

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. 104 members and growing!)

Newsletter & Website editor: Tom Ashmore

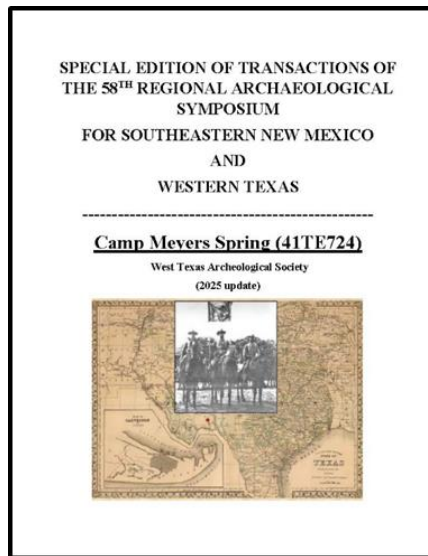
March 2025

Coming Soon, New Report:

Camp Shumla: Protecting the Pecos River High Bridge



Abstract: This report gives an archeological look at a former infantry and cavalry camp, and a WWII Civil Air Patrol emergency airstrip near the Pecos River Railroad High Bridge and next to the Shumla Railroad Depot. This camp has never been reported on. It was a multi-period camp, covering the Mexican Revolutionary War period, WWI, and WWII. It was a known stopping point for large military units moving along the border because of the water source from the railroad depot. However, for units continuing on their road march, these were short watering rest stops. The military camping areas for larger units were 15 miles east at Comstock or 10 miles west at Langtry. This was a camp used for infantry units guarding the Pecos River Railroad High Bridge and a rest camp for cavalry patrols searching for any attempts at border crossings or sabotage attempts of the Pecos Railroad High Bridge. There was no official name for this camp. So, we are calling it Camp Shumla, after the adjacent railroad depot.



Download the updated 90-page report from our website

<https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website/>

Fort Clark Historical Society Presentation

I gave a presentation on Camp Meyers Spring to the Fort Clark Historical Society on Saturday, February 22nd. Ft Clark Historical Society and WTAS member, Russell Nowell, and I have been collaborating on Fort Clark/Camp Meyers Spring research for several years now. Their contributions to our research have been invaluable, and this was my thank you to them for all their assistance. The room was packed and we received many compliments. I plan on returning sometime this year to present for them the upcoming report on Camp Shumla, which was directly tied to Fort Clark. I will also be presenting again in Ft Clark and Brackettville for Seminole Days in September

Upcoming Events

March 13 – 16 (Thu – Sun): Meyers Spring Ranch: We will arrive Thursday afternoon and depart Sunday morning. WTAS members who wish to assist need to contact me directly for entry location and time. (tcashmo@gmail.com). This is a locked gate entry (3 total gates, 30-minute one way). Due to the difficulty of getting into this remote property, anyone joining needs to plan on staying the entire time (Thursday to Sunday), as we cannot give out gate codes and we won't have time to escort people in and out. Group bunkhouse cabins are available: bring personal sleeping bags, snacks, food, etc. Three target areas are planned. This will be surface search, metal detecting, and GPSing artifact targets.

March 19 (Wed) 7 p.m.: Zoom session with Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery Association: **Camp Meyers Spring** (Zoom details to be sent to members via email)

March 28/29: West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting. Location: San Angelo, Angelo State University, Houston Hart University Center. My topic, *Following The Butterfield Trail Across West Texas (Fort Chadbourne to Fort Stockton)*, was accepted for a full one-hour session. I have reworked the presentation, adding a new technique of AI voice narrations for quotes and short Google Earth fly-through videos. We are the only participate to introduce the West Texas Historical Association to historical archeology. I've been presenting for the last two years. It has been a growing success for our outreach to new audiences.

Our webpage is updated regularly with info on the home page that tells you when and what was updated. No logging in. Just go to the page indicated and enjoy the new info.



Donations: As you know, we are not charging for membership, presentations, or any work we do on the various projects. We do it because we love it and believe that history needs to be 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

West Texas Archeological Society Membership Form (no dues)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

e-mail address: _____

(You will receive the newsletter via e-mail)

Cell: _____