

# PASTIMES

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Archaeological Society

Volume 33 No. 9, December 2013

President  
Donna Otto

Vice-President  
Scott Brosowske

Secretary  
Stacy Brown

Treasurer  
Pamela Allison

Publications  
Rolla Shaller

Newsletter Editor  
Jerry Leatherman



**Colonel John I. Gregg 1872 Battle Site**

**Historical Marker Dedication May 19, 2007**

**From left: Alvin Lynn, Rolla Shaller and James Coverdale.**

Inside...

Pages 3-7

**Archeological Investigations at the Colonel John L. Gregg Battle Site  
(41RD77), Randall County, Texas, 1872. By Alvin Lynn and Rolla Shaller.**

Part 1.



Pages 8-9

**2014 Fannin Middle School History Festival.**



Page 10

**Annual Studer Banquet Announcement**

Page 11

**Invitation and call for papers:**

**Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies**

**50<sup>th</sup> Symposium Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9:00 - 4:30**

Page 12

**Upcoming Events**

Page 13

**Minutes from the November Meeting of the Panhandle Archeological Society.**

---

**Reprinted with permission from the Texas Historical Commission.****Archeological Investigations at the Colonel John I. Gregg Battle Site (41RD77),  
Randall County, Texas: Part 1**

Alvin Lynn and Rolla H. Shaller

*From the spring of 2000 through the winter of 2002, we periodically conducted a systematic search along Palo Duro Creek in central Randall County. Equipped with metal detectors and hand-held global positioning system (GPS) units, we located, mapped, and recorded the site of an Indian attack made on Colonel John I. Gregg's Eighth U.S. Cavalry in 1872. The subsequent discovery of approximately 200 military- and Indian-associated artifacts of the 1870 time period indicates that this battle was fought approximately 2 mi northeast of the present-day city of Canyon, Texas. In addition to the standard description of our site investigation and the recorded artifacts, this report includes excerpts from a diary kept by one of the soldiers under Colonel Gregg's command when the battle took place.*

Late in the summer of 1872, Colonel John Irvin Gregg departed from Fort Bascom, New Mexico, and headed for Texas in command of the Eighth U.S. Cavalry. The purpose of this 40-day expedition onto the Staked Plains of West Texas was to locate and report the locations of hostile Indians who had reportedly attacked settlers in the area. Kiowa Indians attacked Gregg's command during the early morning hours of August 16, 1872, while they were encamped along Palo Duro Creek in what is now Randall County, Texas. Though brief, the skirmish was recorded in the personal diary of Private Eddie Matthews and in several later military reports.

**Background**

Colonel John Irvin Gregg's 1872 campaign into the Texas Panhandle from New Mexico was one of many undertaken during the 1860s and early 1870s (Gregg 1872). Most of these expeditions originated at Fort Union, located near present-day Las Vegas, but Fort Bascom, 9 mi from Tucumcari, New Mexico, was the actual jumping-off place for the troops as they headed eastward into the Texas Panhandle or into the Indian Territory of Oklahoma. Information about the expeditions has come primarily from military records, but occasionally an enlisted man kept a diary. Eddie Matthews, a private who served under Colonel Gregg, kept "a small 'journal' of events" (Koster 1980) documenting his experience as a soldier during the Indian Wars of Texas and New Mexico. The animated descriptions Matthews sent "To the loved ones at Home" (Koster 1980: 100) impart an insight into these events that is usually lacking in most official reports.

**Continued on page 4**

During the summer of 1872, the Eighth Cavalry was camped along the Canadian River near Fort Bascom. Although Fort Bascom was officially closed in 1870, it remained a point of departure for campaigns to the east. On August 7, Colonel Gregg left Fort Bascom for Texas with a regiment of 229 soldiers divided into Troops B, D, L, and M; 2 citizen guides; and 14 citizen employees. Thirty-three 6-mule wagons, two 4-mule wagons, and three 4-mule ambulances were used to haul supplies and rations. Several head of cattle were also driven along as a source of food for the troops.

