

PASTIMES

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Archaeological Society

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Scott Brosowske



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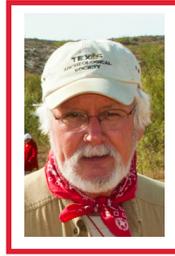
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On the Cover: Mike Gilger of Perryton using the water screens at the Eastveiw site during the 2011 CAR field school

The Panhandle Archaeological Society will hold its next meeting on Wednesday April 18, 2012, at 7:00 pm, at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center Science Building, 2301 N. Soncy Road, in Amarillo, Texas. Our program will be presented by Joe D. Rogers.



Joe D. Rogers

A New Look at an Old Building Material: Examining Burned Daub for Clues to Architectural Methods and Materials.

Joe D. Rogers

Abstract

Burned daub is found in many archaeological sites and is often discarded, disregarded or ground through a screen. A significant amount of information is being lost by these actions. Using material curated from previous excavations along with that of recent discoveries, this seemingly benign material is revealing some extraordinary information about the architecture of various prehistoric structures. Understanding daub's base materials and formation processes along with its relation to the mechanics of site formation, is allowing a new look at one of the oldest building materials. Using some of the information that was gathered in the beginning of this study, methods for classification, excavation, and recording are being developed and continue to reveal even more complete pictures of several prehistoric structures of the Texas panhandle. By examining closely the remains of the daub and associated materials, a significant glimpse of what was above the surface as well as what was in or on the ground is being revealed.

Biography

Joe D. Rogers graduated from Hereford High School, and after serving the U.S. Air Force, received a BS in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University, and a BS in History and a MA in History from West Texas State University. His thesis was entitled "The Italian POW Camp at Hereford during World War II." Joe has taught at Hereford ISD, Amarillo College, and West Texas A&M for a long, long time. Throughout his distinguished career he has received numerous honors and awards at the local and state level for his outstanding teaching. Joe is a member of several local, regional, state, and national historical societies and associations and provides living history programs for schools, museums and civic organizations. He has served as a Regional Director and Past President of the Texas Archaeological Society and President of the Panhandle Archaeological Society. Joe continues to serve as an Archaeological Steward for the Texas Historical Commission, a position he has held since 2000.

Along with wife Cindy and daughter Joscelyn, he has made a concerted effort to visit each state in the Union during their summer vacations. Focusing on the cultural, historical, geographical, and literary sites within each state, this project was completed in 2004. During this same period they also visited Great Britain, France, Belgium, Romania, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand. Joe lives in a 100 year old home in Hereford that he and his family have restored and maintained with a reverence for the families and history that the property represents. He collects and restores woodworking tools and other historic technologies with an emphasis on the 18th and 19th centuries and uses these items in the classroom and other venues. Joe has been active in archaeology for 10 years, with a concentration on sites of the Texas panhandle and continues to work cooperatively with members of the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Archaeological Society, and the Panhandle Archaeological Society.

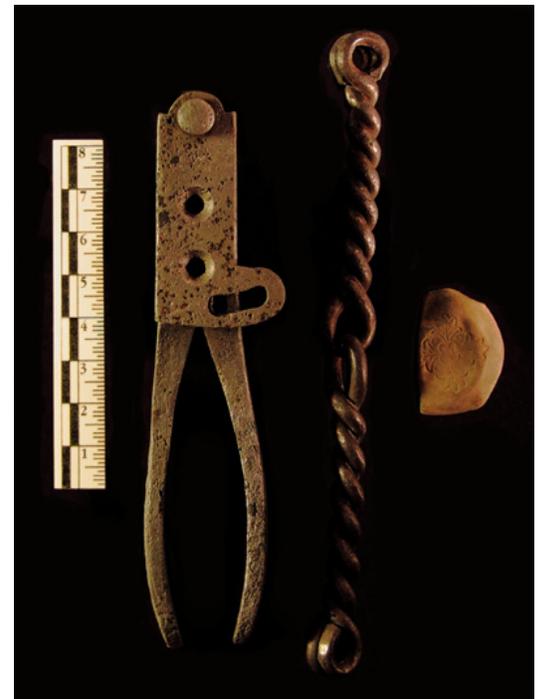
A COLT'S .44 CALIBER BULLET MOLD FROM A HISTORIC INDIAN CAMPSITE

by James Coverdale

In 2006 a systematic metal detecting survey was conducted at the Juree (410C97) site, a probable Native American winter campsite along Wolf Creek in eastern Ochiltree County, Texas. Near the southern end of the site, a cluster of three targets buried about 15 cm to 20 cm below the ground surface was indicated. The first object was a large brass button that was stamped with an ornate floral design. The button was partially bent and missing the attachment eye. The second target, which was about 25 cm away from the button, was a bullet mold for a firearm. Just centimeters away, the third object was a single jointed mouthpiece from a twisted wire snaffle bit. The mouthpiece is missing the two end rings where the headstall and reins attach. This cluster of three artifacts may be related in that the brass button could have been used to close a bag or pouch of some type that contained the bullet mold and snaffle bit. When the eye pulled loose from the button the contents fell to the ground where they were recovered during the metal detecting survey.

