



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

September 2011

20 Years of Stewardship



Our own Larry Riemenschneider recently received the Jim Word Award for Outstanding Archeological Stewardship commemorating his 20th year as a steward with the Texas Historical Commission (THC). It was presented to him during the Archeological Steward's Conference and Workshop August 13th in Austin. The THC sponsored the two-day workshop in Austin as part of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN). The workshop provided training for the stewards, both old and new, with a special concentration on Texas cemetery law and historic cemetery preservation.

Artifact Quiz: Can you guess what it is? Answer on Page 5



Roads From Hayrick

by Tom Ashmore

In our July newsletter, Callan Clark reported on his project identifying the lost town of Hayrick, north of Highway 158 between Bronte and Robert Lee. Callan first asked me to assist him in identifying the town site of Hayrick through my work in identifying old wagon trails in Google Earth. There is no town site map of Hayrick and only one 1890 county map showing the town. At the time we didn't even have that in our possession. We also have not been able to find any photographs of the town. This is where this technique of imagery interpretation can become invaluable to archeologists and historians.

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Roads From Hayrick

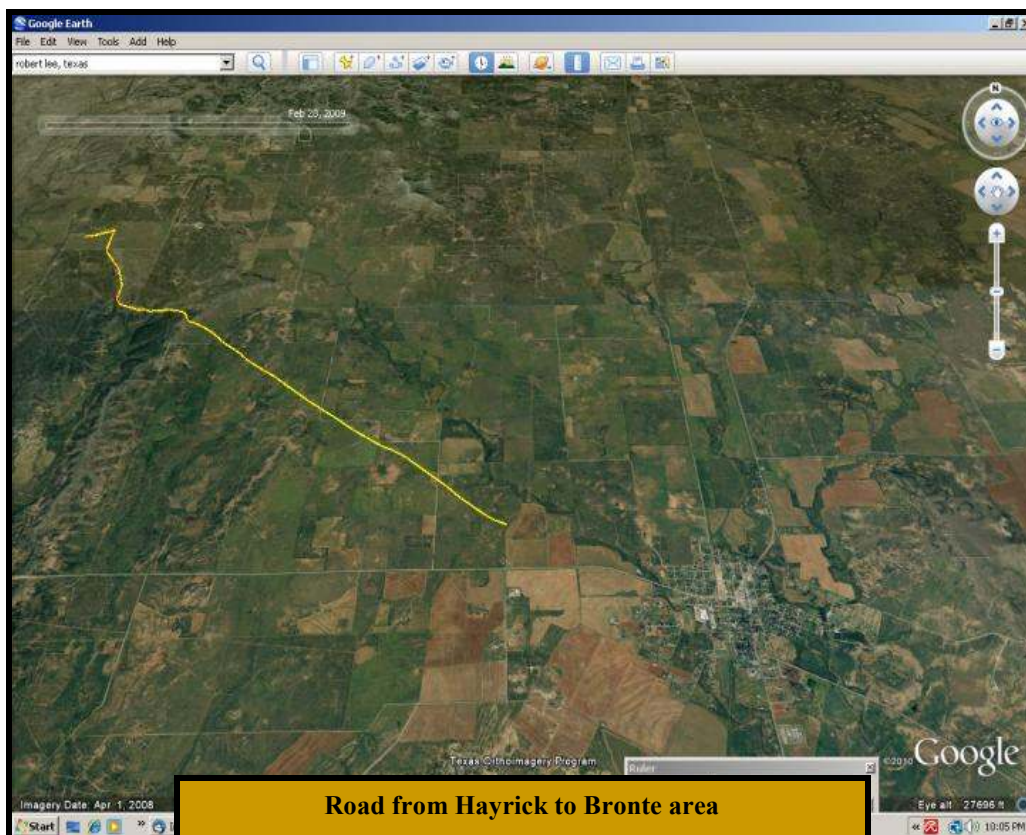
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The first thing to do was to identify the trails leading to the town in order to locate the town center. To do this we started with the field the town was known to be in as conveyed by the current land owner. I then began following what appeared to be old trace lines of wagon roads to see where they went. This is not like following a current ranch road. Old wagon traces are extremely faint in comparison.

