairs with questions about submission dates, formats, and/or equipment. Authors will be notified in early to mid-September if their paper has been accepted for presentation. We look forward to your contribution to this year’s meeting, and we thank you for your patience and flexibility as we coordinate a meaningful and effective meeting in the safest and most efficient manner possible.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

To sharpen conference standards and stimulate session impact, the Program Co-Chairs recommend these guidelines for poster presentations.

<http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/upload/how-to-create-anthropology-posters.pdf>

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS NO. 6 AND NO. 7 SOON TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM TAS

Timothy K. Perttula

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) has been working hard to see that reports on past Field School investigations are being completed and published for the membership and all those interested in Texas archeology. Special Publication No. 6 and Special Publication No. 7 will soon be available for purchase and distribution.

Special Publication No. 6 (Figure 1), xx + 224 pages, by Tamra Walter concerns Texas Tech University (TTU) archeological investigations at the site of Presidio San Sabá (41MN1) from 2000 until 2011. Beginning in 2003, the TAS assisted with the excavations and held the first of three summer field schools at the site, the others in 2004 and 2007. With the TAS help, large-scale excavations were made possible. Excepting the northwest corner where a 1930s reconstruction of the fort impeded investigations, excavations were done in all areas of the site, including the presidio plaza/interior, the corral area along the outer southwest corner of the fort, masonry structures along all four presidio walls, and the southeast and northwest bastions.

This publication details the findings of the TTU and TAS archeological research that took place from 2003 until 2011. The primary goals for the 2003-2011 field research included the investigation of extant architectural features, the identification of architectural changes over time, and the recovery of data that could potentially shed light on presidio daily life. An overview of the excavations, historical background, and archeological investigations is provided along with detailed descriptions of the material remains collected during the 2003-2011 excavations. A summary of these findings follows and the research goals are addressed in light of

discoveries made during the more than 10 years of archeological enquiries at Presidio San Sabá.

Archeological Investigations at Presidio de San Sabá, 41MN1, Menard County, Texas



Tamra L. Walter, with contributions from Arlene Fradkin, Thomas R. Hester, and Michael D. Glascock

Volume edited by Timothy K. Perttula, Publications Editor,

Special Publication No. 6

Texas Archeological Society

2021

Figure 1: Cover of Special Publication No. 6.

Special Publication No. 7 is by Cristin Embree (Figure 2), and it is an estimated 130 pp. in length (awaiting formatting). It deals with the findings of the 2001 and 2002 TAS youth group excavations at the Williams-Buck Homestead (41WM272). Investigations focused on an area near a dogtrot structure built by William W. Williams between 1850 and 1851. The primary goal of the work was to determine whether or not the excavation area was the location of a temporary habitation, a possible lean-to structure, built by Williams in 1849. A secondary goal of the excavations was to obtain a sample of historic artifacts from the site. A total *(continued, page 10)*

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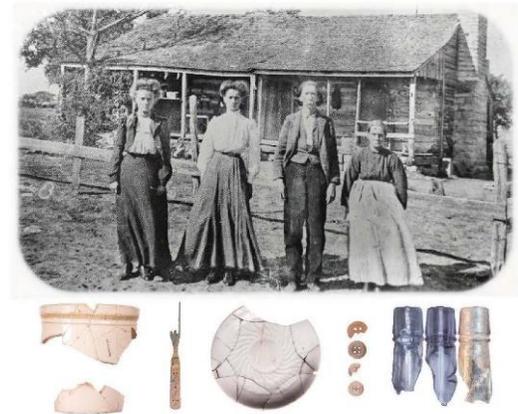
of 5,453 artifacts were recovered, dating from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, representing a spectrum of pioneer material culture.

Examination of the field notes and artifacts suggest the mounded excavation area likely represents a trash dump or midden deposit created by the Williams and Buck families that resided in the nearby dogtrot from the 1850s into the mid-twentieth century. None of the deposits excavated definitely date to the 1840s or early 1850s. Instead, the archeological materials associated with deposits date from the 1870s into the 1920s, with an intermixing of mid-nineteenth century artifacts that likely represent either heirlooms or curated material.

