



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

March 2010

A day at Paint Rock

Everyone enjoyed the outing at Paint Rock. We focused on the area next to the spring which showed the most promise and we weren't disappointed. Many artifacts were discovered, covering multiple periods of the 1800s and showing this area was a military camping area and a general gathering area for locals. These, along with the artifacts already gathered by Fred Campbell and his extensive historical documentation will go toward a report being put together by Tom Ashmore. We plan one more outing, this one focusing on the area just in front of the river crossing and in front of the pictograph area. The actual date will be determined at the next CVAS meeting on 25 March.



March Meeting Presentation

25 Mar, 7 p.m.

Reconnaissance of Moorehead's Embankment and Stone Structures East of Antelope Creek in the Texas Panhandle

Tiffany Osburn will be giving the March meeting presentation. Tiffany is the Regional Archeologist - Mountain/Pecos and Plains in the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission. Recent fieldwork on the upland flat east of Antelope Creek in Hutchinson County succeeded in identifying Warren Moorehead's 1920 raised rectangular earth-pebble embankment. Moorehead also noted numerous nearby stone slab ruins that were briefly investigated in 1920 and again during the early 1930s by E.J. Lowrey. The recent reconnaissance obtained accurate locations of the embankment and 19 dispersed Antelope Creek phase structures that are delineated by scattered dolomite slabs. Discussion will focus on the history of investigations, present condition and possible functions of the embankment feature, surficial conditions of the structures, and plans for future research at this site.

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.

Big Bend Outing

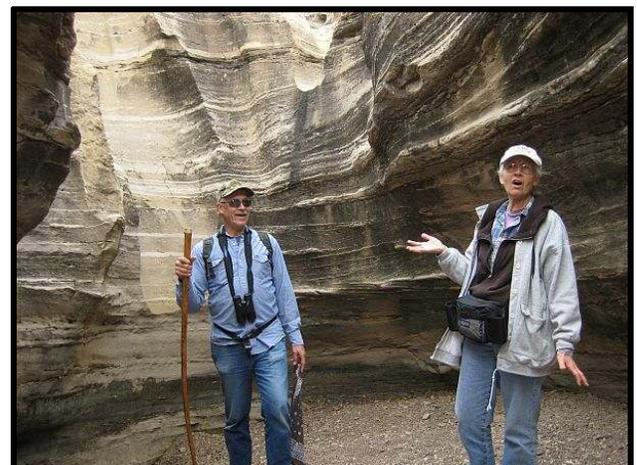
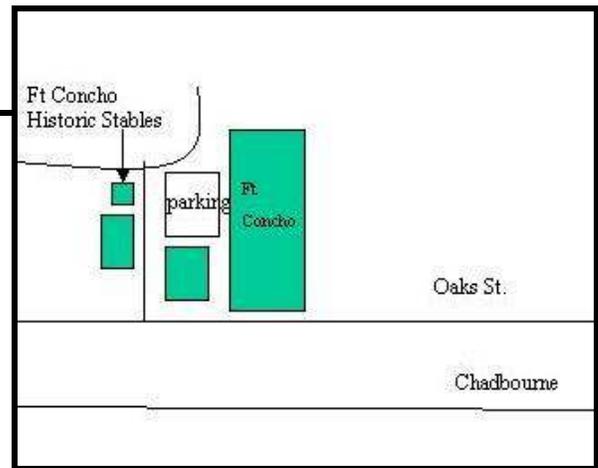
Twelve CVAS members recently enjoyed a busy weekend at Big Bend National Park. Park sites visited were Swirl Tenaja, Indian Head Springs and Persimmon Gap.

Evelyn Diebitch and Becky Wilson made this their first club outing as new members. A big thanks goes to archeologist Andy Cloud, of Center for Big Bend Studies, for guiding members to rock shelters located on his property near Study Butte. Big Bend Bluebonnets are in full bloom at Study Butte.

Despite high winds, a group meal was enjoyed by all at Chisos Basin Campground.

Under consideration in the near future are weekend trips to Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park and South Llano River State Park.

Jack Woodrow



For Chadbourne Living History, April 30th & May 1st

Garland and Lana are busy getting ready for this year's living history event weekend and it should be a great one. The work on the visitors center is under way and the paved road running through the fort grounds is being removed to make more room and make the post more presentable as to historic detail.

This year there will be a reenactor/volunteer sign in booth where you will receive information on campsites and receive food tickets.

Fort Chadbourne Days Living History Event!
April 30th - School Day -(Schools Only)
May 1st - General Public - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION
Donations gladly accepted!

