

PASTIMES

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Archaeological Society

Volume 33 No. 10, January 2014

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**Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies
50th Symposium Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9:00 - 4:30**

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Archeological Investigations at the Colonel John L. Gregg Battle Site

(41RD77), Randall County, Texas, 1872. By Alvin Lynn and Rolla Shaller.

Part II

Results

Of the 209 recorded artifacts collected from the Gregg battle site (Table 1), 51 percent relate to ammunition and armaments, 21 percent to animal husbandry, 23 percent to equipment and supplies, 3 percent to personal objects, and 2 percent to miscellaneous items. Recent unassociated artifacts were collected and removed from the site but not recorded. These items consisted of nails, fence staples, shot shell brass, nuts, bolts, and other various pieces of broken farm machinery.

Ammunition and Armaments

The majority of the brass cartridge cases collected are .50/70 caliber (Figure 4: items 1, 3-5, and 6). The .50 caliber carbine was the standard issue of the U.S. Cavalry in 1872. With the exception of one Berdan (externally primed) cartridge case, all of the cartridge cases are internally primed. Four of the recovered cartridges are broken and have never been fired. Also recovered were two 56/50 Spencer cartridge cases designed by the Springfield Armory in 1861 (Thomas and Thomas 1996). These cartridge cases were used in the 1865 model Spencer repeating carbine. Two .44 caliber Henry cartridges (Figure 7: item #116) recovered at the site were developed by B. Tyler Henry for the lever action repeating rifle that bears his name and were manufactured by the New Haven Arms Company (1860-1866). Three .32 caliber rim fire cartridge cases found up-slope to the northwest of the site are possibly from the firearms used by the Kiowa. Three spherical lead balls used in percussion type firearms were also recovered: specimen 142, with a diameter of .348 in and a weight of 64.5 grains; specimen 162, .382 in and 137.5 grains; and specimen 168, .43 in and 137.5 grains.

Table 1
Site 41RD77 Artifact Inventory

Artifact Description	Number
Ball: lead	3
Belt: metal	1
Beadon: brass, Indian	2
Brid: brass, harness	5
Buckle: cinch	1
Buckle: flat, metal	1
Buckle: harness	4
Bullet: .44 caliber	25
Bullet: .50 caliber	2
Bullet: unknown caliber	8
Button: brass, military	1
Button	3
Case fragment, loaded	2
Cartridge case: .32 center fire	3
Cartridge case: .32 rim fire	3
Cartridge case: .40/82	5
Cartridge case: .44	3
Cartridge case: .44 Henry	2
Cartridge case: .45 Colt	3
Cartridge case: .50/70	41
Cartridge case: .50/70 Ext.	1
Cartridge case: .56/50 Spencer	2
Cartridge case fragment, no ID	1
Chain: fragments	4
Extractor tool	2
Flat metal	1
Hook: metal	2
Horseshoe: half	1
Knife: handle fragment	1
Knife: pocket	1
Lead fragment: small	2
Muleshoe	2
Nail: flat fragment	1
Nail: horseshoe	16
Nail: cut, square	31
Piece: brass, no ID	1
Piece: brass, decorated	2
Piece: metal, no ID	1
Ring: harness	1
Rod spacer: wagon	1
Rod: metal, no ID	1
Saddle guard plate: brass	1
Spring: straight	2
Staple: wagon bow	1
Tab: brass, pointed	1
Wood screw: large	11
TOTAL	209

Continued on page 4

Additional items collected from the site include 11 Berdan cartridge cases from a later period. Five are .40/82 cartridge cases (Figure 4: item #2) that are head-stamped D.C. Co. (indicating they were manufactured by the Dominion Cartridge Co.); these cartridge cases were made for the 1885 Winchester single shot and also for the 1886 Winchester lever-action repeating rifle. The remaining 6 were manufactured by the Union Metallic Cartridge Co.: 3 are .44 caliber CFW (center-fire Winchester) cases, and 3 are .45 Colt cartridge cases (Logan 1959). Two .50 caliber bullets, one of which is mushroomed (Figures 6 and 7), were also recovered. Twenty-five conical-shaped .44 caliber bullets (Figure 5: items 55, 56, and 58) show no evidence of use. These bullets may be the remains of paper cartridges that were dropped and lost during the battle since they were all found in the same general location. These cartridges are typical of the cartridges used in early Remington and Colt military handguns. Eight other unidentified lead bullets were also recovered from the site.