TAS members interested in obtaining one or both volumes should contact Lea Sanchez, Administrative Director (lea.sanchez@txarch.org), for ordering and pricing information. Special Publication No. 6 should be published in late January 2021, and Special Publication No. 7 in the Spring of 2021.

Archeological Investigations at the Williams-Buck Site (41WM272), A Mid-1800s to Early 1900s Settlement in Williamson County, Texas

Cristin Embree



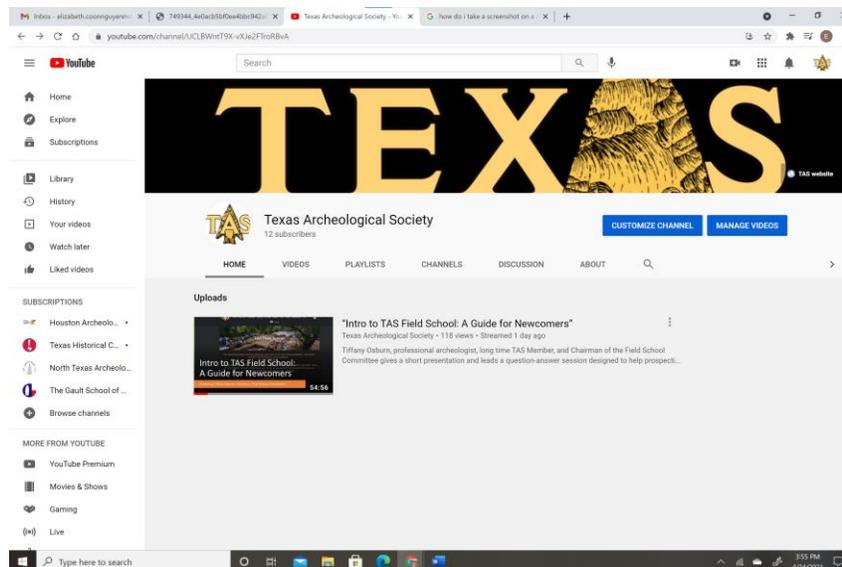
Special Publication No. 7

Texas Archeological Society

2021

Figure 2: Cover of Special Publication No. 7

Check out our new You Tube Channel! New programs and content are on the way!



NEW BOOK BY TAS MEMBER DAN WORRALL

Highlighting the Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas

Linda Gorski

TAS member Dan Worrall has released a new book on the prehistory and physical landscape of Southeast Texas entitled *A Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas: Landscape and Culture*. The book employs ArcGIS technology to couple a serial reconstruction of the paleogeography of the area since the peak of the last ice age with maps showing activities of Native American people and cultures on that landscape. Those maps employ a digital database, originally compiled by former HAS president Leland Patterson in the 1990s, which was updated to reflect the current status of HAS and other site studies of Southeast Texas. The book is a first comprehensive look at the combined physical and cultural development of the region, and contains 504 pages and over 350 full color maps, charts, and illustrations. Topics include serial paleogeographic maps detailing the effects of 125m of post-glacial sea level rise, and a reconstruction of the pre-European vegetal landscape.

- Compiled first person ethnohistoric accounts of the cultural practices of Bidai, Akokisa, and Coco peoples, written by early Spanish, French and Texian observers
- Extensive map analysis of projectile point distributions, with interpretation of residential and migratory hunting practices of people of several regional point traditions
- A map-based model of bison hunting on the Katy and San Bernard prairies from the Paleoindian through early Historic periods, including ethnohistoric accounts of the use of prairie fire