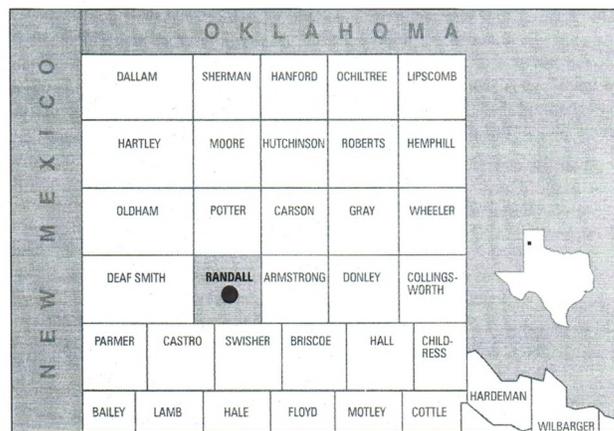


Figure 1. General location of the Colonel John I. Gregg battle site (41RD77) in Randall County.

Colonel Gregg’s command marched southeast to a site near Tucumcari Mountain, where they spent the night near a small lake. Then they continued southeast for two days until they came to the Fort Smith-Santa Fe Road. At this camp Eddie Matthews commented in his diary on the abilities of the military cooks:

Our cooks (kind hearted fellows) thought they would treat us to some soft bread. So last night they baked. At breakfast this morning I was handed something which from its color and weight I presumed must be part of a brick, but was told by the cook that it was my ration of bread. Now I believe my digestive organs are about as strong as the majority of the white race and I would no more attempt their powers on that piece of bread, than I would on a 12 lb. solid shot. I politely thanked our gentlemanly cook, but declined eating any of his fresh bread, preferring “hard tack” which had been baked in some mechanical bakery in the first year of the late Rebellion (Koster 1980: 100).

The command traveled eastward along the Fort Smith Road for approximately 10 mi. Near Salidito Springs in present Quay County, New Mexico, they turned southeast, onto a road that would take them up a gradual slope onto the High Plains. They marched southeast to Ojo Garcia (present Garcia Lake in Deaf Smith County, Texas), which was a large, nearly dry lake with springs located in creeks along the west edge. There was enough water in the springs for the command and the livestock, so Colonel Gregg chose to make camp there. Eddie Matthews described his impression of the High Plains in this journal entry:

We ascended a high hill then found ourselves on the “famous staked Plains” of Texas. Famous for wild game of all kinds including Kiowa and Comanche Indians . . . What a pity some poor man could not own about forty miles of this land in some Eastern City. It would then be worth something, but as it is, it is not worth one cent an acre at the present time. And it never will be worth any more (Koster 1980: 101).

After leaving Ojo Garcia, the command marched southeast until they reached Punta de Agua on Tierra Blanca Creek in present Deaf Smith County. They followed this creek for a day and a half before turning northeast to Palo Duro Creek. After continuing along the Palo Duro for 3 mi, they made camp on the flood plain near the confluence of the Tierra Blanca and the Palo Duro approximately 2 mi northeast of the present-day city of Canyon. With a more plentiful source of water than the rest of the area, this camp was probably more appealing than other options in that arid location. However, Eddie Matthews apparently was not favorably impressed with this site: "Yesterday's march brought us to the commencement of a very rough looking country, and our camp was located in a splendid place for a surprise, and night attack by Indians" (Koster 1980: 101). Matthews most likely did not anticipate that his prediction would come to pass within hours of that journal entry:

About 1 o'clock A.M., I awoke from a sound sleep by the report of several carbines, connected with the most unearthly yelling it has ever been my misfortune to listen to. It sounded to me like all the Devils incarnate, and all the Demons of Hell had issued forth in that one lonely spot to make the night hideous with their orgies. No pen is capable of describing my feelings at that moment. I of course knew that we were "jumped," (attacked) by Indians, and from those blood-chilling yells, I imagined we had been totally surprised and that the Indians were right in our midst, dealing death on all sides.

I was only a moment getting a cartridge in my carbine, and with revolver in one hand and carbine in the other with only my shirt and pants on, I ran to the right of our troop and on a line with "B" Troop where the firing and yelling was the loudest. I could see the Indians by the light of the moon riding in a circle near our lines, firing at us as they charged by. I discharged my carbine at the first Indians I saw, and never taking time to notice with what effect I reloaded and fired as fast as I possibly could. By this time our whole Command was up and the firing became more general. The Indians seeing that there was no hope for them, commenced to withdraw. At this state of the fight a detail of 10 picked men was made from each troop to form a line and advance about one hundred yards from camp and take station as pickets. I was one of the numbers from our troop. We advanced at a double quick step, firing at the retreating Indians as we ran. When we reached the prescribed distance from camp, we came to a halt, and kept up a fire from our carbines, as long as we could hear a yell from an Indian. Finally all became quiet, when we deployed as pickets. And there remained until daylight relieved us from our unpleasant watch (Koster 1980: 101).