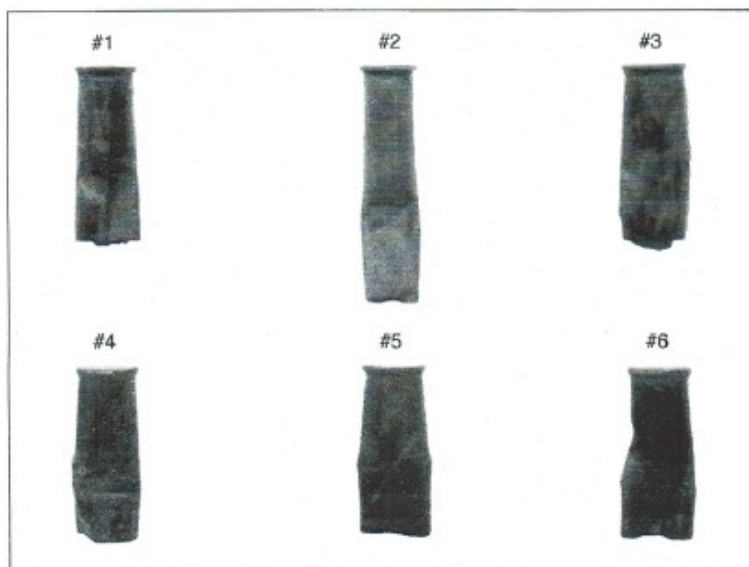


Figure 4: 50/70 caliber cartridge cases: #1, 3, 4, 5, & 6; .40/82 caliber cartridge case: #2.

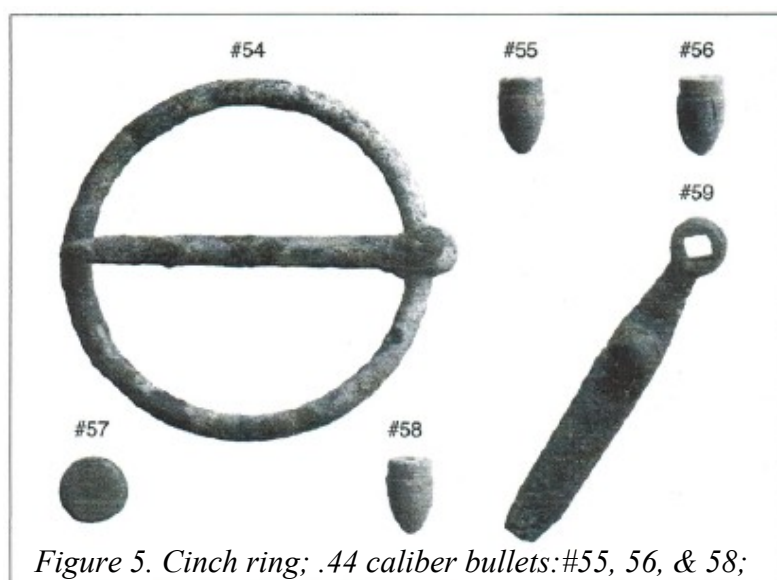


Figure 5. Cinch ring; .44 caliber bullets: #55, 56, & 58; brass brad: #57; musket nipple wrench: #59.

Two military type combination gun tools were also recovered. One, a musket nipple wrench (Figure 5: item #59) that fits most muskets and rifles, was first issued with the Mississippi Rifle and later used with the Sharps Rifle. The second tool is a combination screwdriver (3 blades) and mainspring clamp (Figure 6: item #98) that was issued for the model 1866 rifle. This tool was made from the old percussion lock screwdriver by cutting off the cone wrench and making a notch in the stump, which serves to clamp the mainspring when dismounting the lock (Kirkland 1989). Two brass pieces shown in Figure 8 (item #150) may be fragments of a brass trigger guard.

