



# *Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter*

*September 2014*

## **15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL YESTERYEARS' REVISITED ARCHEOLOGY FAIR**

***Saturday, September 27, 2014***

***Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, San Angelo, TX***

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The 15th Annual Archeology Fair is on Saturday, September 27, starting at 10:00 AM and ending at 3:00 PM.

Everyone who participated in the Fair last year will have everything the same for this year.

The Concho Valley Archeological Society (CVAS) and Fort Concho will be preparing for the fair, setting up tables, chairs, and signs on Friday, September 26 at 1:00 PM. If you wish to set up on Friday you are welcome to do so. If you wait until Saturday to set up please be at the Fort by 8:45 AM. This is a RAIN or SHINE event and we will not close the fair until 3:00 PM. When the fair closes, EVERYONE PLEASE STAY AND HELP BREAKDOWN THE EXHIBITS.

There will be a Sutler Store at the fair in the Commissary Building. Items donated to be sold will be greatly appreciated. The money from the Store goes to cover expenses of the fair.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you all for volunteering again this year.

- Callan Clark, CVAS

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

CVAS ARCHEOLOGY FAIR  
Callan Clark  
(Cell) 325-763-7361  
(E-mail) clarkc74@gmail.com

FORT CONCHO NHL  
Main Office  
(Phone) 325-481-2646

# CVAS Archeology Fair

## EXHIBITS

APACHE	Ruben and Anabeth Cordova
ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION	Larry Riemenschneider
IRAAN ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	Evans Turpin
CONCHO VALLEY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	Callan Clark
TIME OF OUR LIVES	Marcia Esser
NATIVE & EDIBLE PLANTS	Susan Perry
INDIAN FOOD & LORE	Brownie Roberts, Loy Haley
WALNUT SCHOOL HOUSE	Michelle and Derek Doss
CONCHO VALLEY ARTIFACTS	Judy Gill
PHOTOGRAPHY OF HISTORY & ARCHEOLOGY	Bill Yeates
ILLUMINATED THREADS	Kathy Powe
RECYCLING & ARCHEOLOGY	Cathy Norris
QUILTS	Ginger Hudspeth – Quilters Guild
TRAVEL TRUNK	Joyce Gray
SAN ANGELO GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Susan Ball
ROCKS & FOSSILS	GEO Club Angelo State University
BUTTERFIELD TRAIL	Tom Ashmore

## ACTIVITIES

MEDICINE BAG MAKING	Stephanie and Tristen Kozak, Eileen Braziel, Jo Riemenschneider
LEAVING DOLLS	Tee Maedgen
CLUES IN THE DIRT	C. A. Maedgen, Bill Haley, Jack Pool
PAINTED PEBBLES	Arnetta Cooper
BASKET MAKING	Mary Frentz – Girl Scouts
BOW & ARROW SHOOT	Jack Woodrow
ATLATL THROW	Gary Huemier

## VOLUNTEERS

PRINTING AND PLACING SIGNS	Tommy Deering
FT. CONCHO	Robert Bluthardt
CVAS	Fred Braziel

# Fisherman Pulls Up Beastly Evidence of Early Americans

livescience.com, By Tia Ghose, August 11, 2014

A 22,000-year-old mastodon skull and tool dredged from the seafloor in the Chesapeake Bay hints of early settlers in North America. The two relics, which were pulled up together, may come from a place that hasn't been dry land since 14,000 years ago. If so, the combination of the finds may suggest that people lived in North America, and possibly butchered the mastodon, thousands of years before people from the Clovis culture, who are widely thought to be the first settlers of North America and the ancestors of all living Native Americans.

But that hypothesis is controversial, with one expert saying the finds are too far removed from their original setting to draw any conclusions from them. That's because the bones were found in a setting that makes it tricky for scientists to say with certainty where they originated and how they are related to one another.

"The bottom line is, there simply is no context for these discoveries," said Vance Holliday, an archaeologist at the University of Arizona in Tucson, who was not involved in the study.

Most researchers believe the first Americans crossed the Bering Strait from Siberia about 15,000 years ago and quickly colonized North America. Artifacts from these ancient settlers, dubbed the Clovis culture after one of their iconic archaeological sites in Clovis, New Mexico, have been found from Canada to the edges of North America.

But in 1974, a small wooden scallop trawler was dredging the seafloor, about 230 feet (70 meters) below the sea surface and nearly 60 miles (100 kilometers) off the coastline in the Chesapeake Bay.

"They hit a snag, or a hang, as they like to say, which meant that something pretty heavy was in their net," said Dennis Stanford, an archaeologist with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., who has analyzed the find.

When they pulled up their net, they found the partial skull of a mastodon, a distant cousin of the woolly mammoth that began its slide into extinction about 12,000 years ago, Stanford said. The fishermen also noticed a flaked blade made of a volcanic rock called rhyolite.