Gregg (1872) recorded that an estimated 40 mounted Indians attacked the troops, with some of the Indians keeping up a scathing, armed attack from the surrounding bluffs. The reported casualties for the command were 1 enlisted man wounded, 2 mules killed, 1 horse wounded, and 8 head of beef cattle lost. Among the Indians, 4 were killed and 8 wounded.

After this fight the command spent almost a month reconnoitering the country along the north side of the Red River and south of the present town of Clarendon. The scouts had mistaken a large hill south of present-day Clarendon in Donley County for the Quitaque Peaks in Motley County, so the command never reached the intended destination. They retraced their route back to their camp near Fort Bascom, arriving on September 14, 1872.

### Setting

The Colonel John I. Gregg 1872 battle site (41RD77) is located along an alluvial-colluvial bench on the north side of Palo Duro Creek and the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River in central Randall County (Figure 1). Randall County is situated near the center of the Texas Panhandle. The county seat, Canyon, is located in what was once a Pleistocene lake basin. The township is situated to the west of the confluence of Tierra Blanca and Palo Duro creeks. Just northeast of Canyon, the Tierra Blanca flows into the Palo Duro. Several area maps indicate that this is the beginning of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, while other maps continue to refer to the Palo Duro Creek until after it reaches the confluence of South Cita Creek. The headwaters of Tierra Blanca Creek begin in central eastern New Mexico and the creek meanders east-southeast into the Texas Panhandle. The headwaters of Palo Duro Creek, which eventually becomes the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, begin in western Deaf Smith County. The creek meanders eastward across Deaf Smith and Randall counties cutting through the Llano Estacado and flowing through the Palo Duro Canyon lands. Through time, the forces of Palo Duro Creek have formed numerous deep canyons as well as wide flood plains on either side of the creek as it crossed the county. The Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River eventually joins with the Salt and North Forks of the Red River to form the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma.

Both commercial and noncommercial development has had a significant impact on an area within a 2 mi radius of the battle site. East of the site, development of a restricted cooperative village began in the early 1900s, and this cooperative continues to operate in 2008. To the north, above the escarpment, construction of another large home site development began in the early 1970's. The areas to the west and southwest have been compromised by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad since the early 1900s, and by a section of Interstate 27 that was constructed in the mid-1980s. This section of highway is within a half mile of the site.

Perhaps the greatest impact to the Gregg battle site was caused by a major flood in 1978 that had a devastating effect on the whole area.

On May 27, heavy rain in the watersheds of the Tierra Blanco and Palo Duro creeks resulted in torrents of water rushing over the creek banks and across their flood plains. The powerful force of the flood washed several houses from their foundations just east of and below the battle site.

The Gregg battle site is located along the eastern portion of a 10-acre field. The field and the lower surrounding areas have been under almost constant cultivation since the mid-1900s and possibly earlier. The site is bordered on the north by a steep caliche escarpment, to the west and south by a broad flood basin of the Palo Duro Creek, and to the east by the beginning narrows of Palo Duro Canyon (Figure 2). At the present time, native grasses have returned to the area containing the largest portion of the site. A north-south property line fence bisects the eastern portion of the site; few artifacts related to the site have been located east of the fence. Another east-west wire fence bisects the southern portion of the site.

The present landowner has constructed a residence, a horse barn, corrals, and a roping arena to the immediate north and northwest of the site. He recently built a small pond along the southern edge of the site and a pipeline that crosses a portion of the site from the stock pond to a windmill located near the corrals.

### **Methodology**

Our methods for locating the Colonel John I. Gregg 1872 battle site were similar to those the Texas Historical Commission used during the 1998-1999 Red River War Battle Sites Project (Cruse et al. 2000, 2001). The metal detector types used during this investigation included a Whites Spectrum XLT and Garrett Models 750 and 1000. One of the Garrett models was equipped with a deep scan coil for maximum soil penetration. Random metal detector searches were made at several possible locations for the site.

Upon finding a series of associated artifacts, we began using a more systematic search method that included a sweeping grid pattern in which a series of parallel passes with metal detectors was made in one direction across the site. A second series of parallel sweeps was made at right angles to the first. The width of each sweep of a metal detector varies among individual users and is based on height, arm length, and length of stride, but some sweeps can be as much as 1 meter. As an artifact was recovered, its location was flagged, and a GPS reading was later recorded for each artifact before it was collected. These GPS readings were later used in the production of the artifact distribution map (Figure 3). Each artifact was placed in a separate collection bag and recorded numerically as it was collected. Once all the artifacts were collected, they were cleaned, catalogued, and photographed. To search for isolated Indian artifacts, we used similar procedures to investigate areas beyond the military site proper, which included the windmill/stock pond pipeline trench and back dirt that remained after the excavation.