Animal husbandry

Recovered artifacts that relate to animal husbandry consist of metallic pieces used in the construction of harnesses and saddles. The following items were found: 5 harness buckles, a cinch ring (Figure 5: item #54), brass brads and rivets (Figure 5: item #57), mule shoes and horseshoes (Figure 9: item #200), 16 horseshoe nails (Figure 9: item #199), and 1 brass guard plate or oval (Figure 6: item #101) from the rear of the saddle seat (candle) of a U.S. McClellan military saddle.

Equipment and Supplies

Four sections of various types of link chains collected, along with various hooks and metal parts, probably came from the supply wagons. Other identified wagon parts include a wagon rod spacer and a wagon bow staple. Several fragments and parts of lead-sealed metal cans were also collected. The largest of the can fragments recorded is a base section (Figure 8: item #154) that may have been a container for foodstuffs.

The following artifacts are similar to those from the Red River War Battle Sites Project (Cruse et al. 2000, 2001): 11 wood screws (Figure 8: item #151) and 31 cut or square nails (Figure 6: item #102) of various sizes. These items were probably used to secure lids on supply boxes and crates.

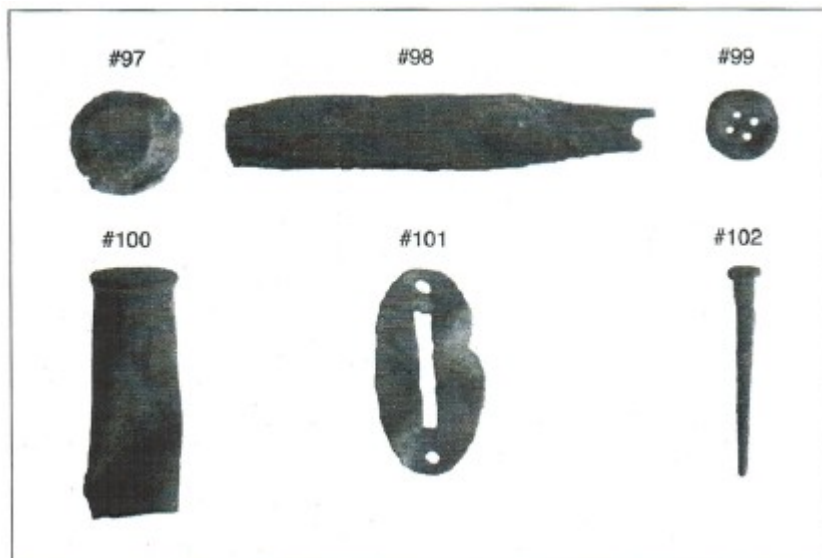


Figure 6. .50 caliber bullet: #97; Springfield combination wrench: #98; metal button: #99; .50/70 caliber cartridge case: #100; brass guard plate: #101; cut nail: #102.

