



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

July 2011

CVAS July Picnic

*July 28th in the commissary. C.A. will have it open by 6 P.M.
We will begin the supper around 6:30-7.*

CVAS will provide the meat and tea. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish --salad, vegetable, dessert. (Please, RSVP to C.A. so that we will know how much meat we'll need.)

Entertainment:

Bring your musical instruments for a sing-along.

Bring games - dominoes, cards, etc.

Bring any artifacts or historical items for members to identify.

Each member is asked to bring 3 to 5 archeological questions to which you know the answer. Each will ask the participants the questions. The one who answers the most questions correctly will get a prize.

Hayrick

By Callan Clark

In 1887, a small town with a population of 25 people was created at the foot of Hayrick Mountain in Coke County, Texas. When Coke County was organized on 23 April 1889, Hayrick was named the County Seat. Hayrick served as the County Seat for 2 years until a special removal election was held in 1891 naming Robert Lee the new County Seat.

The buildings of Hayrick were the County Court House; a Post Office; a two story frame hotel; a two story school house; two general stores; a livery stable; a drugstore and a saloon.

Google Earth Satellite Imagery is being used to discover any features of the town. So far, a total of 12 buildings have been located using Google Earth and a network of roads that converge at the center of the town of Hayrick.

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Hayrick

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Google Earth Satellite Imagery showing three buildings at the center of the town of Hayrick.

Two metal detector surveys and a quick survey for surface artifacts were conducted on June 18 and on July 1. Both days resulted in finding broken pottery and decorative glass; crockery; square nails and a couple of round nails; a coal oil can top; several shotgun shells; stone footings and fired rock.

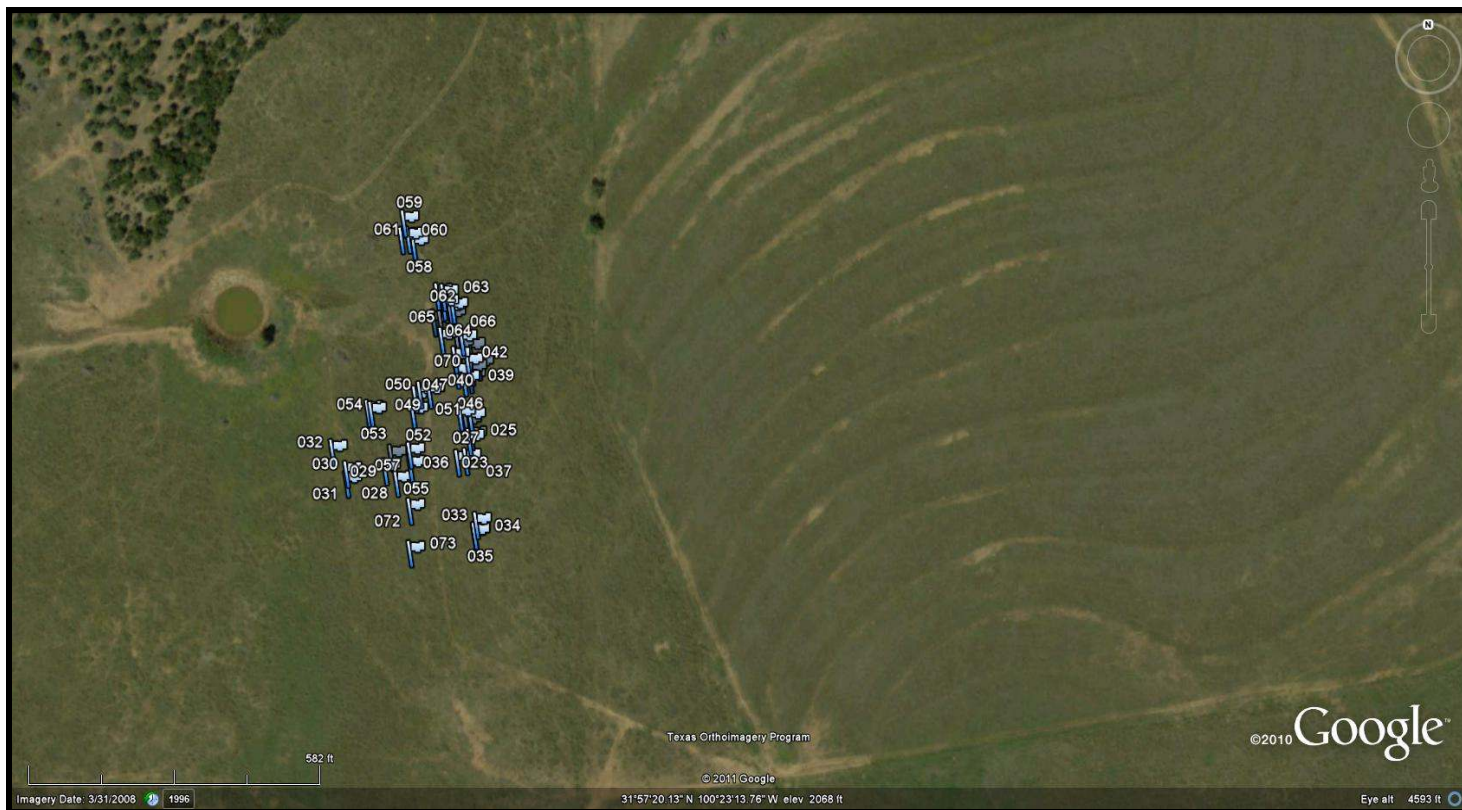


General layout of the town and roads (by Tom Ashmore)

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Hayrick

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Artifact locations

Due to the fact that the landowner has cattle out there, he doesn't feel comfortable with a big crowd on his property. In the fall, I plan on conducting a few more small surveys at Hayrick.

