



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

June 2017

'Taming the Cross Timbers: Sodbusters, Roughnecks, and the KKK' Barbara Barton CVAS June Speaker

Settlers in the 1850's came into the Cross Timbers to start a home. They were met with Indians, then oil booms and lawlessness. Railroad lines brought competition and finally the area became a wonderful place to grow everything from peaches to peanuts.

BARBARA BARTON grew up on a farm in West Texas and graduated from college with a teaching degree. She spent 30 years happily teaching math and science to high school students, but history was always her second love. When Barbara and her husband Lewis both retired from teaching, he ranched while she began writing local history.

The meeting will be held on June 22nd at 7 p.m. We meet in the old Fort Concho Living History stables classroom, 236 Henry O. Flipper St.

Butterfield Overland Mail Grape Creek Station (41CK305)

Tom Ashmore

For those that attended the SWFAS Symposium you will remember my presentation was on locating the Butterfield Overland Mail's Grape Creek Stage Station. I have now received the trinomial for the site. The full report will go into the SWFAS Transactions Journal that we will be making available in next year's symposium. A condensed version will also be going into the December issue of the California-Oregon Trails Association journal, Desert Tracks.

Although the landowners were very generous and supportive of this project they were also very hesitant to allow a group of people on to their land. Thus, I had to keep it to just myself and C.A. Maedgen to do all the investigative work. We spent many weekends from March through May at the site metal detecting and flagging all the locations of artifacts.

The site was located through my imagery interpretation of the Butterfield Trail, which most of you know I've been studying for going on 11 years now and I have been searching for that site for about 10 of those years. The problem was getting access to the property, which did not come available until this year.

The key to locating the site was the wagon trail. We were able to confirm the trail on the ground, which is still rutted quite deep in the soft ground of this area. We were actually able to measure each wheel rut at various locations as it led to and away from the station. The ruts ranged from 7 to 13 inches deep. The trail helped narrow down the general area of the site, but the key to locating it was the fact that the trail heads straight west to the creek as it comes out of the hills from the east, heading across the valley, and makes a 90-degree turn when it reaches the creek. The trail then heads south along the creek from that point as it heads to the end of the valley and then out to the southwest as it runs on to the Carlsbad area and the North Concho River. There is



only one reason for the 90-degree turn. That is, it must have been heading to the stage station. Had it not, it would have taken an angled route across the valley to save distance.

With that in mind it was only a matter of metal detecting the area near the 90-degree turn of the trail. The first indication of the site were the many cut footing stones that were strewn around. This field had been root plowed, so finding them strewn around was not unusual, but they were still confined to a fairly small area. In fact they were so numerous that we at first began detecting outside the field of stones. The first artifacts we found (square nails and pieces of metal bands turned out to be a probable tack shack that would have been inside the circular picket corral. The fact the corral was wood and picket was documented and the fact it was circular was determined through drone imagery of the site that still shows the imprint of the circle in the vegetation that grew back differently than the vegetation around it. Also found at the edge of the corral was a hand-forged mule shoe. You might remember that the Butterfield stages were pulled by Spanish Mules. The shoe was well worn and cracked in the middle with no nails left in it. We also found unique hand forged square mule shoe nails nearby that fit the shoe perfectly. The nails were properly cut and had no damage, indicating the shoe was probably removed by a farrier in the process of replacement. This, in itself does not verify the station, but it was a very useful artifact to add to all the other information we collected that together provided enough evidence to make the call that this was, in fact, the station location.



The drone imagery also revealed that the area where the stones were located also had a left-over imprint in the vegetation. It was the log cabin, which was also documented as part of the site. What was surprising was that although the imprint showed this was probably a traditional dog trot cabin, but had an additional room, making it an L-shaped cabin. As we began digging up the many square nails in this area and flagging them they began to reveal the same basic shape as the imprint had originally revealed.

Finally, it was documented that the final station construct was a fully enclosed stockade and what we found was the nail pattern indicated a probable wooden wall leading from the corral around the northeast side and connecting to the north-west corner of the cabin and another wall connected the other side of the corral to the southwest corner of the cabin. The trail imprint also showed a cut off from the main trail into the stockade area, through the walled area and leading right up to the dog-trot area of the cabin.