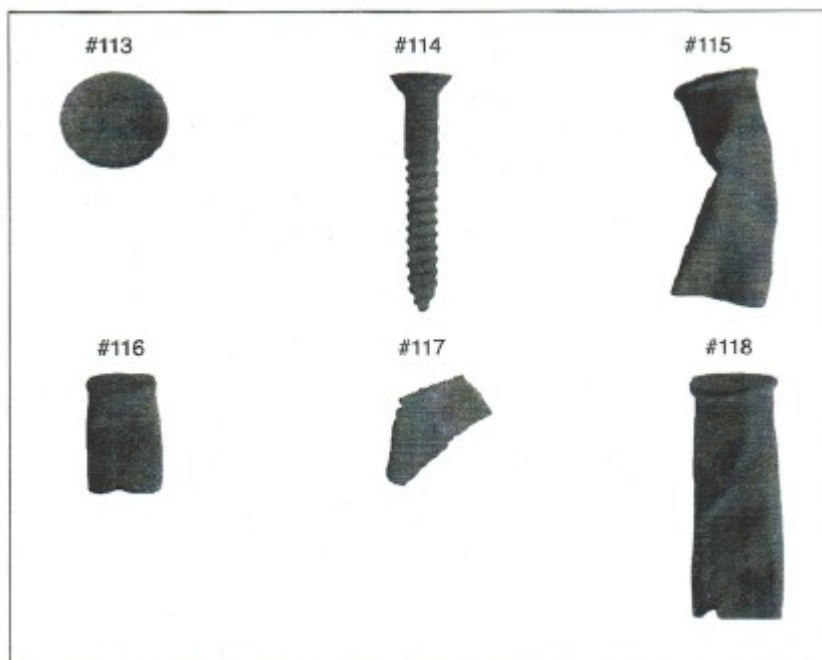


Figure 7. Brass military button: #113; woodscrew: #114; 50/70 caliber cartridge cases: #115 & 118; .44 caliber Henry cartridge case: #116; unidentified cartridge case fragment: #117.

Personal Effects

A limited number of metallic artifacts of a personal nature were recovered from the site and surrounding area: three 4-hole metal clothing buttons and one 2-bladed pocket or jack knife (both blades hinged from the same end) that measures 3 5/8 in in length with both knife blades broken at mid-blade and folded closed. Attached to one side of the knife body is a partial, checkered bone grip. The body of the knife has an unusual square, blunt-metal distal end. No brand names or manufacturing information were found on any of these artifacts.

Also recovered was one brass military eagle uniform button (Figure 7: item #113), back marked "Wm Lang/Boston, Mass." This button was most likely manufactured by William Lang of Boston, Massachusetts, a merchant in West India goods. Lang had an Army contract on April 14, 1857, for 1,050 gross coat buttons and 1,250 gross vest buttons (McGuinn and Bazelon 2001). Apparently,

the eagle button with the Lang's back mark is from this contract. Two round wire brass bracelets (Figure 8: item #152) similar to ones worn by Southern Plains Indians during the mid to late 1800s were found south of the creek and may be associated with the battle.

Miscellaneous

Several pieces of miscellaneous brass, iron, and lead materials from the site were collected and recorded. Some of these have yet to be identified, so they may or may not be associated with the 1872 battle. As stated previously, agricultural artifacts of a more recent manufacture and present-day debris were not recorded.

