

# West Texas Archeological Society

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westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website

President: Tom Ashmore, Vice President: C.A. Maedgen, Treasurer: James Michael Collett

(Feel free to pass on to friends. Membership is free. 99 members and growing!)

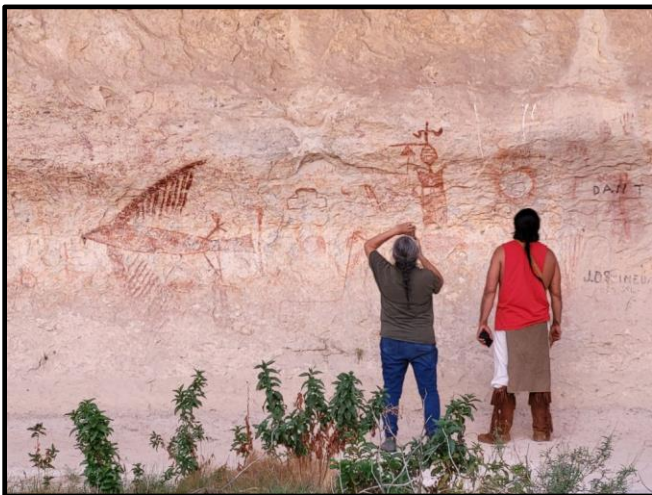
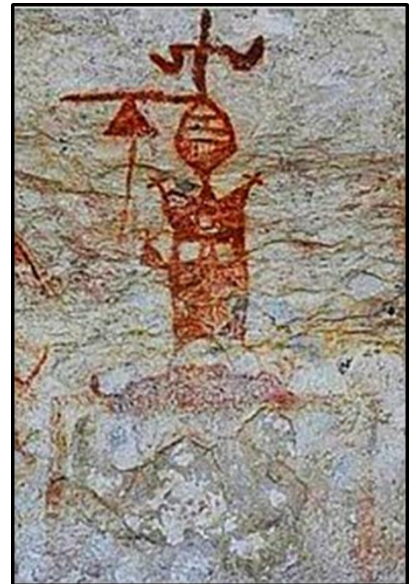
## October 2024

*Our fall season has started off with a very busy month...*

### The Meyers Spring Apache Crown Dancer Pictograph

September 5 -7 was a very busy weekend for us. We hosted the leaders of the Lipan Apache Band of Texas into Meyers Spring Ranch to view the pictographs, especially the Apache Crown Dancer pictograph. We had a special evening ceremony at the pictographs on Friday, and then hosted the Witte Museum Rock Art Foundation on Saturday. We even had some of our Apache friends working with us on Friday afternoon at one of the outlying military sites. I'm proud that they all became members of WTAS. From their education of their symbolic heritage I have added a bit more information on another pictograph near the Crown Dancer that ties them directly to this wall and that depiction. Read it on our website. Use the QR code at the end of this newsletter, or

<https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website/>



## Seminole Days 2024

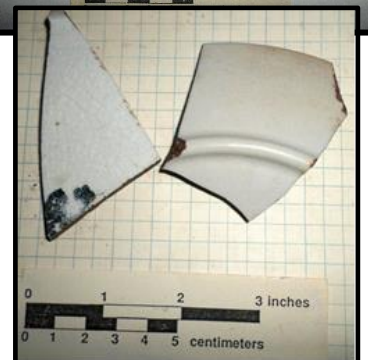
Tom Ashmore returned to Brackettville to speak at Seminole Days on September 21<sup>st</sup>. This was the third year in a row for the talk on our archeological revelations on the Black Seminole Indian Scout's life at Camp Meyers Spring. Each year has been an update of our continuing work for the year. There has been so much to learn at this location that we can give updates each year. This year we were able to present a few artifacts from Meyers Spring Ranch owner and WTAS member, Thad Steele, to the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery Association (SISCA) Museum, there in Brackettville. The artifacts are a dropped and intact Spencer Carbine 56-50 cartridge and a Civil War surplus military coat button. These were found in an area that we know only Scouts were working. The Scouts were issued the Spencer carbines, whereas the cavalry they were scouting for at the time were issued the Sharps carbines.