## 2013 Fannin Middle School History Festival

By Beryl Hughes

Participation in the Fannin History Fair (October 19) has been an ongoing project for PAS. Naturally our contribution has been more prehistory than history, and this year we again presented spear throwing using atlatls and corn grinding. Dick Carter, Beryl Hughes and Paul Katz presided at the grinding site.

The flat slab type of grinding stones are generally called by the Spanish term “metate” and the accompanying smaller stone held in the hand is called a “mano”. Elsewhere they may be called “Querns”. Small round grinding bowls used in conjunction with hand-held tool have been used mainly by pharmacists and are called a “Mortar” and “Pestle.” These are also used by artists to grind pigments.

We had several metates set around the edges of a tarp to catch flying debris and save the surface of the gym floor. Each had its accompanying mano. One small round mortar with its pestle was also included. Children were excited to participate and we did our best to teach them, admittedly with limited success, the rocking motion needed for efficient grinding. The metates and manos were fairly small, so it was hard to use both hands at once. There are several sites in the Panhandle where grinding stones were made on exposures of bedrock. The act of grinding produced deep round holes in the rock.

The only grain we had was corn, so we talked about the production of flour (masa) for corn bread or corn-meal mush and tamales. In actual use of course, the grinding stones would have also been used to crack nuts, soften fruits and berries, and prepare meat for jerky. Try to imagine cracking acorns with your teeth and the utility of the grinding stone becomes apparent.

Grinding stones have been used in all times and places, with little difference in appearance. Colin Renfrew in *Prehistory: The Making of the Human Mind* calls “The use of querns and grindstones, and of other tools suitable for the processing of such plants” one of those “features associated with the neolithic revolution in western Asia and subsequently in Europe.” (2013:76).



*Students Line Up for Spear Throwing Lessons*



*PAS Greeters and Instructors Pass on Our Passion for History.*

Participants in the History Fair paraded by our spot all through the day. There were Indians and pioneers, Union and Confederate soldiers (the gray outnumbered the blue; this is Texas after all!) and even Crusader knights, some dressed as Templars. At the opposite end of the gym, fencers sliced and jabbed with their epee's, and an occasional youngster took a hesitant turn. Many groups were set up outside, including Rolla, Alvin, and Joe showing visitors how to throw the spears using atlatls. Craftsmen offered their handiwork for sale.

The event was a day-long affair, and a lunch of chili dogs and soft drinks was provided, along with a booth for candy and gum, to keep us all from fainting from hunger and exhaustion. These things are harder than they look!

As the old-time newspapers used to say, “A good time was had by all.”

**Continued on Page 9**



*Dick Carter Advises Apprentice Grinders how to Make Corn Flour.*



*Joe Rogers Exhibits tools of Bygone Days.*

# Panhandle Archeological Society Annual Studer Banquet

Guest speaker will be World Renowned  
Battlefield Archaeologist:

## Douglas D. Scott

Presenting

### A Buffalo Hunt and a Battle: Uncovering Some History of George Custer

Saturday Evening - December 14th, 2013

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum  
Hazelwood Room (2nd floor)  
2503 4th Avenue, Canyon, Tx.

\$25.00 per person meal and speaker - Reservation Required  
\$10.00 per person speaker only (8:00 - 9:15 p.m.)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 6:00 p.m. ....         | Social Hour and Silent Auction Bidding |
| 7:00 p.m. ....         | Invocation and Banquet                 |
| 8:15 p.m. ....         | Program by Douglas D. Scott            |
| 9:15 p.m. ....         | Break                                  |
| 9:30 - 10:00 p.m. .... | Silent Auction, Auction and Raffle     |

-----cut here-----

**YES!** I would like to attend: Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. in Reservation for Banquet and Speaker : \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. in Reservation for Speaker only : \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP no later than December 10th, 2013**

Send RSVP to : Pamela Allison  
Panhandle Archeological Society  
P.O. Box 814 Amarillo, Tx. 79105  
or email : psallison@earthlink.net