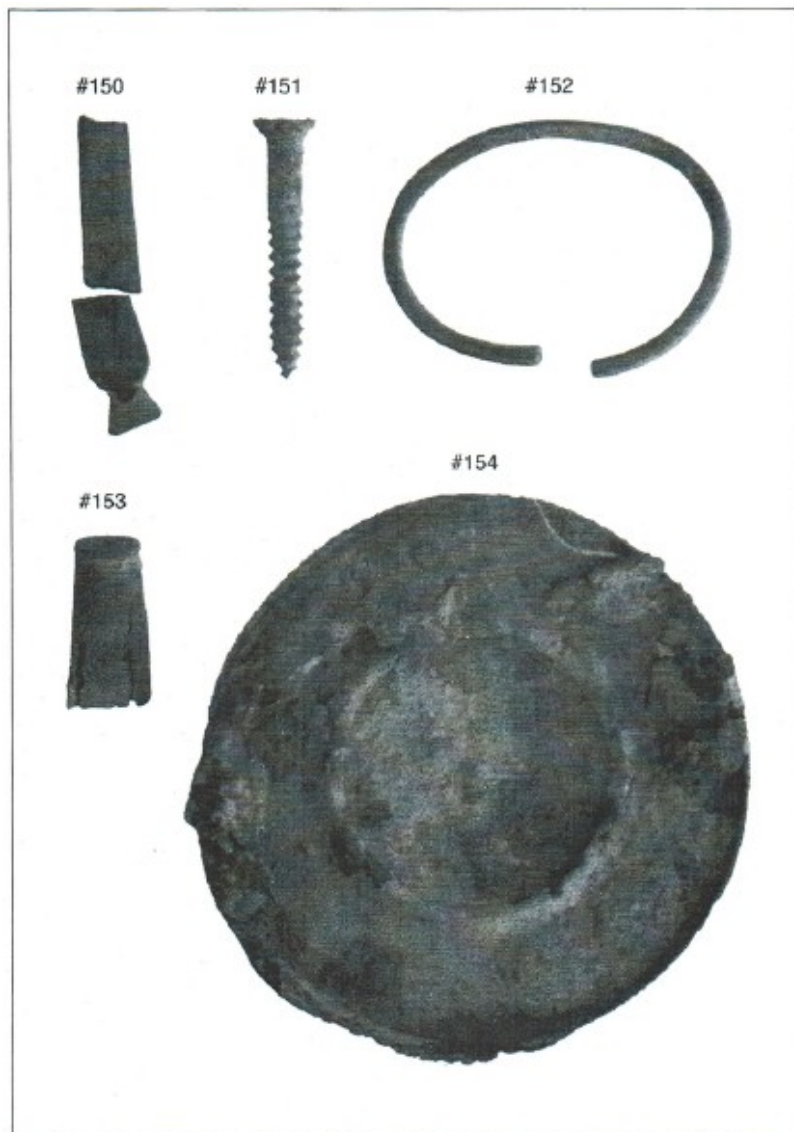


Figure 8. Decorated brass piece: #150; woodscrew: #151; brass bracelet: #152; .45 caliber center fire cartridge case: #153; end piece from lead tin can: #154.

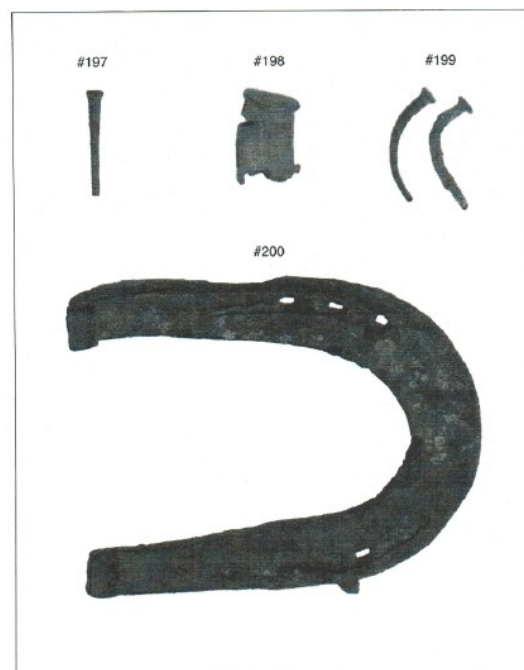


Figure 9. Cut nails: #197 & 199; base fragment of unfired .50/70 caliber cartridge case: #198; horseshoe with horseshoe nail; #200.