As I explained to Callan, you have to look at the trails from all different angles and sometimes in various historical images to pick them out piece by piece. Sometimes I go backward as if I'm looking out the back of a airplane and sometime I go forward as if I'm looking out the front. I've even followed the trail sideways. It all depends and it's a lot of trial and error. I connect the pieces together using the line drawing tool to put a line down on top of it and then I begin with the next piece from the end of the line. Most of the time the trail is darker rather than lighter. Sometimes it looks like a bunch of bushes in a row and sometimes it is just some dark splotching that ends up looking like a faint line. Moving the map back and forth often brings the trail out to your eyes. I'm not sure why this works, but it does. Sometimes I'll lose it completely. In that case I'll go a little farther in the direction it seemed to be going and see if I can pick it up again. When I do I just connect the line to the area I picked it up on and continue. I've found that the best elevation to be at is around 3,000 feet. I try to angle it out and go pretty far out so I get a long distance look. That is usually where I can see the faint trails best. The old trails tend to not follow existing boundaries or roads. When you see a faint trail crossing multiple properties, but in no logical relationship to modern boundaries it is a good bet is it an old trail. The logic they will follow is the terrain. They always followed the easiest terrain possible - no steep cuts or hills. If they had to go down a cut they would always find the easiest way possible. I try not to pre-judge where I'm going, but every once in a while I'll pull way back to see if I got off on some wrong turn, heading in completely the wrong direction. Remember, I usually have a general idea of where it may be going. If I did get headed in the wrong direction I delete the sections all the way back to where I made the mistake and start looking for where the trail continues in the generally correct direction. The best time to work on it is at night. It is harder to see the lines when you have light coming in through windows, washing the picture out on your screen.

I first identified the road from Hayrick to what is now Bronte. Next I identified the road from Hayrick to Robert Lee, which also happened to be the road leading to the Hayrick Cemetery. By seeing where these two roads converged we could then know where the center of town was. Once we found that we could begin identifying possible geometric shapes that might have been buildings at one time and other smaller cross roads in the town.

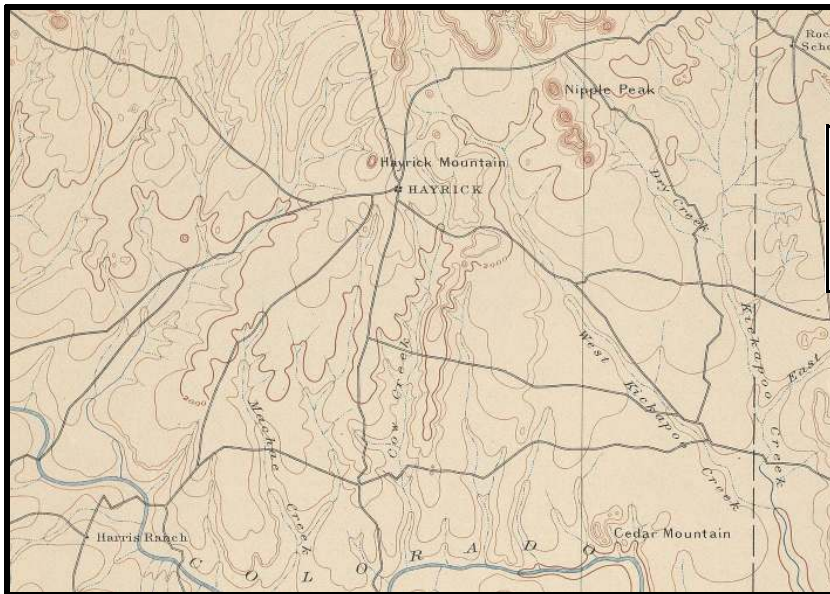
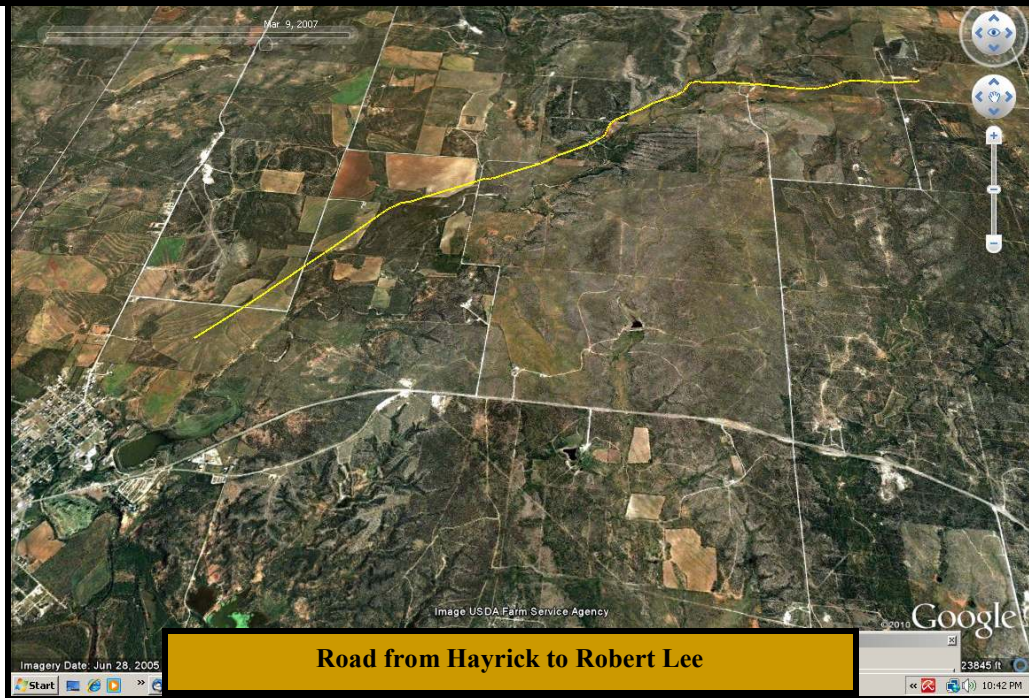
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Roads From Hayrick