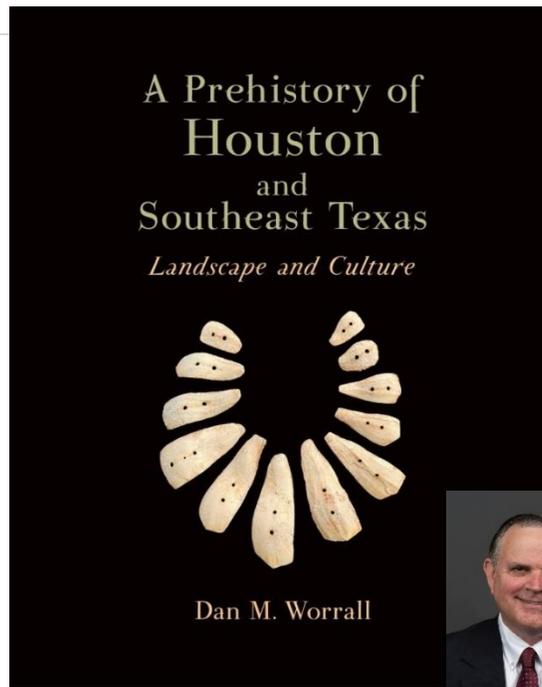


Photo of the author, Dan M. Worrall, and the front cover of A Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas. Courtesy Dan Worrall.



in bison and deer hunting and management in the early Historic Period

- Distribution maps of lithic artifacts and ceramic types
- Analysis of the extensive long-distance exchange network of the Late Archaic Lower Brazos culture, including regional distribution maps of boatstones, corner tang knives, and marine shell pendants, as well as a regional map of known Native American trails of the early Historic period.

Complimentary copies of the book have been placed at regional university libraries (Rice, UH, SFA, Lamar, TAMU, UT Tyler, SHSU), archeological center archives (TARL, UTSA-CAR, Louisiana Division of Archeology in Baton Rouge) and public libraries (HPL Houston Metropolitan Research Center as well as the Fort Bend County Library in Richmond). Retail outlets include Amazon [online](#) as well as local bookstores (Brazos Bookstore, Becker Books, and the museum shop of the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site in San Felipe). The retail price is \$65 plus tax.

The book has already received favorable reviews from many folks who have read it. HAS Member Ric Frasse gave the book a 5 star review and said: *This is an outstanding and comprehensive look at the ancient peopling of southeast Texas. This easily read, well-written work takes the many artifacts, analyses and fossils of archeological sites in the SE Texas/Houston region acquired over many decades which were lying in file cabinets, and presents them in coherent, chronological order in easy-to-read maps showing their spatial relationships over time. It further incorporates them into the paleogeography and paleoclimate of the region which was heavily affected by fluctuating sea level during this time. This comprehensive approach presents a remarkably clear, coherent and thoughtful picture of the hunting and collaboration among the various groups of Native Americans of the area reaching back 13,500+ years.*

DONATIONS- THANK YOU!

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Funding for organizational expenses has been provided to Texas Archeological Society from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

TxDOT ROADSIDE CHAT- TAKING TO THE FIELD

Teams of archeologists from TxDOT and Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, and volunteers from the North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) have been excavating two sites in Denton County. Site 41DN593, the Sartin Hotel Site, is the location of a hotel built in the 1870s and expanded in the 1880s by Jesse Sartin. Site 41DN617, Tom Cook's Blacksmith Shop, is the location of a blacksmith shop owned and operated from the 1870s until 1898 by Thomas "Tom" Cook, a formerly enslaved person who was brought to Texas from South Carolina. To start the investigations, archeologists cleared vegetation from the sites, mapped them, and performed remote sensing surveys to detect potentially buried features. These efforts aided in guiding the excavations. This work is part of TxDOT's environmental compliance for the FM 455 project, a road widening effort between the Sanger and Bolivar communities.

Sartin Hotel Site



Screening for artifacts. Photo courtesy of TxDOT.

Within the first few weeks of digging, archeologists exposed the foundation wall of the hotel and discovered the building's lightning rod, an ornamental twisted iron rod driven vertically 5 ft into the ground. The team found a small ceramic jug with the inscription

"COMPLIMENTS OF / CURTSINGER & BRO / BOLIVAR, TEX." The Curtsinger family operated a store in Bolivar in the late nineteenth century, and some descendants still reside in the area. Further hand excavations uncovered a hand-dug, stone-lined water well on the site. Numerous volunteers from NTAS aided in screening machine-excavated fill from areas all around the hotel foundation. A robust artifact assemblage from this site includes architectural items (such as door hardware) and ceramics and glass used for serving food and beverages.