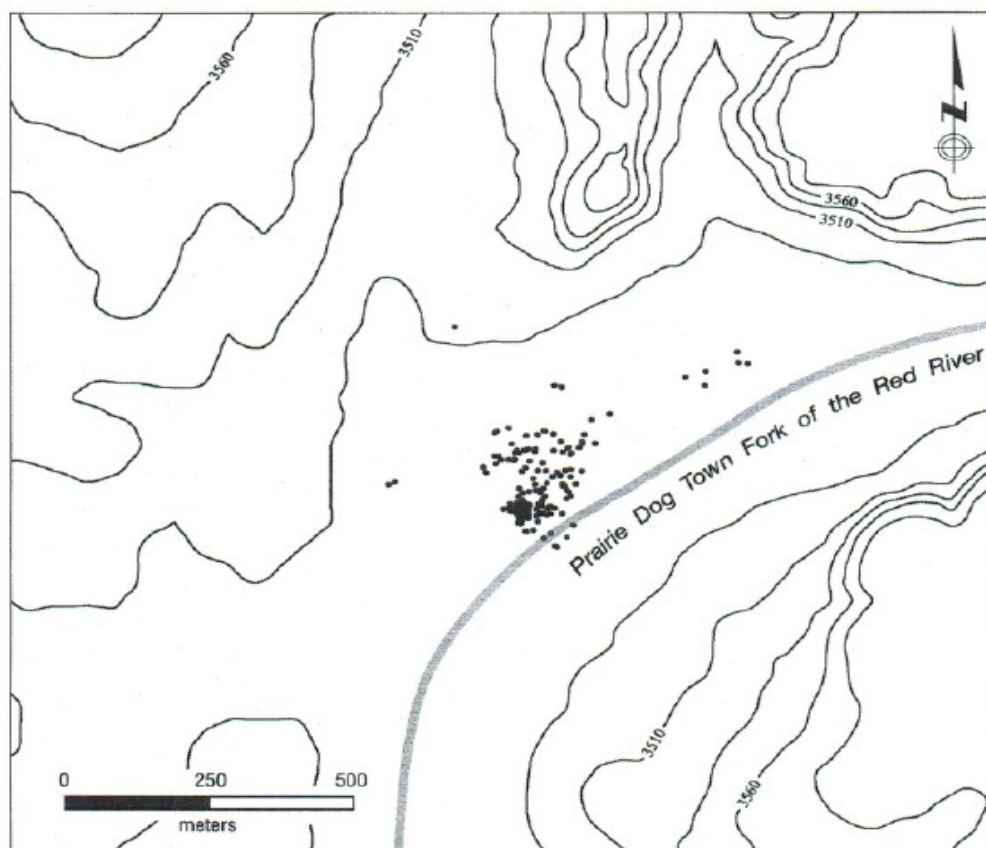


Figure 3. Gregg battle (41RD77) artifact distribution.

Continued in the next issue.

Floyd V. Studer Annual Banquet

Saturday Evening, December 14th, the Panhandle Archaeological Society held the annual Floyd V. Studer Banquet at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in the Hazelwood Room. The evening began with a social hour of visiting and silent auction bidding. President Donna Otto welcomed members and visitors. A prayer was lead by Dick Carter, followed by a buffet catered by Hills of Canyon.

A brief business meeting was held. Donna Otto asked Beryl Hughes, Nominating Chair, to present the slate of officers for the next two years. The following is the slate presented by the Nominating Committee:

Donna Otto, President
 Scott Brosowske, Vice President
 Pamela Allison, Treasurer
 Mary Ruth Carter, Secretary

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officer as presented. All members voted approval, none opposed.

The evening proceeded to the featured speaker, Battlefield Archaeologist Douglas D. Scott, presenting **"A Buffalo Hunt and a Battle: Uncovering some history of George Custer"**. Doug Scott has worked throughout the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain west on a variety of archaeological projects, and specializes in 19th century military sites.

He is particularly noted for his expertise in battlefield archeology and firearms identification and has worked on more than 40 battlefield sites, including Palo Alto, Sand creek, Big Hole, Bear Paw, Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Centralia and Santiago de Cuba. He was awarded the Department of Interior Distinguished Service Award in 2002 for his innovative research in battlefield archeology that started with his work at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.



Douglas D. Scott begins his presentation.



Michael Grauer, curator of art for PPHM, presented a pair of historic period U.S. cavalry boots to PPHM, in honor of Rolla Shaller, left.

The event culminated in raffle drawings, announcement of silent auction winners and a live auction, overseen by Alvin Lynn. Informational and entertaining, the banquet was attended by 43 with an additional nine coming to hear the featured speaker.

The silent and live auctions offered various items, and, including the raffle, the society received close to \$700.00 in these fundraising efforts. Our thanks go to the donors of the raffle and auction items, those that participated in these fun events, and to our guest speaker Doug Scott, for his excellent presentation on the Buffalo Hunt and Little Big Horn Battle research and archaeology findings.

You are invited to attend the

Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies 50th 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 50th 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.



PPHM
PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Upcoming Events

**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 Browsowske (806) 434-0157.**

**May 3 - 50th 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.**

Please remember to pay your dues.

Thank you!