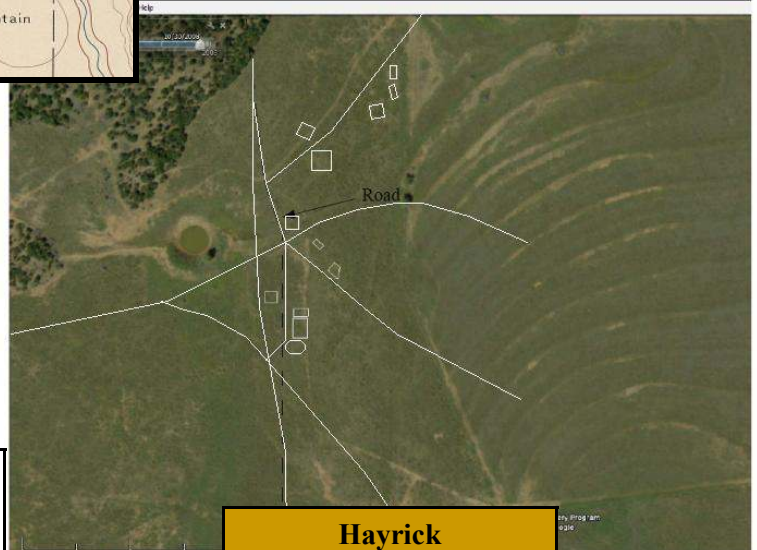
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In this 1890 county map you can see the roads identified through Google Earth are validated. I did not see this map until after I had identified the two roads to Bronte and Robert Lee.

The north/south road in this picture is the road to Bronte and the west running road is the road to Hayrick Cemetery and continues to Robert Lee. With the convergence of these two roads we could then begin to search for other identifiable town roads and geometric shapes that may have represented building structures (also annotated in this picture)

Next month, following the road north from Hayrick to the 1890s town of Fort Chadbourne



Archaeologists comb newly-found Civil War POW camp

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press The Associated Press, Thursday, August 18, 2011 12:40 PM EDT

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — When word reached Camp Lawton that the enemy army of Gen. William T. Sherman was approaching, the prison camp's Confederate officers rounded up their thousands of Union army POWs for a swift evacuation — leaving behind rings, buckles, coins and other keepsakes that would remain undisturbed for nearly 150 years.

Archaeologists are still discovering unusual, and sometimes stunningly personal, artifacts a year after state officials revealed that a graduate student had pinpointed the location of the massive but short-lived Civil War camp in southeast Georgia.

Discoveries made as recently as a few weeks ago were being displayed Thursday at the Statesboro campus of Georgia Southern University. They include a soldier's copper ring bearing the insignia of the Union army's 3rd Corps, which fought bloody battles at Gettysburg and Manassas, and a payment token stamped with the still-legible name of a grocery store in Michigan.

"These guys were rousted out in the middle of the night and loaded onto trains, so they didn't have time to load all this stuff up," said David Crass, an archaeologist who serves as director of Georgia's Historic Preservation Division. "Pretty much all they had got left behind. You don't see these sites often in archaeology."

Camp Lawton's obscurity helped it remain undisturbed all these years. Built about 50 miles south of Augusta, the Confederate camp imprisoned about 10,000 Union soldiers after it opened in October 1864 to replace the infamous Andersonville prison. But it lasted barely six weeks before Sherman's army arrived and burned it during his march from Atlanta to Savannah.

Barely a footnote in the war's history, Camp Lawton was a low priority among scholars. Its exact location was never verified. While known to be near Magnolia Springs State Park, archaeologists figured the camp was too short-lived to yield real historical treasures.