## Edwards Plateau Historical Association Annual Meeting

On September 21<sup>st</sup> C.A. Maedgen spoke to participants of the Edwards Plateau Historical Association annual meeting in Ballinger, TX. This is a return engagement for us. Last year we spoke about the Concho Mail Station; this year's topic was Butterfield Overland Mail's Grape Creek Station. C.A. and Tom Ashmore both worked the Grape Creek Station site for three months back in 2017. Of course, eight years of research went into finding the site. We published our work in a detailed 33-page report, which can be found on the WTAS website. We have already been asked to speak at the 2025 meeting that will take place in San Angelo.

Of the many artifacts we found at the mail station site, there were two specially prized that helped validate the site. One was a Spanish Mule shoe, found at the location of the corral. Spanish Mules were the only mules used by the Butterfield stagecoaches. The second was a piece of stoneware with a maker's mark, made by L.F. Field, Utica, N.Y., produced 1860 – 1870. The station was





active from 1858 to early 1861. This was a project where the research, satellite imagery interpretation, and artifacts all matched up perfectly.



**C.A. Maedgen and Edwards Plateau Historical Association Annual Meeting Presenters**

## **Concho Mail Station (41TG427)**

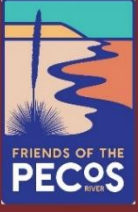
On September 28<sup>th</sup> Tom Ashmore and C.A. Maedgen gave a tour of the Concho Mail Station site to a group of historical interpreters during a memorial march from Fort McKavett to Fort Concho. This was memorializing the 1874 march made before heading out on Red River War Campaign.

We gave a quick overview of the mail station compound in the parking area before heading in to the woods and up on the flat to show where a small detachment of infantry and cavalry troops from Forts McKavett and Concho camped between 1870 and 1873. This detachment was detailed for station protection and escort duty for the stagecoaches between the two forts. As with all our projects, you can find the entire report on our website.






Our sponsor for this brochure:  
**Ira Yates**  
&



**FRIENDS OF THE PECOS RIVER**  
&  
**West Texas Archeological Society**

*Friends of the Pecos River* was created to enhance water quality and quantity in the "forgotten reach" of the Pecos River through community engagement, educational programs, landowner outreach, collaborative research, and restoration projects on public and private lands.

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### Horsehead Crossing


Here crossed the undated Comanche Trail from Llano Estacado to Mexico.

In 1850 John Russell Bartlett, while surveying the Mexican Boundary, found the crossing marked by skulls of horses, hence the name "Horsehead."

The Southern Overland Mail (Butterfield) route, and the road west from Fort Concho crossed here.



The Goodnight-Loving Trail, established in 1866 and trod longhorns, came here and turned up the east bank of the Pecos for Fort Sumner and into Colorado.




### HORSEHEAD CROSSING

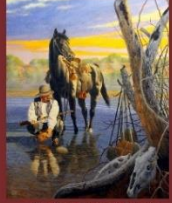
#### 'WINDS ACROSS THE PECOS'

#### LIVING HISTORY EVENT

#### OCT 25, 26 2024



- Upper Emigrant Road Crossing
- Butterfield Overland Mail Road
- Military Road to Fort Stockton
- Comanche War Trail
- Goodnight-Loving Cattle Trail




Our Main Sponsor & Host  
Ernest Woodward  
Six Shooter Ranches  
6827 Ernest Road, McCamey, TX 79762  
(Cell) 432-638-2263  
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Raising Of The Flag: sunrise (approx 7:45 am)  
Lower Of The Flag: sunset (approx 7:00 p.m.)


Cannon volleys, stagecoach, buckboard rides throughout the day

Chuck wagon meals (No fee)  
\* Donation jars and credit app info throughout area  
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.  
Lunch: 12:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.