These materials reflect the generally high social status of the hotel's guests. Learn more about the history of the hotel [here](#).



Whiteware from Sartin Hotel Site. Photo courtesy of TxDOT.



Excavations and hand-dug well at the Sartin Hotel Site. Photo courtesy of TxDOT.

Tom Cook's Blacksmith Shop

After hand excavations over several weeks, archeologists identified the location of the blacksmith shop as a broad area containing concentrations of mottled sediment, iron artifacts, and hammerscale---tiny pieces of metal that fly off when hot iron is hammered on an anvil. This evidence was all encapsulated in the upper 12 inches of *(continued on page 14)*

(continued from page 13)



Artifacts from Blacksmith Shop.
Photo courtesy of TxDOT.

sediment, and it is likely that the blacksmith shop was a wooden structure with a dirt floor. Nearby, archeologists discovered a jumble of large limestone rocks that kept getting bigger and bigger as they dug. The excavations finally revealed that the jumble of rocks was inside a dugout structure. Two of the structure's walls were intact and had neatly stacked limestone slabs still in place, but the other two walls were gone. They had been pushed into the structure, probably when it was abandoned in the early twentieth century, thus creating the giant rock pile. At the conclusion of the work, the dugout structure measured about 15 by 15 ft, and its floor was 4 to 5 feet deep. Artifacts found in the floor deposits indicate that this was structure was used as a residence and/or a storage cellar. Although it was not

used as a blacksmith shop, all evidence indicates that the dugout occupation and use was contemporaneous with the blacksmithing activities at the site.

Notable discoveries at the Tom Cook site have included the wedge-end of a classic "blacksmith hammer," the working end of a pair of blacksmith "tongs" used to hold hot iron pieces, and a distinctive nail clinching tool used by farriers when shoeing horses. These artifacts reveal a great deal about Tom Cook the blacksmith, but historical evidence indicates that he was also a minister and a well-respected businessman in the Bolivar community. Maria Franklin (historical archeologist) and several Tom Cook family descendants (spanning four generations) joined TxDOT and Cox|McLain staff members to explore the sites and what this effort could mean for African American history in Texas. Read more about the discoveries at this site [here](#).

The sites were investigated because they are considered to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The findings from these archeological investigations are important for understanding Bolivar's role in the history of north Texas and the Chisholm Trail. These sites will also enhance the stories of two prominent figures in local history, Jesse Sartin and Tom Cook. To learn more about the project or the other discoveries in Denton County, listen to this [webinar](#), request to become a consulting party, or check out the [project website](#) to see more pictures, videos, and field updates.

Subscribe to our [webpage](#) to learn more about our program and how to get involved on upcoming projects.



Howard Clark (descendant) holding a fragment of Tom Cook's blacksmith hammer. Photo courtesy of TxDOT.





Figure 2: Overview of the Rodriguez Family cemetery. The metal sign is a new addition describing the history of the cemetery.

Along the Border... Again!

**Mark Howe, Cultural Resources Specialist
International Boundary and Water Commission,
United States Section, El Paso, TX
with contributions from Drew Sitters**

In late October, I visited multiple archeological sites and historic resources along the U.S.-Mexico border within the Eastern Trans-Pecos. On this trip I was joined by Drew Sitters of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and my old boss from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Frank Rupp (retired Kremmling, Colorado BLM Archeologist). Despite the heat, which averaged in the 90s, we saw and learned a lot about the rich (pre)history down along the border in the Big Bend region of Texas. During our visit we explored 41PS16 (also known as the Coppenbarger site), a heavily eroded floodplain village site just north of the Rio Grande. Here we observed thermal features exposed through alluvial and eolian erosion



Figure 1: Dispersed concentration of thermally altered rock, ceramic sherds, lithics, and faunal remains exposed on the surface at 41PS16.