That changed last year when Georgia Southern archaeology student Kevin Chapman seized on an offer by the state Department of Natural Resources to pursue his master's thesis by looking for evidence of Camp Lawton's stockade walls on the park grounds.

Chapman ended up stunning the pros, uncovering much more than the remains of the stockade's 15-foot pine posts. On neighboring land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he dug up remnants of the prisoners themselves — a corroded tourniquet buckle, a tobacco pipe with teeth marks in the stem and a folded frame that once held a daguerreotype.

"They're not just buttons and bullets," Chapman said. "They're little pieces of the story, and this is not the story of battles and generals. This is the story of little people whose names have been forgotten by history that we're starting to piece together and be able to tell."

A year later, Chapman says he and fellow archaeology students working at Camp Lawton have still barely scratched the surface. In July, they used a metal detector to sweep two narrow strips about 240 yards long in the area where they believe prisoners lived.

They found a diamond-shaped 3rd Corps badge that came from a Union soldier's uniform. Nearby was the ring with the same insignia soldered onto it.

The artifacts also yield clues to what parts of the country the POWs came from, including the token issued by a grocery store in Niles, Mich., that customers could use like cash to buy food. Stamped on its face was the merchant's name: G.A. Colbey and Co. Wholesale Groceries and Bakery.

Similarly, there's a buckle that likely clasped a pair of suspenders bearing the name of Nanawanuck Manufacturing Company in Massachusetts.

Hooks and buckles that appear to have come off a Union knapsack also hint that, despite harsh living conditions, captors probably allowed their Union prisoners to keep essentials like canteens and bedrolls.

The Georgia Southern University Museum plans to add the new artifacts to its public collection from Camp Lawton in October along with a related acquisition — a letter written by one of the camp's prisoners on Nov. 14, 1864, just eight days before Lawton was abandoned and prisoners were taken back to Andersonville and other POW camps.

The letter written by Charles H. Knox of Schroon Lake, N.Y., a Union corporal in the 1st Connecticut Cavalry, was purchased from a Civil War collector in Tennessee. Unaware that Camp Lawton will soon be evacuated, Knox writes to his wife that he hopes to soon be freed in a prisoner exchange between the warring armies.

He doesn't write much about conditions at the prison camp, but rather worries about his family. He tells his wife that if she and their young son need money for food or clothing, there's a man who owes him \$9. Knox also gives his wife permission to sell the family's cow.

Brent Tharp, director of the campus museum, said his growing collection from Camp Lawton has definitely drawn Civil War buffs to visit from far beyond southeast Georgia.

"The people who are real Civil War buffs and fanatics, those are definitely coming," Tharp said. "But I think we've also created a whole new group of Civil War buffs here because it's right here in their own backyard."

September CVAS Presentation: Ghost Courthouses of West Texas



Bill Yeates, with his always incredible photos, will present a program on three early 1900s towns that were bypassed by the railroad and died leaving behind only their large stone courthouses.

OCTOBER ARCHEOLOGY FAIR

“Yesteryear’s Revisited”, the CVAS 12th annual archeology fair, will take place at Fort Concho on October 8th. The event will be a full day beginning at 10:00 am and ending a 4:00 pm. A list of volunteers and their jobs was printed in the last newsletter. Volunteers have been contacted. If your name was omitted from the list, or if you would like to volunteer, contact me. Food for the event will be provided by the “Fiddle Fire Chuck Wagon”.

CVAS members will be setting up for the event on Friday the 7th of October in the afternoon. If your exhibit or demonstration is inside a building and you would like to set it up on Friday, you are welcome to do so. During this time tables, chairs, signs, etc. will be set up. If you have exhibited in the past, you will have the same number of tables for your exhibit. If you need more information contact me. If you have an exhibit, demonstration or activity to be set up on Saturday, **PLEASE BE AT THE FORT BY 8:00 AM. WHEN THE FAIR CLOSSES, PLEASE STAY AND HELP BREAK DOWN ALL EXHIBITS.** Thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time and efforts and we look forward to a great fair again this year. Larry Riemenschneider Ph. 653-8216



CVAS at the Tom Green County Historical Society meeting held at the new Stevens Library August 30th, 2011.

Artifact Quiz answer: It’s a cowboy line rider tool. It was kept on the saddle's horn, thus the metal ring. Along with the hammer, it has a pick, barbed wire stretcher and wire twisting tool for fence mending. The nail remover and hammer head would also probably come in handy as an emergency horse shoe remover and repair as well. It reads "Atomic, Glaskin Mfg, Pat Pending" and was a cowboy's friend.

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

(active military only)