Located halfway between Abilene and San Angelo, TX - 12 miles north of Bronte on Hwy 277

See Fort Chadbourne Come Alive!

Antique tractors pulling hayrides to see the buffalo herd, Sutlers, Buffalo Hunters, Archeology Excavations, Native Americans, Artillery-Cavalry-Infantry Drills, Cowboys, Artifact & Sewing displays, Family life on the frontier, Antique gun displays, Black powder shooting, Food vendors, Live entertainment featuring the "Ice House Brass Band", Doug Baum and Camel Corps, and much more! Take a short drive out to the Fort and enjoy all the fun-filled educational activities for the entire family! For more information, call 325-743-2555.







Welcome New Members

Becky Wilson
Allamay Schafer
Henry Dusek

U.S. Military Vets working on archeological project

By Cheryle Wittenauer

St. Louis, Missouri (AP) Jan.2010

U.S. military veterans are sorting through a massive government archaeological collection that has been neglected for decades, with the hope of archiving the stone tools, arrows and American Indian beads that were found beneath major public works projects.

The collection dates to the 1930s, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started building dozens of locks, dams and reservoirs, and the ground beneath them was excavated for archaeological treasures.

Prehistoric and historic pottery, stone tools, arrowheads, Indian beads, necklaces, earrings and ear spools, and ceremonial artifacts, even human remains, were collected. The items then sat in boxes and paper bags in university museums as well as private basements, garages and tool sheds.

In recent weeks, U.S. veterans — many with traumatic brain injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder — have begun processing, cataloging, digitizing and archiving the collection as part of a one-year \$3.5 million project, funded with federal stimulus money.

It's part of the corps' effort to find American Indian cultural items and return them to tribes or their descendants — something all federal agencies must do under a 1990 law. Michael Trimble, chief of curation and archives for the corps' St. Louis district, said the goal is to get the collection catalogued, digitally photographed and put on the Web for public viewing.

He said the corps' 47,000-cubic-foot collection of boxed artifacts and associated records, audio tapes and photographs would fill 30 semitrailers.

Trimble, who helped excavate mass graves in Iraq from 2004 to 2007 and testified in the genocide case against Saddam Hussein, said it was a friend who helped him understand he could both help veterans and apply their discipline to the care of the artifacts. He and his staff then applied for the federal funding.

Veterans say the project is providing them with hope and new job skills. "This is the best thing that has happened to me since I got out of the military," said Cody Gregory, a Burleson, Texas, native who works at the Veterans Curation Project's St. Louis center, which opened in December.

Gregory, 27, a former U.S. Air Force mental health tech in Afghanistan, works with a dozen other Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam-era veterans at the St. Louis site. The project's two other centers — one that opened in October in Augusta, Ga., and one set to open Monday in Washington, D.C. — employ the same number of veterans.

Brockington Cultural Resources Consulting in suburban Atlanta runs the three centers for the corps and trains the veterans.

Cathy van Arsdale, who manages all three sites, said the project trains and employs veterans in records and data management and archiving. Veterans hold the jobs for six months, then work with the Veterans Administration to find permanent jobs.

Matt Bahr, 28, of Ste. Genevieve, said the job working on the archaeological collection allows him to apply the quick thinking and cognitive skills he learned as an Air Force flight nurse in Iraq.

"We have millions of dollars invested in our training that would be wasted if we sat at home," he said of veterans. "I may not save lives again, but I can do this."

Wearing white gloves, Bahr on Friday carefully handled field maps, drawings, photographs and other delicate specimens that told the story of a 1970s dig in Indiana conducted by university students.

Their notes, written on creased loose-leaf paper, with now-peeling tape, were held in a box that was water-damaged and moldy.

Trimble said the veterans are close and talk to each other.

"They've all been through the same stuff," he said. "The work is therapy."