(Figure 1), as well as ceramics, lithics, and faunal remains. The site was recently investigated by the Center for Big Bend Studies, who may have identified the remains of a pithouse structure (Keller 2020). Adjacent to the site is the Rodriguez Family cemetery, an historic cemetery established ca. 1890. The cemetery contains at least 22 graves of the descendants, friends, and laborers who assisted the Rodriguez family in harvesting the land (Figure 2). From here, we went to the Ignatz Kleinman Store/Miguel Nieto Store where we were joined by Brad Newton, Executive Director at the Presidio Municipal Development District and a Commissioner on the Presidio County Historical Commission.

As was previously discussed in the Fall 2020 Texas Archeological Society Newsletter, the store, an adobe building, is reported to have sold munitions at the beginning of the Mexican Revolution.

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One unique element of the building's construction are the prehistoric and historic artifacts embedded within the adobe bricks (**Figure 3**). The Presidio County Historical Commission is currently exploring funding opportunities to rehabilitate the building and establishing a THC Historical Marker.



Figure 3: Close-up of the adobe bricks used in the construction of the Ignatz Kleinman Store/Miguel Nieto Store. Note the presence of ceramic sherds and charcoal.

After lunch at The Bean Café and prior to our departure from Presidio, we visited El Cementerio Del Barrio de los Lipanes (41PS1163), an historic cemetery with up to 57 burials, most of which are “mounded and capped or ringed with rounded to sub-angular stream-worn igneous cobbles” much like those pictured in Figure 2 (Atlas 2012). The cemetery derives its name from the belief that this was where the Lipan Apaches camped when visiting La Junta. We then traveled to Redford to see the Polvo site (41PS21), a State Antiquities Landmark, where we ended the day resting in the shade along the banks of the Rio Grande.

We left Study Butte the following morning for Big Bend National Park to meet up with Cultural Resource Program Manager, Maryanne Nuebert. Our meeting entailed visits to 41BS272 (**Figure 4**), a prehistoric campsite with pictographs,



Figure 4: Panoramic view of 41BS272.

boulder shelters, and a midden area, the Glenn Springs Wax Camp, and the Hot Springs National Register District (**Figure 5**), which is currently closed to the public. From here we drove down to the Rio Grande Village to visit Daniels Farm House, an adobe structure built in 1918 and a National Register of Historic Places property. As the wind began to pick up, we said our goodbyes to Maryanne and made our way back to Study Butte where we concluded the trip with a steak dinner at the Starlight Theatre in Terlingua.



Figure 5: View to the southwest on the Rio Grande of the remains of the foundation of Langford's hot spring bath house in Big Bend National Park.

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Sourcing Obsidian from the Eubank Site (41BR103) in Brown County, Texas

Drew Sitters, Michael D. Glascock, Thomas R. Hester, and Timothy K. Perttula

The Eubank site (41BR103) is a prehistoric habitation site situated on an upland landform overlooking Pecan Bayou, an eastward-flowing tributary to the Colorado River, in Brown County, Texas. During the 1979 Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Field School investigations, eight obsidian artifacts were found. The eight pieces of obsidian were submitted in 2020, via the Texas Obsidian Project (TOP), to Dr. Michael D. Glascock at the Archaeometry Laboratory Research Reactor Center-University of Missouri in Columbia for chemical analysis.

Seven of the specimens were recovered from Area A, characterized by exposed cultural debris west of an unimproved dirt road. Here, TAS members hand dug seven 1 x 1-meter units, three of which contained obsidian. The obsidian artifacts (**Figure 1** and **Table 1**) were collected from both the surface and within Level 1 (0-10 centimeters below the ground surface). The upper part of excavation unit N104/E96 consisted of an ashy layer containing two chert Perdiz arrow points and three obsidian artifacts. A third Perdiz arrow point, also made of chert, and two additional obsidian flakes, were found in Level 1 of excavation unit N103/E96. The eighth obsidian specimen was recovered from the surface outside of Area A.