\* Walking tours (check for times)  
\* Stagecoach and buckboard rides  
\* Artifacts and historical information can be seen at main tent  
\* Reenactor presentations at their camps throughout the day



**Tom Ashmore**  
Horsehead Crossing Historian



**Ernest Woodward**  
Horsehead Crossing &  
Six Shooter Ranches

#### 2024 Schedule of Events

##### Friday, Oct 25th

7:45 am Reveille  
8:00 am Breakfast at the chuck wagons  
8:30 am Gates Open To The Public  
9:00 am Welcome by Kirby Warnock  
9:30 am - 1:00 p.m. Schools visit begins  
- Half students @ central flagpole area, half at main tent, then the groups swap locations  
- After both groups rejoin at flagpole, Comanche dancers  
- Students split into smaller groups to visit reenactor camps  
12:00 Lunch at the Chuck Wagons  
12:30 pm Gun Slinger Shootout @ central flagpole area, followed by gathering of school kids at cannons for mass firing  
1:00 pm School buses load for return  
1:30 pm Comanche dancers @ central flagpole area

2:00 Main Tent Speaker: History and Archeology of Horsehead Crossing - Tom Ashmore  
3:00 pm Horsehead Crossings Walking Tours with archeologist/historian Tom Ashmore (starts at main tent)  
- Women's TeaTime - main tent  
3:30 pm Gun Slinger Shootout @ central flagpole area  
4:25 pm Comanche Dance @ central flagpole area  
6:00 pm Dinner at the Chuck Wagons  
7:00 pm Main campfire acoustic music and storytelling with Doug Moreland  
<https://www.dougmoreland.com/>

##### Saturday, Oct 26th

7:45 am Reveille  
8:00 am Gates Open To The Public  
8:30 am Breakfast At The Chuck Wagons  
9:00 am Welcome by Kirby Warnock, followed by Comanche dancers @ central flagpole area  
9:30 am Texas Confederate Soldiers memorial for those who died at Horsehead Crossing @ Confederate monument

#### 2024 Schedule of Events

##### Saturday, Oct 26th (continued)

9:30 am Trail ride begins for those who brought their own horses  
Texas Trail Riders Association

10:30: Main Tent Speaker: History and Archeology of Horsehead Crossing - Tom Ashmore  
11:30 am - Horsehead Crossings Walking Tours with archeologist/historian Tom Ashmore (starts at main tent)

12:00 pm Lunch at the Chuck Wagons  
12:15 Main tent lunchtime video: 18-minute historical/ archeological video on Butterfield Trail from Ft Chadbourne to Ft Stockton (West Texas Archeological Society)  
12:40 pm Gun Slinger Shootout @ central flagpole area  
1:00 pm Comanche dancers @ central flagpole area

Main Tent Speakers:  
2:45 pm Henry Crawford, Buffalo Soldiers  
3:45 pm Lance Tahmahkera, Comanche Culture

5:00 pm - Horsehead Crossings Walking Tours with archeologist/historian Tom Ashmore (starts at main tent)  
5:30 pm Comanche Dance @ central flagpole area  
6:00 pm Chuck Wagon Supper  
7:00 pm Raffle results and recognitions @ main tent  
8:30 pm Live Cannon Fire to Finish Out The Event  
9:00 pm Saturday night dance with Doug Moreland  
<https://www.dougmoreland.com/>

##### Sunday, Oct 29th

7:45 am Reveille  
8:30 am Breakfast  
9:30 am Sunday Services



**Download the schedule in pdf form from our website main page**

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**Donations:** As you know, we are not charging for membership, presentations, or any of the work we do on the various projects. We do it because we love it and we believe the history needs to be preserved and preserved accurately. If you would like to donate to our efforts, please make out checks to IAS. We need to maintain that banking deposit identity under grandfathered banking rules.

**Mail any donation checks, made out to IAS, to:**

West Texas Archeological Society  
P.O. Box 183  
Iraan, TX 79744

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**West Texas Archeological Society Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(You will receive newsletter via e-mail)*

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**No dues membership. Pass it on.**

Mail form to: West Texas Archeological Society  
P.O. Box 183  
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**Or go to website to download and email the form.**  
**<https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website/>**