Clovis Culture, Ice Age Fauna Weren't Wiped Out by Cosmic Impact, Study Finds

westerndigs.org, February 9, 2017 , updated April 6, 2017, by Blake de Pastino

A physicist says his latest research may finally put to rest one of the most vexing theories about America's natural history: that the giant fauna of the Ice Age — and the culture of humans who hunted them — were wiped out by a cosmic impact.

Studies of rock samples from the Channel Islands of California to the creeks of Oklahoma have failed to turn up any evidence, he says, that supports what's known as the Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis.

For a decade, the impact theory has posited that a period of sudden cooling that occurred around 12,900 years ago, known as the Younger Dryas event, was caused by a collision with Earth by a meteorite, comet, or some other celestial object.

Experts don't dispute that Younger Dryas cold snap actually happened. The most widely held theory is that it was caused by rapid melting of glaciers at the end of the Ice Age, which inundated the northern oceans with fresh water and created a sudden change in ocean currents and, therefore, climate patterns.

Proponents of the Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis argue that a celestial impact led to the demise of such iconic animals as the mammoth and the mastodon, as well as the decline of the Clovis culture.

But proponents of the impact theory argue that a celestial impact triggered widespread wildfires and blanketed the atmosphere in dust, causing a collapse of ecosystems that led to the demise of such iconic animals as the mammoth and the mastodon, as well as the decline of the widespread Clovis culture.

This, despite the lack of any obvious evidence of such a recent impact.

But supporters of the impact hypothesis have long argued that proof can be found at a microscopic scale, in the form of nano-sized diamond crystals, produced by the energy of the space crash.

Dr. Tyrone Daulton of Washington University in St. Louis describes the impact scenario as “diamonds rain[ing] from the sky as the woolly mammoths fell in their tracks across North America.”

But Daulton conducted a thorough analysis of samples that were found by other studies to have contained such diamonds.

“My goal was to identify nanodiamonds,” Daulton said in an interview, “that is, confirm their presence, if present, and study them, if present.

“I was unsuccessful. No diamonds were found.”

Some of the disputed evidence was found on Santa Rosa Island, one of the Channel Islands off the coast of southern California.

The impetus for his study, he said, was a one-page article in the journal *Science* published in 2009 by Dr. Douglas Kennett of the University of Oregon, which reported the presence of nanodiamonds in a layer of rock that supporters of the impact theory call the Younger Dryas Boundary — a stratum that dates to 12,900 years ago.

A reporter from *Science*, who was doing a write-up about the paper, contacted Daulton for comment, because Daulton was known for his study of formation of diamonds in space, such as during the formation of stars.

Daulton decided to do his own research to test the claims made in Kennett's paper and others.

He began with the main deposit investigated by Kennett and his team, at Arlington Canyon, on Santa Rosa Island in California's Channel Islands.

“My coauthors have studied the Arlington Canyon site in great detail and have collected a large amount of data there,” Daulton said.

“My coauthors were able to locate the exact same outcrop section that Kennett et al., sampled for their studies.”

Daulton and his colleagues collected tiny spheres of carbon from the Arlington site, ground them up, and then inspected them using transmission electron microscopy.

“Despite my efforts, I was unable to locate any diamonds,” he said.

Daulton added that the most of the “nanodiamond” evidence reported by impact proponents is not true diamond but rather is said to be hypothetical phases of carbon, called “n-diamonds” or “i-carbon,” whose very existence is controversial.

“They are hypothetical phases,” he said.

Clovis Culture, Ice Age Fauna Weren't Wiped Out by Cosmic Impact, Study Finds

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Daulton said that his observations of the tiny spheres from Santa Rosa Island may explain why they may have been misidentified.

Rather than being made of pure carbon, the spheres turned out to contain small amounts of copper compounds, which can create the same patterns of scattered light and electrons — known as diffraction patterns — that have been attributed to the hypothetical carbon structures.