Two roads from Fort Chadbourne

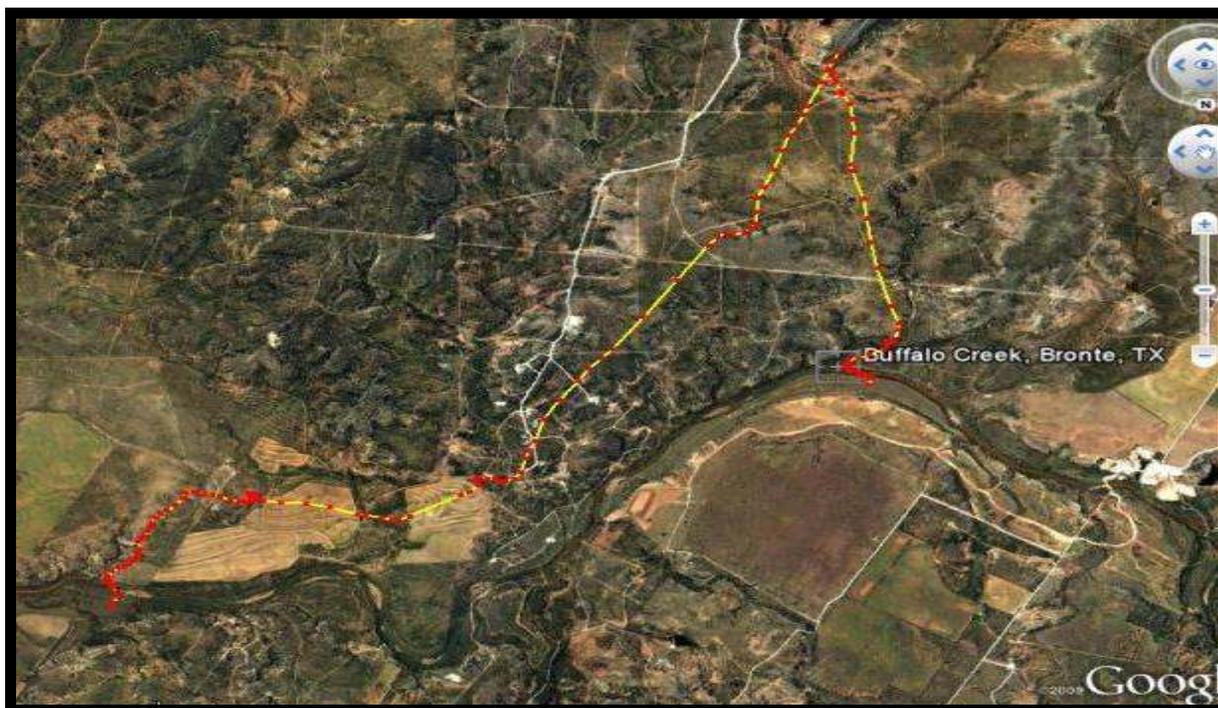
By Tom Ashmore

I have written and spoken about the Butterfield Trail coming out of Fort Chadbourne that appears to go against the accepted knowledge of the route described by Conkling in his book, *The Butterfield Overland Mail*. I do not believe Conkling was wrong, but it is not the whole story. My contention is that there were two roads departing from Fort Chadbourne and heading south used by Butterfield Overland Mail at different periods of time.

According to Conkling, the trail leading out of Fort Chadbourne “led almost west for about a quarter of a mile to the crossing on Oak Creek where the stream may still be forded at normal flow.” I was able to find this trail on Google Earth. It follows a path through the existing cemetery and across the highway, turning to cross the creek, as he states. From that point it begins to fade as the trace heads south. Returning to Conkling’s account about the Colorado River crossing, he states, “From this point it followed along the west side of Buffalo Creek for a distance of about four miles where it diverged from the old Military road which followed on southwest by way of Pecan Spring, while the Butterfield road from this junction to the Middle Concho River, was a newly opened company-built section of road.”

Note that he states that it was following a military road before diverging. This is significant. I believe the road it followed was the original road from the old Camp Johnston (predecessor to Ft Chadbourne) at Water Valley. In old military maps this road was listed as the Johnston road. Later, a better and more direct road was built by the Butterfield company down to the Colorado River. This one required a direct south exit from the fort and to do this they needed to build a bridge across Oak Creek, which is very deep at that point. Those bridge abutments are still there and you can trace the trail going up to them and leaving on the south side to head toward Bronte. After taking the more direct and easier route down to and across the Colorado River the newer road headed west to merge with the older road and continue on to the Grape Creek Station.

Below you can see where I have traced both trails heading south, where they cross the Colorado River and where they merge to continue heading south. The trail on the right is the older trail and on the left is the newer trail. There is one discrepancy in the Conkling account and that is that the trail only follows along the west side of Buffalo Creek for a short distance and then crosses to the east side. It had to cross at this point to continue south to the Grape Creek Station.





WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
CVASSANANGELO.ORG

CVAS is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to bring together people who have an interest in archeology and whose mission is to protect the historic and pre-historic resources of the region.

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month except July, November and December.

2010 CVAS Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Cell _____

Family members _____

Email _____

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

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: Cynthia Purcell, 1532 Loop Dr, San Angelo, TX 76904