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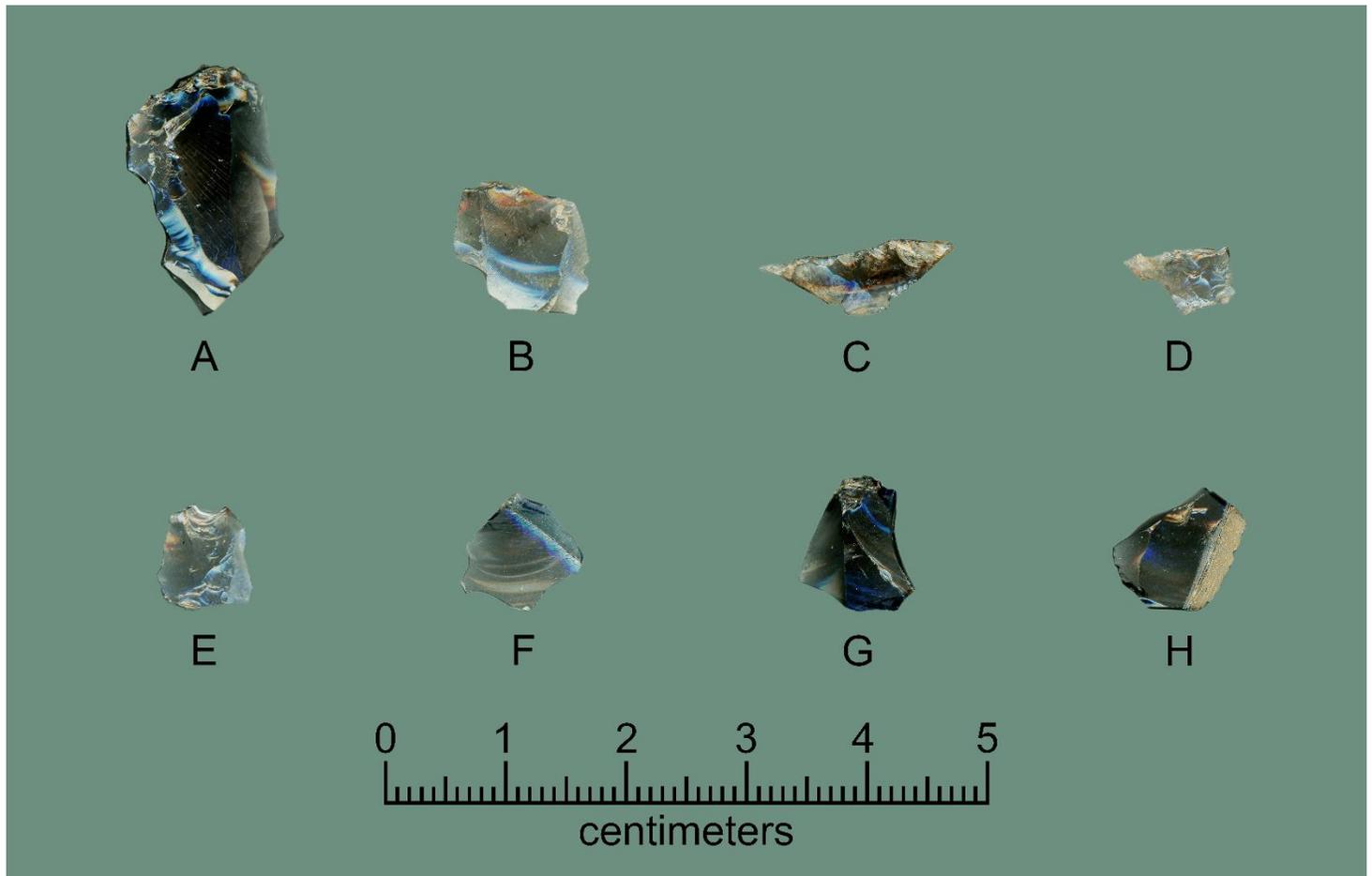


Figure 1. Dorsal view of obsidian artifacts from the Eubank site: TOP Nos. A) 294-x; B) 295; C) 296; D) 297; E) 298; F) 299; G) 300; and H) 301.

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Table 1. Metric Measurements of Obsidian Specimens.