“I found nanoparticles of copper and copper oxide that yielded diffraction data nearly identical to that ascribed to controversial ‘n-diamond’ and ‘i-carbon’, respectively,” Daulton said.

“The presence of nanocrystals of copper is significant, because they can be easily confused with the controversial ‘n-diamond’, which represents the majority of the so-called nanodiamond evidence presented by the impact proponents.”

Daulton also pointed out that a similar analysis of purported nanodiamonds from Oklahoma returned similar results.

Microscopic carbon spheres, like these collected from a variety of sites, are said by impact proponents to be evidence of a cosmic collision. A new study of such spheres, however, concludes otherwise.

Daulton did not analyze those samples himself, but he summarized recent findings about them in his paper.

In 2012, a team of scientists said it had found microscopic diamonds in Ice Age sediments from Bull Creek, Oklahoma — the highest concentration of such diamonds ever reported.

But soon after, when a graduate student analyzed the same samples, she found no traces of diamonds at all.

“We are not talking about a sample with a relatively marginal or small amount of nanodiamonds,” Daulton said.

“We are talking about a sample with the greatest reported concentration of nanodiamonds of all Younger Dryas Boundary sites.

“If that measurement cannot be reproduced, it draws into serious question the abundance measurements performed at all other Younger Dryas Boundary sites.”

“The recent Bull Creek data is very revealing,” he added.

As a physicist whose work largely focuses on materials science and astronomy, Daulton has found himself drawn into one of the most heated debates in North American natural history.

“At one point, I had never heard of the Younger Dryas,” he said.

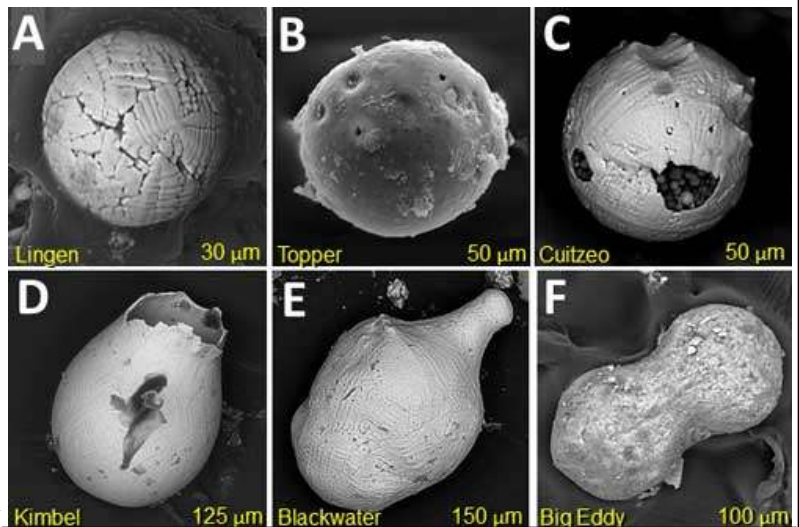
“I learned it was an interesting time marked by dramatic changes that prehistoric people experienced and lived through.”

But given the lack of reproducible results that he’s found, he and his colleagues remain unpersuaded by the Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis.

“Studying science is very difficult, and they say, the devil is in the details,” he said.

“One needs to carefully examine the reported evidence and the methods used to collect that evidence, especially evidence used to support an extraordinary claim such as the Younger Dryas impact.”

Daulton’s research appears in the *Journal of Quaternary Science*.



(Microscopic carbon spheres, like these collected from a variety of sites, are said by impact proponents to be evidence of a cosmic collision. A new study of such spheres, however, concludes otherwise. (Image courtesy YBD Research Group)

CVAS Facebook Page Continues To Grow

The CVAS Facebook page is having a very positive effect in the Facebook social media world. We have many people 'liking' the page from far away from the Concho Valley. The largest response we have gotten recently was Larry Riemenschneider's post on saving Sante Fe Junction. That post got 276 'engagements.' I had to look up what exactly an engagement is and here is the definition. "Generally speaking, engagement on Facebook is when people perform actions on your Page. They may like a post, click on a link or comment on an image for example. With Facebook Insights, engagement is defined as post clicks, likes, shares and comments." Between May 13 and June 9th we reached a total of 607 people with our posts.

