

West Texas Archeological Society

P.O. Box 183 Iraan, Texas 79744-0183

wtas.archeology@gmail.com

westtexasarcheologicalesociety.website

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

Feel free to share with friends. Membership is free. **125** members and growing!)

Newsletter & Website Editor: Tom Ashmore (tcashmo@gmail.com)

November 2025

Concho Mail Station Project

The report: <https://assets.zyrosite.com/AzGE74rQ66UMXrKb/the-concho-mail-station-YD0wrgpnILCjlbn.pdf>

Yes, the Concho Mail Station project is still ongoing. We have turned over the previously donated artifacts to Cory Robinson, the curator at Fort Concho. He submitted the required paperwork to THC, and now we have begun designing a display for this historic site. Cory generously chose a large, glass-enclosed display area in the Ft Concho headquarters building. The central location will be the main area for historical descriptions and photos. The left will be artifact displays. The right will be images of the site layout, as depicted in our report.



Horsehead Crossing/Goodnight-Loving Trail Celebration Report

Five years ago, landowner Ernest Woodward and I began this event to memorialize the incredible history that emerged from this desolate, yet iconic site on the Pecos River. It has grown into an annual event featuring reenactors, chuckwagon cooking, pioneer and Indian heritage, historians, music, arts and crafts vendors, and archaeological and historical education.

I gave talks and showed videos on the history of Horsehead Crossing, the Goodnight-Loving Trail, stage coaching, and the Comanche Trail. We also had the famous West Texas author, Patrick Dearen, for a question-and-answer session on his knowledge and exploits of the region. Every talk filled our lecture tent with 40 – 50 people. Every walking tour had 12 – 15 in tow for our quarter-mile walk. We received many compliments from everyone. So, we can call this one another great success.



Jumano displays



Indian Cultural display



Apache displays



Jumano Display



Flint knapping & Apache Display





Patrick Dearen



Making adobe bricks (for future lecture pavilion)



Venders Row



Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner provided free to everyone, and everyone can enjoy under the permanent picnic pavilion



Getting a stern lecture on how to behave in a dining area

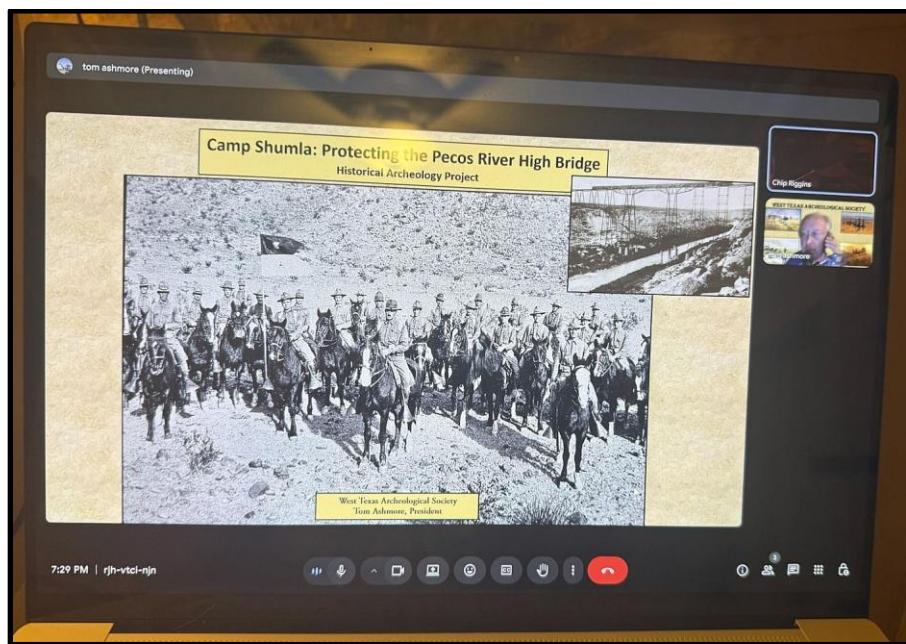
Fort Clark Historical Society Presentation

On October 25th, I presented our work on Camp Shumla to the Fort Clark Historical Society. This was the first internet presentation for them using their new audio-video equipment and the Google Meet application.

<https://meet.google.com/>

It was also my first time presenting through this application. It took a few test sessions before we worked out all the bugs. Since this was their first time using the application, and most of their members are local to the Fort Clark area, I was the only one participating in the call-in portion. They used a large-screen TV in their meeting hall, accompanied by appropriate audio speakers, to reach the back of the room. It went very well.

The topic was Camp Shumla: Protecting the Pecos River High Bridge. This was a new and exciting project for us. We were able to figure it out in only two weekend trips over the spring and fall of 2024. There were, however, months of research. On the second trip, we used my RV and drove onto the property, next to the actual camp area. It turned out to be multiple camps, spanning periods from 1911 to 1944. There was even an emergency airstrip built in 1919, which was reused from 1942 to 1944. Russell Nowell, President of the Fort Clark Historical Society, worked with us throughout the project. Many of the military units that used this camp over the years were subordinated to Fort Clark.



Camp Shumla is now officially updated in the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and Texas Historical Commission database as 41VV1928.

<https://assets.zyrosite.com/AzGE74rQ66UMXrKb/camp-shumla-YD0EKaQ05niNq7RZ.pdf>

Upcoming Events (field projects will be emailed separately)

Jan 13: Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Midland, TX (noon lunch talk, 'Horsehead Crossing')

<https://petroleummuseum.org/>

Apr 10/11: West Texas Historical Association, MCM Elegante Hotel, Lubbock, TX – Lady In Blue

<https://wtha.wildapricot.org/>

Apr 25: Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies' Symposium, Amarillo, TX

WTAS member Thad Steele has generously donated metal art depictions of pictographs on the Meyers Spring pictograph wall for a fundraiser. Ninety percent of our funds are allocated for fuel in traveling to field sites or speaking engagements. More success brings more travel. Last month, fuel alone cost \$500. If you would like to help, here is a way to do so and receive some beautiful artwork that is directly tied to the success of our organization's work. Two of these pieces represent our most recent work reported in our pictograph interpretation. The two middle pieces in this photo represent the Spanish conquistador and the Lady In Blue events, both of which are reported by us and are available for download at the links below. We only have five sets available. For perspective, the Jumano dancers' piece measures 12 inches in length. We are asking for a reduced price of \$120 (\$100 per set plus \$20 shipping). If you are interested, send me a personal email to tcashmo@gmail.com. I will provide the details for follow-up.



Conquistador report:

<https://assets.zyrosite.com/AzGE74rQ66UMXrKb/conquistador-AOEZVzNn1bipWDEx.pdf>

Jumano and the Lady in Blue report:

<https://assets.zyrosite.com/AzGE74rQ66UMXrKb/the-jumano-picture-story-in-pictographs-at-meyers-spring-YX4j2GE6jLCIRj5p.pdf>

Our webpage is updated regularly, with information on the home page indicating when and what has been updated. There is no logging in. Visit the displayed page and enjoy the new information. Updates are identified at the top of the home page.

<https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website>