My goals for this project are (1) Use Google Earth Satellite Imagery to try and find any features that resembles any remnants of the town site and create a map of the town; (2) Map any or all artifacts and features with a GPS and input all of the data into Google Earth, creating a map showing the artifacts in relation to the town; (3) Have an archeological and historical record of the town of Hayrick; (4) Write a report.

If anyone in the CVAS has any information or old photographs of the towns of Hayrick and Robert Lee, please contact me at callan_clark@yahoo.com. Thank you.



Looking north to Hayrick Mountain—old town site is to the right

DNA testing fails to confirm remains are those of James Coryell

www.marlindemocrat.com, posted: Thursday, June 16, 2011 12:09 pm

The Falls County grave site believed to be that of Texas Ranger James Coryell is keeping its secrets buried a little longer. DNA testing on the remains is complete, but insufficient DNA was retrieved to confirm the identity, according to the announcement this week by officials from the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

“We are disappointed that we could not conclusively confirm that this is James Coryell through DNA analysis, but I am convinced from all the other archival clues yielded during this research that this is indeed the famed Texas Ranger,” said THC Archeology Division Director Dr. James Bruseth, who headed the investigation.

The THC and the Smithsonian Institution excavated the remains in February from a lone grave site close to Bull Hill Cemetery near Rosebud. The remains were transported to a laboratory in Pennsylvania where it was hoped that sophisticated technology would be able to retrieve a DNA sample capable of being compared. However, the condition of the remains was not of a high enough quality to do so.

“We took the science as far as it could possibly go and we learned a great deal about this individual, all of which concur with the written historical documentation on the life and death of James Coryell,” added Bruseth.

Historical records indicate that in 1837, Coryell was wounded in an Indian attack near Fort Milam. He was cared for by local settlers, but died as a result of his injuries and was buried near a slave cemetery. The exact location was unknown until the discovery a little over a year ago by THC Commissioner John Crain.

Historical records and oral histories described an unusual pile of rocks near the cemetery as the location of Coryell’s grave.

The site, which includes the cemetery and the Fort Milam historical marker, is maintained by the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, which also contributed to the excavation project.

THC’s future plans call for the interment of the remains in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. In addition, a video of the excavation will soon be available on the THC website at www.thc.state.tx.us.

Bruseth added that it is hoped that in the future, more sophisticated forensic science will allow for the positive identification of the remains.

Coryell worked with several Ranger companies and was based at Fort Milam in the Robertson Colony, in what is today Falls County. He is considered a hero in Texas’ struggle for independence.

New Texas Beyond History on the Internet: Lake Naconiche Prehistory

There is a new entry in the Texas Beyond History Internet site. If you are familiar with these research articles you know they are extremely in depth and very interesting. As a introduction:

Around 2,500 to 2,000 years ago people began to frequent the stream and river valleys in the area around today’s Nacogdoches County, Texas. At first they were strictly hunters and gatherers living off the land and never staying for long at any one spot. Over the next millennium their descendants gradually came to rely on raising their own crops, living in small hamlets and villages, and making pottery for storage, cooking, and serving. Those living along Naconiche Creek and nearby areas were one of many ancestral communities whose descendants became the peoples we know today as the Caddo. Lake Naconiche takes its name from an obscure Caddo group, the Naconiche.

Go to the following link to read the entire article:

<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/naconiche/index.html>

Texas Archeological Society Field School 2011

By Arnetta Cooper

The annual TAS Field School, held June 11- 18, was a return to Hondo, Texas. Home base for camping, meals and programs was the Medina County Fairgrounds—a large park-like area with large trees and shade.

Excavation sites were a 20-mile drive north of town along Hondo Creek, another shady area for which we were also grateful. In some areas we continued exactly in the level where we left off last year, as well as opening new units. The majority of artifacts were found in the upper 20—30 centimeter levels, although many units went down as far as 80—90 centimeters, hoping for evidence of older occupations than the Toyah artifacts in the upper levels. Some points were found, but were few and far between in the lower levels. As usual, the kids are produced an abundance of finds, which should keep our future archeologists coming right along.

Regretfully, Hondo Creek was dried up in little pools and our swimming hole only a found memory. Still, the company of field school friends and wonderful meals made for a fun time for all, especially the Margarita Party! Everyone should attend at least one Field School so you can brag to friends and family about going on a real “dig.”



WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
CVASSANANGELO.ORG

Meeting Location

Please remember that our meetings are now in the classroom at the Fort Concho Living History Stables, **236 Henry O. Flipper St.** We enter through the side door.

2011 Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Cell _____

Family members _____

Email _____

I pledge I will not intentionally violate the terms or conditions of any current or future state or local statute concerning cultural resources or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: CVAS, 4801 Royal Oak Dr., San Angelo, TX 76904

Individual \$15

Family \$20

Student or military N/C

(active military only)