The fisherman couldn't lug the skull back to shore in their tiny wooden boat, so they sawed off the tusks and teeth, tossed the rest overboard and eventually handed portions to the crew as souvenirs. Capt. Thurston Shawn gave the remaining tusk portions, teeth and knife to a relative, who donated the remains to Gwynn's Island Museum in Virginia. There they sat, unnoticed, for decades.

But while doing his doctoral dissertation, Darrin Lowery, a geologist at the University of Delaware, noticed the teeth and the tusk at the museum, and said, "Ooh, it's something Dennis would be real interested in," Stanford told Live Science.

By measuring the fraction of radioactive carbon isotopes (elements of carbon with different numbers of neutrons), the team found that the mastodon tusk was more than 22,000 years old.

There was no way to date the blade precisely, but the deft flint-knapping technique used to make it was similar to that found in Solutrean tools, which were made in Europe between 22,000 and 17,000 years ago.

Melting glaciers raised sea levels and submerged that area of the continental shelf about 14,000 years ago, so the knife must have been at least that old, Stanford added.

In addition, both pieces showed characteristic weathering that indicated they were exposed to the air for a while and then submerged in a saltwater marsh, before finally being buried in seawater.



A flaked blade unearthed from the Chesapeake Bay along with a mastodon skull shows evidence of weathering in open air, then saltwater marshes, and finally the ocean. Credit: Dennis Stanford

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# Fisherman Pulls Up Beastly Evidence of Early Americans

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That finding suggested that the two artifacts were possibly from the same environment — such as the marshes found between sand dunes that are often set back from the seashore. That would have been a perfect place for mastodons to find food, Stanford said.

"They like to chew on bushes and more rough shrubbery," Stanford said.

To Stanford, Lowery and their colleagues, the discoveries suggest that people lived along the East Coast more than 14,000 years ago — potentially thousands of years before the Clovis culture emerged there. These first American colonizers may have even crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Europe, Stanford said.

"I think it's very convincing," said Michael B. Collins, an anthropologist at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, who was not involved in the current work.

The weathering on both items — first with open air, then saltwater, then seawater exposure — would be almost impossible to get without them having been on land prior to rising sea levels toward the close of the Pleistocene Epoch, which lasted from 1.7 million to 11,700 years ago, Collins said.

But the person who wielded the rhyolite knife may not have hunted the mastodon, Collins said.

"Those things could have come to rest there together at different times," with the tool possibly being 18,000 or 19,000 years old, Collins told Live Science.

The idea that the first Americans were European "has been around for a long time, and it's a tough case to make," Holliday said.

A 2007 study in the journal PLOS Genetics tied all living Native American populations to ancestors that crossed the Bering Strait from Siberia. If Europeans did reach the Americas 18,000 years ago, they left little genetic trace in living populations.

"There's absolutely no DNA evidence," Holliday said.

Archaeological evidence is also scarce. A few East Coast sites, such as Cactus Hill in Virginia and Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Pennsylvania, may have been inhabited up to 16,000 to 18,000 years ago, but the dating and provenance of artifacts from the sites are debatable, Holliday said.

Either way, it's impossible to know how the mastodon tusk and knife are connected, Holliday said.

"You would have to demonstrate that the artifact was associated with the mastodon — in the same geologic layers," Holliday said.

But many other fishing boats could have come and mixed up the sediments at the ocean floor prior to the scallop trawler's dredging. And with thousands of years of ocean currents, the artifacts could have originated in different locations. For all anybody knows, an ancient fisherman could have dropped the knife from a canoe 8,000 years ago,

## **Bill Moore Bio**

Editor's Note: Bill Moore submitted a special article just for CVAS which is on the following page. I asked him for his bio.

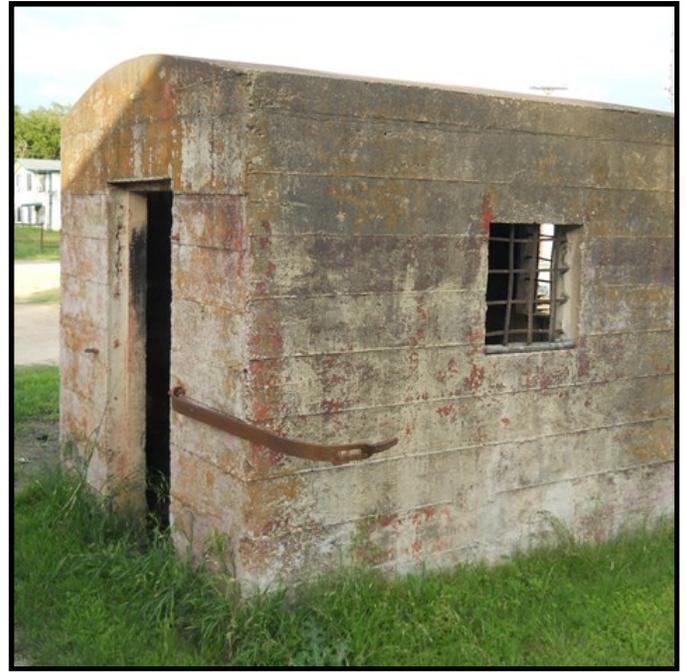
William E. Moore is the owner and sole proprietor of Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA), his contract archaeology business in Bryan, Texas. His academic achievements are a B.S. in Geography and an M.A. in English from Sam Houston State University and an M.A. in Anthropology from Texas A&M University. Prior to starting his own business, he worked on field projects for other firms and was a full-time staff archaeologist at Heartfield, Price and Greene, Inc. in Monroe, Louisiana and later at Texas A&M University. He has recorded over 280 prehistoric and historic sites on his personal time and has written 265 reports documenting his work at BVRA. In addition to this calaboose project he is also writing about certain aspects of Texas archaeology with the first installment to be a treatise on projectile point types found in the state.