TOP No.	Excavation Unit	Provenance	Artifact Type	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Max Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)
294-X	N113/E84	Surface	TFF	20.88	13.29	3.82	0.8
295	N104/E96	0-10 cm bs	TFF	10.7	11.11	1.47	0.2
296	N104/E96	0-10 cm bs	LEB	16.65	6.00	3.36	0.1
297	N104/E96	0-10 cm bs	TFF	5.59	8.94	1.16	<0.1
298	N104/E97	0-10 cm bs	TFF	9.02	7.95	0.92	<0.1
299	N104/E97	0-10 cm bs	TFF	9.96	10.58	2.08	<0.1
300	N103/E96	0-10 cm bs	TFF	11.33	9.54	2.06	0.3
301	N103/E96	Surface	TFF	11.53	10.36	3.12	0.2

Abbreviations: LEB - Lateral Edge of Biface; and TFF - Tertiary Flake Fragment

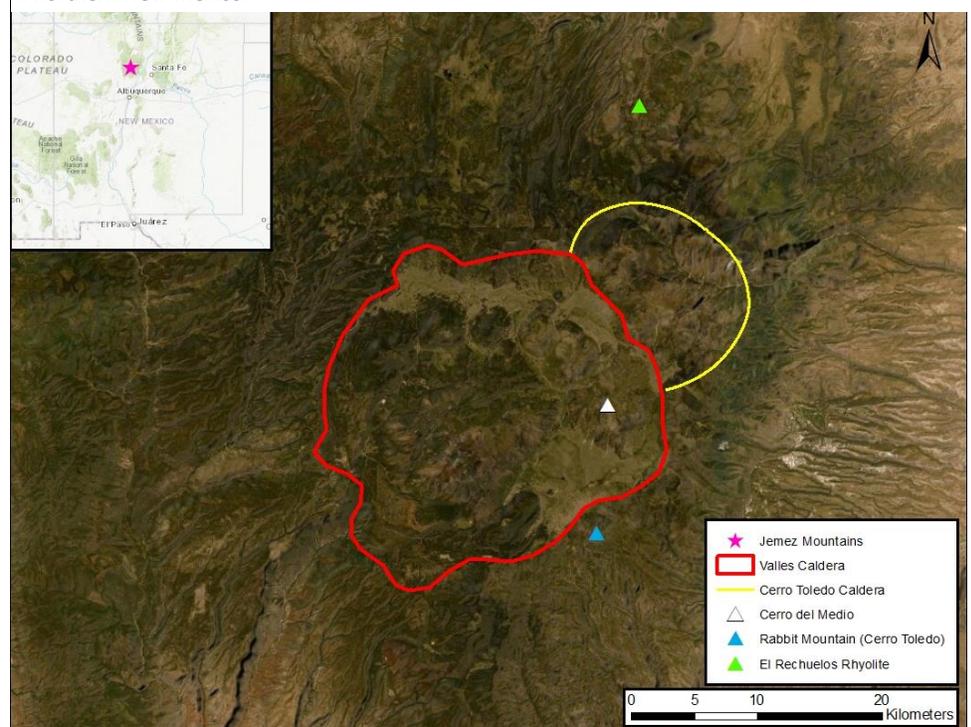
Seven of the obsidian artifacts are tertiary flake fragments, while the eighth appears to be a biface lateral edge fragment (see Figure 1c). None of the specimens show signs of use wear. Coupled with their small size and lack of cortex, the obsidian debitage was likely produced during late stage biface manufacturing or maintenance activities (Christopher Ringstaff, personal communication January 2021). Specimens can be divided into two groups based on their opaqueness with specimens TOP No. 294-X, 296, 300, and 301 appearing darker than the other four samples. However, this may be attributed to the size and thickness of the debitage rather than the presence of multiple obsidian nodules. Such variance is often seen in a single flake or artifact composed of obsidian.