Make checks payable to: PAS : Studer Banquet

**REMEMBER!**  
to  
bring items for  
the auction!

**REMEMBER!**  
to  
bring items for  
the auction!

You are invited to attend the

**Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies 50<sup>th</sup> Symposium**

**Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9:00 - 4:30**

[Friday evening social, informal Saturday dinner, Sunday tours to Alibates Ruin 28 or Adobe Walls]

Hosted by the Panhandle Archeological Society

at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, TX

Proposals for individual papers are now being accepted on any topic relating to the cultural or natural history of the Federation region of western Texas and eastern New Mexico. Presentations will be 20 minutes in duration with five minutes between presentations. Papers accepted for presentation will be published in the *Transactions of the 50<sup>th</sup> Regional Archeological Symposium for Southeastern New Mexico and Western Texas*, available in 2015. The submissions should be on a CD, DVD or 3.5" diskette in Microsoft Word format at the conclusion of the symposium. Please submit your abstract using this form.

**Abstract deadline is March 1, 2014.**

AUTHOR(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION (to be included in the program): \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTATION TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTRACT (maximum of 200 words):

PROJECTION MEDIUM:  PowerPoint 2003  PowerPoint 2007/2010  slide projector

E-MAIL IS THE PREFERRED METHOD OF SUBMITTING YOUR ABSTRACT INFORMATION. Attach the completed form to your message and e-mail the information to .Katzes-PRIAM@msn.com

If it is impossible for you to submit by e-mail, please mail a hard copy of this form to

Paul Katz, PO Box 1535, Panhandle, TX 79068.

Address questions and comments to the above email or 806-537-5040.



---

# Upcoming Events

## 2013

**December 14 -(Saturday) – PAS Studer Lecture series and Banquet. PPHM. See Page 11 for details.**

## 2014

**January 15 - Panhandle Archaeological Society meeting at Amarillo Public Library,  
413 Southeast 4th St., 2nd Floor.**

**February 19 - Panhandle Archaeological Society meeting at Amarillo Public Library,  
413 Southeast 4th St., 2nd Floor.**

**March 19 - Panhandle Archaeological Society meeting at Amarillo Public Library,  
413 Southeast 4th St., 2nd Floor.**

**April 16 - Panhandle Archaeological Society meeting at Amarillo Public Library,  
413 Southeast 4th St., 2nd Floor.**

**April 26—Perryton Stone Age Fair, Museum of the Plains, Perryton, TX. 10 A.M.—5 P.M. Contact  
Scott Brosowski (806) 434-0157.**

**May 3 - 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies at  
PPHM. See details on Page 12.**

**May 21 -Panhandle Archaeological Society meeting at Amarillo Public Library, 413 Southeast 4th  
St., 2nd Floor.**

---

## PANHANDLE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes Nov 20, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Otto at approximately 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Amarillo Library second floor Board Room.

Guests and members were greeted. There were 22 in attendance, and visitors were introduced. The following upcoming meetings and events were announced.

Dec 14 (Saturday) – PAS Studer Lecture series and Banquet. PPHM

May 3, 2014 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the SWFAS PAS Host, PPHM

A slide program was presented by George Crawford, Director, Blackwater Draw National Historic Landmark. “Eighty Years of Paleoindian Research on the Southern Plains; What Do We Know and Where are We Heading?: A View from the Clovis Site.”

After a break the business meeting was held:

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the previous meeting were published in the PAS Newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as published.

**TREASURER REPORT.** Pam Allison submitted the Treasurer’s Report , showing a balance of \$1,472.67 in the Checking/Savings at Wells Fargo Bank. She also provided an income and expense (profit and loss) report for Sept 1 through Nov 20 and an income and expense report for Jan 1 through Nov 20. Treasurer’s reports were approved and will be filed. It was clarified that the society’s fiscal year is also the calendar year and that historically anyone who pays dues in the fall will have them applied to the following year.

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Rolla Shaller provided a written report showing Money Market Account balance of \$1,126.81 and 180 Day CD Balance of \$5017.29. Report approved by members and will be filed.

### OLD BUSINESS:

SWFAS Meeting. Paul Katz. We’ll be hosting in 2014, date set May 3. Call for papers out and included in PAS Newsletter. Responses are being received from the call for papers.

PAS Membership List. Will continue to update

Nominating Committee – Beryl Roper Hughes thanked members who assisted on this Committee and provided the following slate of officers:

President: Donna Otto

Vice-President: Scott Brosowske

Secretary: Mary Ruth Carter