# The Texas Calaboose

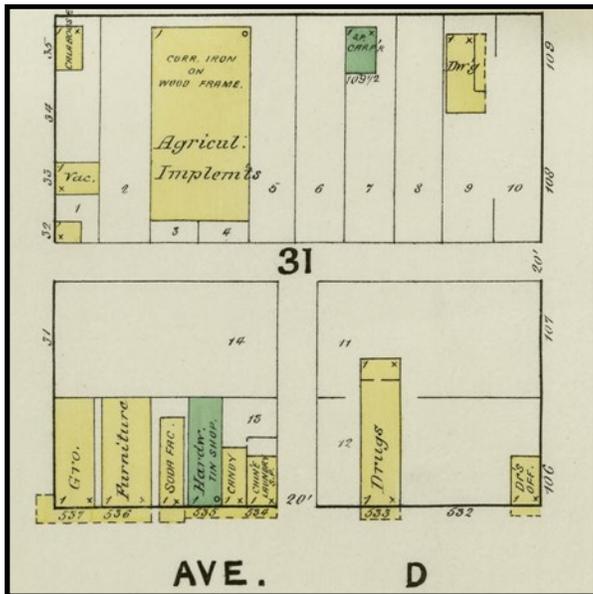
By Bill Moore

I have visited all 254 Texas counties and it was not until April of 2013 that I saw my first Texas calaboose. That name was familiar to me from the many western movies I had seen as a child. Being locked up in the calaboose was a phrase I had heard often but I had never equated it with anything but the typical western jail as depicted by Hollywood. Behind the local grocery store in Gause, Texas is a small concrete structure (96.8 square feet) that immediately caught our attention. I was traveling with Rhonda Holley, a friend who shares my love of architecture. We wondered what it must have been like to be locked up in a small building with a dirt floor and no plumbing or electricity. The summer heat must have been unbearable as would have been cold winter days and nights.

I wanted to know more about a calaboose and as my research progressed I discovered that they were a very common architectural feature on the Texas landscape. They appear to have been most common in small towns that had a need for some form of jail but did not have the funds or perhaps the need for anything big. The materials used include poured concrete, wood, brick, rock, and wooden framed covered with tin. The word calaboose was derived from an old Spanish word Calabozo that means dungeon. The most documented use for the calaboose is the temporary incarceration of wrong doers for drinking and rowdy behavior. The serious criminals were held in the local calaboose until they could be transported to the county jail, a trip that was not always easy in bad weather in a wagon or with the earliest motor vehicles.



Calaboose in Gause, Texas



Sanborn Map for Cisco, Texas dated April 1891

Since the calaboose is not depicted on the 1886 map it was built sometime between 1886 and 1891 and it was gone around 1916.

Calaboosees were also used in some county seats. They were most often present before a real county jail could be built. Sometimes, there was a need for a temporary lockup and a calaboose would be constructed while the county jail was being renovated. There is no formal definition of a calaboose. For my purposes, they are one-story structures that vary in size from 72 square feet to 363 square feet (3 cells). The majority has one room or cell while a large number have two cells. A calaboose with three cells is rare.

It is rare to know the exact date that a calaboose was built. If records are not available, the best source for this information is the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps available online at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/g.html>.

The Sanborn map dated 1891 (Sheet 1) is a perfect example of how these maps can be used to estimate the date of a calaboose or any other structure. There was a wood calaboose in Cisco, Texas in 1891 (upper left corner of map 1). In 1920 it was gone and replaced by a brick furniture store. According to a local informant the jail following the calaboose consisted of metal cells in the old City Hall that was built in

My website ([www.tinytexasjails.com](http://www.tinytexasjails.com)) contains much more detailed information and illustrates all of the calaboosees I have visited. I greatly value any comments and welcome hearing about jails that I am not aware of.

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.**

## 2014 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, 4063 Green Meadow Dr., San Angelo, TX 76904

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

(active military only)