

West Texas Archeological Society

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

wtas.archeology@gmail.com

westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website

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

Feel free to share with friends. Membership is free. 104 members and growing!)

Newsletter & Website Editor: Tom Ashmore

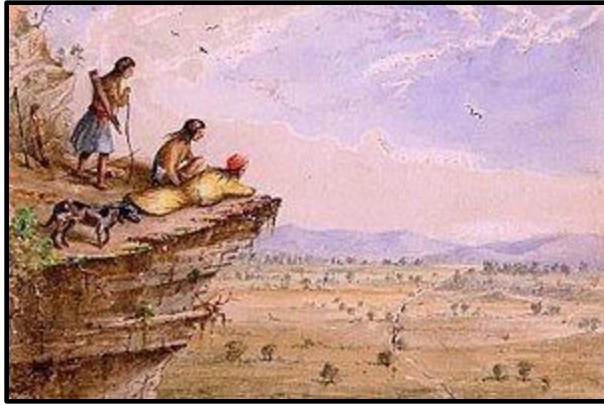
April 2025

Camp Meyers Spring

We returned to Meyers Spring Ranch for the first time this year from March 13 to 15. We had a large group this time, consisting of 11 members. We covered multiple areas for our fieldwork and validated two more camp areas. Both match infantry detachments that came with the cavalry to Meyers Spring in 1877 to join Lieutenant Bullis and 37 Black Seminole Indian Scouts. In all, three cavalry companies, a mounted infantry company, and a support (wagon) infantry detachment were present at this location simultaneously. They were preparing for an expedition into Mexico. The infantry detachment maintained the camp, waiting for the return of the mounted troops. This information will be included in our next 2026 update. Our Lipan Apache Band of Texas WTAS members joined us. We enjoyed a Buffalo stew dinner with their prayers and ceremonial dancing. Many stories went around the barn dining area over the weekend. More photos will be up on our website soon.



The New/Old Project



In 2016, C.A. and I climbed halfway up an Independence Creek mesa slope with Lisa Wrinkle and a group from Iraan and San Angelo to look at some metal and glass trash Lisa found on a previous hike. The unusual aspect of the trash was the location. It was a challenging location to access, 280 yards up the rocky slope and 250 feet in elevation above the creek. C.A. brought along his metal detector and swept it as we reached our objective. What he found stunned everyone. Not one, but three military metallic epaulets, just under the ledge we were approaching. We brought them down to examine. I told Lisa these might have come from an Indian-cavalry battle. But at the time, our group was focusing on ancient shelters and camps. So, we never followed through with the investigation.

This has been bothering me for the last nine years. So, I contacted the Texas Nature Conservancy Independence Creek manager to find out if they still had the artifacts. Not only did they have them, but Lisa had gone back up the hill, collected and GPS'd all the other trash items, and brought them back. They are maintaining them in a display case in the office. The current manager had no idea what it was all about. So, on March 13th, we visited to examine and measure all the items once again. And now we know that I was right. It was an Indian lookout and hideout. We have a new/old project to revisit! We visited again a week later, this time to conduct more reconnaissance, and we plan another visit at the end of April. We are already working the report, which will probably be released in May.



West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting

I presented for my third year at the West Texas Historical Association Meeting on Friday, March 28th. This year, the meeting took place at Angelo State University's Houston Harte Center. I was able to devote an entire 75-minute session to my topic, **"Following the Butterfield Trail Across West Texas: Fort Chadbourne to Fort Stockton" (a 17-year project in historical archaeology)**. The room was packed, and the audience was very attentive. I could tell that they found our method of combining archeology with history, and including first-hand accounts, enjoyable. I'm also now including AI voice for quotations and Google Earth videos, which is a first for these type presentations.



The Camp Shumla report is now up on the website



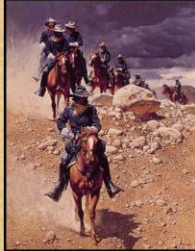

Our webpage is updated regularly with information on the home page that indicates when and what has been updated. No logging in. Visit the displayed page and enjoy the new information.

<https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website/>

Upcoming Events

CAMP MEYERS SPRING FORT CLARK CAVALRY, INFANTRY, AND THE BLACK SEMINOLE INDIAN SCOUTS


April 5th, 2:00 p.m. @ Sanderson High School Auditorium



Tom Ashmore, president of the West Texas Archeological Society, will give a presentation of their three-year archeological project of Camp Meyers Spring, located 25 miles east of Sanderson.

Throughout its occupation, this sub post of Fort Clark was home at different times to an infantry company, multiple cavalry companies, and the Black Seminole Indian Scout detachment.

The archeological field work has covered an incredible 200 acres, breaking down the camps in detail and revealing daily life in this harsh environment.



Donations: As you are aware, we do not charge for membership, presentations, or any work we undertake 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.)

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