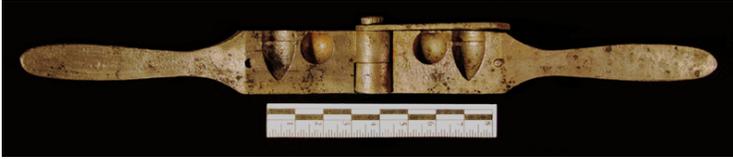
The mold was in good condition and the information stamped into the sprue cutter could clearly be read as "Colt's Patent". Research and mold measurements determined that this bullet mold was for a Colt's .44 caliber New Model Holster Pistol. This pistol was later

known as the Colt's Army Model 1860. The only damage to the mold was that the head of the sprue cutter retaining screw had been twisted off. This Colt bullet mold is designed to cast two different types of soft lead projectiles. One is the standard round ball bullet (0.464" dia.) and the other a conical lead bullet (0.46" dia. x 0.702" length).



The bullet mold, snaffle bit mouthpiece, and brass button.

Ammunition improvements in the 1850's produced pointed or conical lead bullets that were found to be superior to round ball projectiles. The conical bullet increased the range and accuracy of the lead projectile by improving the ballistic performance. Increased accuracy and range of the conical bullet was later proven on the battlefields of the Civil War.



The round ball and conical mold cavities

While combustible paper pistol cartridges using nitrated paper and a conical lead bullet were available during and after the American Civil War, it was a common practice to pay the additional cost for a bullet mold when buying a new pistol. The bullet mold would either be purchased separately or included in a cased pistol set along with powder flask, combination screwdriver/nipple wrench, a tin of percussion caps, and the pistol.

During the Civil War, and later Indian War period, the military used combustible paper cartridges to fill military pistol ammunition requirements. Civilians and Native Americans usually relied on the bullet mold and powder horn or flask for loading their revolver. To cast bullets, soft lead, either in bar form or from salvaged bullets, is needed. The lead is placed into a cast iron pot or skillet to melt over an open campfire. Once the lead melted to a liquid state, a ladle was used to pour molten lead into two small holes on top of the sprue cutter. The sprue cutter is a flat steel plate fastened to the mold by the hinge pin and the sprue cutter retaining screw. The sprue cutter has pour holes that align over the mold cavities. The lead was allowed to cool for about a minute and then the sprue cutter is tapped sideways pivoting over the mold cavity holes. This would slice off the sprue of lead that flowed out of the top of the mold cavity. The mold was then opened and the newly cast projectiles allowed to fall from the mold. The mold is then closed and the sprue cutter repositioned for the next casting.

Following the Civil War, many civilians purchased newer Colt metallic cartridge firing revolvers, such as the Richards conversion of the Colt Army model 1860, the Mason and Richards 1871-72 "Open Top", and the now legendary Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army.

However, many Native Americans warriors still preferred the "Cap and Ball" Colt Army Model 1860 pistol because they did not have to rely on or obtain fixed ammunition. Warriors found they could take any size metallic cartridge and disassemble the cartridge for the lead and powder. They would melt the lead and cast the proper caliber bullet they required. The gunpowder would be saved in a powder horn or flask for later use. That this strategy was practiced is demonstrated by the recovery of unfired empty metallic cartridges at numerous historic period Native campsites of the region.

Historical accounts of how Southern Plains warriors acquired bullet molds are scarce. The sale or trade of firearms to Indians was restricted, but a bullet mold fell outside of such rules, and thus, could have been obtained through a number of different sources. One of the more likely sources would have been licensed Indian traders who frequented the Indian camps. These businessmen would have known that there was a ready market for these valuable firearm accoutrements. In fact, by the mid 1800's there were several rifles and revolvers that fired bullets like the ones cast by this mold. Archaeological evidence from the Red River war battle sites indicate that several types of .44 caliber firearms were used by the warriors of Southern Plains tribes. A good usable bullet mold most likely would never have been discarded and so it can be surmised that it was lost along with the snaffle bit mouthpiece and the brass button. The recovery of this .44 caliber Colt's bullet mold provides a small glimpse of one of the many items that a well equipped warrior would have carried in the 1860's to 1880's period.



Side view of the mold.

PANHANDLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the March, 21, 2012 Meeting

- President Donna Otto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center. Twenty-two members and three guests were in attendance.
- The next meeting of the PAS will be April 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center.

PROGRAM

- Donna introduced the evening speaker, Dr. Robert A. Wright, West Texas A&M University. Dr. Wright's program focused on dendrochronology and the history of tree ring dating in the American Southwest.