Many of the posts I put on the page are shares from other archeological Facebook pages. I rely heavily on Shumla Rock Art Society and Texas State University, but I also include items from Sul Ross, Oklahoma Archeological Society, TAS, etc. I do not share our newsletter, but sometimes point back to our CVAS website and I also put in upcoming speaker info.

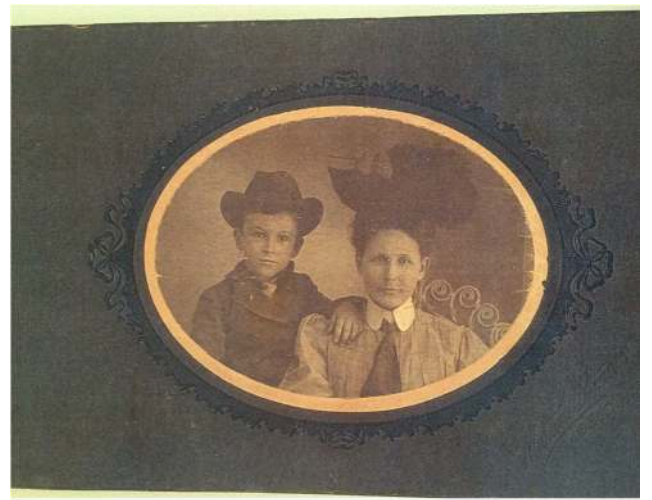
Pearls and Roses- Archeology & Legacy

Archeology is important and always tells a story. Often, we might not have all the info for a story, but gradually , we begin to piece it all together. Archeology takes on a whole new meaning , when we can pair it with history and legacy. Sometime back, I began doing the genealogy on my mother's side. I met a cousin in Georgetown, TX who helped me with my legacy. In a round about way, I might have found my Grandmother Dovie's pearls and I also inherited also a beautiful painting of pink roses. I know these items belonged to a cousin, but also I wondered if they belonged to my Great Great grandmother, Dovie Hawkins Spiars ? I began to put together the pieces and they told a wonderful story. One I'm sharing with you today.

Dovie Hawkins was my Great Great grandmother, born in 1873 in Milam Co, TX, to Delilah Adeline McHorse & James B. Hawkins.(James enlisted with Texas Morgan's Cavalry, in the Civil War.) Dovie was also the granddaughter of early Texas pioneer and revolutionary Rev. John McHorse who came to TX in 1836, he was Irish and fought in the Battle of San Jacinto and helped to win Texas. (He helped the Daughters of the Republic of TX to identify the historic battlefield, so that it would be held in honor forever, also honoring the brave men who took up arms to come to defend their 'beloved Texas!' After the war, McHorse took up land in Washington Co, TX, birth place of Texas independence.) Dovie's last baby, Dovie was born on Valentine's Day and bore the middle name, Valentine, Dovie was the mother of nine children. Her husband Jim, was a cattleman in Granger, TX, both families were early Williamson Co, TX pioneers.

As I am so very proud of my being a 7th generation Texan, I hold those pearls and gaze at the beautiful painting and feel some sort of a connection to the past..... Through 'pearls and roses,' we connect through the generations. And the legacy lives on through my own archeology, though it be a bit cleaned up from the usual stuff we avocational archeologist's, find in the dirt, it is still a 'remarkable remnant of the past,' and hopefully the legacy is carried on for generations to come.

Michelle K. Doss -R. N. & Writer
Bella Oaks Ranch
Chanterella Monarch Garden &
Miss Lissia's Cabin Bed & Breakfast
-CVAS Member



(Don't you know, the little cowboy above had an awesome story to tell his friends about his own connection to our legacy in Texas? My sister shared this wonderful picture with me. Thanks Sis! Dovie Hawkins & Jim Jr. Spiars-Williamson Co, TX are pictured above.)

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.**

2017 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, 132 Kilt Road, San Angelo, TX 76901

Individual	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student or military N/C		<input type="checkbox"/>

(active military only)