Analysis was performed using a Thermo Quantx ARL lab-based x-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer. The instrument has a rhodium-based X-ray tube normally operated at 35 kV with a current to measure emitted X-rays with a silicon diode detector. The instrument is specifically calibrated for obsidian by measuring a set of 40 well-characterized obsidian source samples using data acquired by neutron activation analysis, inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry, and XRF. The eight obsidian artifacts were analyzed by counting each specimen for one minute to measure the minor and trace elements provided by

XRF. The elements measured include manganese (Mn), iron (Fe), rubidium (Rb), strontium (Sr), yttrium (Y), zirconium (Zr), niobium (Nb), and thorium (Th). However, due to the small size of each specimen, reliable data was only possible for Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, and Nb. Finally, the collected data was compared to the Archaeometry Laboratory’s database for obsidian sources in Mexico and the western United States.

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Figure 2. Location of Jemez Mountains, Valles Caldera, and prominent obsidian locality complexes in northern New Mexico.



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Results of the XRF study (Table 2) assigned all eight specimens to the Cerro del Medio source in the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico (Figure 2), which is roughly 500 miles west of the Eubank site. The Cerro del Medio is one of four major domes located along the eastern edge of the Valles Caldera and is part of the Valle Grande locality complex (Baugh and Nelson 1987). While other source systems exist in New Mexico (e.g., No Agua on the Taos Plateau, Mount Taylor-Grants, Mule Canyon, and Red Hill), the obsidian locality complexes of the Jemez Mountains, such as Valle Grande, Cerro Toledo (also known as Obsidian Ridge), and El Rechuelos Rhyolite, served as a significant source of obsidian during the Late Prehistoric period (Baugh and Nelson 1987). Data presented on the sourced occurrence of 1,153 obsidian samples from the Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas region (Lintz et al. 2020) indicates that 72 percent (n=835 specimens) are derived from the three dominant Jemez Mountain sources: Cerro Toledo, Valles Grande, and El Rechuelos. Of those sourced to the Jemez Mountains, 23 percent (n=267) are from the Valle Grande locality complex. Furthermore, of the 310 obsidian samples sourced by the Texas Obsidian Project, roughly 33% (n=102) are from the Jemez Mountains. By collecting and sourcing obsidian from archeological sites we can better understand the nature of trade networks that brought obsidian into Texas across space and through time. For example, most of the obsidian found at Toyah phase (A.D. 1300 to 1700; Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012) sites, like the Eubank site, can be sourced to the Jemez Mountains (Kibler 2012). Therefore, professional, and avocational archeologists are encouraged to collect and source obsidian with preference given to specimens found within a dateable context, and to share those results with the archeological community.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Chris Ringstaff for his contributions to the artifact analysis, as well as Amy Reid, curator for the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University-San Marcos, for providing access to Eubank Site artifact collection. Edits to this document were made by Dr. Christopher Lintz.

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Table 2. Elemental Composition of Obsidian Artifacts from the Eubank Site (41BR103).

TOP No.	Mn ppm	Fe ppm	Zn ppm	Rb ppm	Sr ppm	Y Ppm	Zr ppm	Nb ppm	Th ppm
294-X	379.4	7325.9	61.5	148.8	4.2	37.0	156.5	51.7	15.6
295	331.3	7739.1	61.0	459.6	3.9	38.9	158.2	56.2	17.1
296	362.2	9135.2	86.3	166.1	4.1	41.9	163.8	53.2	18.8
297	264.3	9160.0	84.7	165.3	5.9	39.5	169.0	50.7	17.9
298	406.4	10496.5	83.6	188.0	5.7	47.6	187.6	55.7	19.9
299	282.5	7268.0	60.0	150.2	4.2	37.9	153.1	50.2	17.6
300	259.0	6360.9	69.7	132.6	4.1	33.5	136.7	47.1	14.2
301	445.4	8007.9	59.1	160.6	4.0	39.7	166.9	54.9	17.6

AN UPDATE ABOUT HERITAGE BROADCASTING SERVICE: **WE LAUNCHED!**

**Dr. Richard Pettigrew,
Archaeological Legacy Institute**

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Check out the trailers on the *Heritage/* site at HeritageTAC.org and read descriptions of the titles posted there so far. Subscriptions (\$5.99 per month, with discounts for longer terms) are available, along with gift cards (at https://heritagetac.org/gift_cards/new).

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