BUSINESS MEETING

- The business meeting began at the conclusion of Dr. Wright's lecture.
- The minutes of February 15, 2012, as published in the March, 2012 issue of the PASTIMES, were accepted.
- Lisa gave the treasurer's report. The current operating balance is \$2571.80. Approximately \$120.00 had been spent the previous month. The treasurer's report was accepted.
- Rolla submitted the Publication Committee report. The current balance is \$1930.20. The publication report was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

- Paul Katz was nominated as the PAS voting delegate at the Southwest Federation of Archaeological Societies Symposium in Iraan, Texas in April. The motion passed.
- A table was requested for the Perryton Stone Age Fair to display information about the society and provide publications for sale on April 28th. A table will be provided and Rolla and others will attend.
- It was agreed that PAS will again conduct a rock art program for the Lamar Elementary School Science Day on May 11th. The program will focus on Rocky Dell art and use supplies from last year's presentation.
- A card was signed by attending members for Alvin Lynn sending best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery.
- Scott again requested articles and/or suggestions for the PAS newsletter from the membership.
- Tiffany Osborne was contacted in reference to organizing a trip with PAS members to record a prehistoric site (exposed in a county road) in Wheeler County. She stated she will not be able to come up for the trip, but encouraged PAS to visit and record the site. Jeff has the property owner contact information and Scott will contact the property owner and set-up a field trip for the society.
- The Box Canyon field trip is still pending. Bob Smith stated he has 35mm slides of the area from earlier site visits if needed.
- Donna is continuing to work on updating the PAS constitution and bylaws. Currently, she has gathered information and changes up to 1989. Once the remaining changes are gathered, a report will be sent to the executive committee for review, and then, published for member comments.

NEW BUSINESS

- Donna will be contacting the PAS website manager to get updates on pending changes and site visit counts.
- Alibates National Park will be participating in National Park Week beginning April 21st. They will be hosting a Junior Ranger Day at the park on the 21st featuring multiple hands-on activities for children. Rozanna welcomed any ideas for activities and requested help from volunteers to help with the daylong event. Several suggestions were made, including making cordmarked pottery, making rope, corn grinding, and using archaeological tools. In the past, approximately 15-20 children have attended this event. Also of note, any day use fees for any National Park are waived during this week, including boat launching fees at Lake Meredith. Book store purchases will be 15% off as well during this period.
- Alibates NP will again be hosting a Flint Fest later in the summer.
- Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum will be opening Pioneer Town on the 29-30th of June.
- Jeff is waiting to hear from Jeff Campbell to organize next month's speaker.
- Rolla received a letter from Chris Lintz requesting financial assistance in conducting AMS carbon dating on corn recovered from the Jack Allen Site (41HC219). The costs of the test will be \$800.00. Some of the monies have already been donated. He is requesting \$195.00 from PAS. Scott offered that Courson Archaeological Research

(CAR) receives a lower price for AMS dating by sending in bulk samples. He offered to contact Chris to see if he would like to send in his material with CAR's for a better price. A motion was made to provide Chris with \$200.00 to fund the testing from the publication funds due to the fact that PAS will be publishing the completed report. The motion was passed.

-The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Announcements, Updates, and Upcoming Events

2012 Flint Hills Conference

Hosted by Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas

April 6 -7, 2012

For more information check

<http://www.emporia.edu/socanth/announcements/flint-hills-conference-2012.html>

48th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies Iraan, Texas

April 14th, 2012

To submit Papers or for more Information, Contact: Evans Turpin at: evansturpin@yahoo.com

Panhandle Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center

2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas

April 18, 2012 at 7:00 pm

For more information visit the PAS website at:

<http://txpanhandlearchaeology.org/>

Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting

Memphis, Tennessee April 18 - 22, 2012

<http://www.saa.org/aboutthesociety/annualmeeting/tabid/138/default.aspx>

The 2nd Annual Perryton Stone Age Fair

April 28, 2012 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

at the Museum of the Plains in Perryton, Texas

for additional information please visit the CAR website:

<http://www.coursonarchresearch.com/>

Panhandle Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center

2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas

May 16, 2012 at 7:00 pm

For more information visit the PAS website at:

<http://txpanhandlearchaeology.org/>

Prehistoric Site Recording: PAS Member Field Trip to Collingsworth County, Texas



On Wednesday April 11th a limited number of PAS members have been invited to Collingsworth County to record a Ceramic period site. This previously undocumented site covers approximately ten to fifteen acres and is near the Salt Fork of the Red River. The site is bisected by an unimproved county road. As the road is maintained with a road grader, prehistoric site features, including hearths and trash filled pits are being exposed. The goals of this field trip are to formally record the site, document the location of exposed features with a GPS, and assess the need for additional work.

A background study of previously recorded sites in the county indicates the presence of Ceramic period sites similar to the one that we will record, as well as Late Archaic bison kills and Paleoindian period camps. We will be meeting with the landowner, and potentially, local collectors and landowners aware of additional sites in the area. We will meet south of Shamrock, Texas at 10:00 am and travel to the site. The field trip should take several hours to complete. Given the nature of this project (i.e., a working event as opposed to a tour), the field trip will be limited to ten participants. If you are interested in participating, please contact Scott Brosowske at 806-434-0157 to sign-up. If you cannot attend, look for a summary of the event in the May issue of *Pastimes*!