



Treasured Times

Golden Triangle Explorers Society

In Quest of the Past

Volume 12 Number 2

February, 2012

Next Monthly Meeting

Midway Hills Christian Church

11001 MIDWAY ROAD

DALLAS, TEXAS

Feb 10, 2012 Time 7:30 pm

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:

No list was available at publication time. If you are scheduled to bring refreshments, please remember to do so. This is an opportunity for others to also bring something.

If you have not already signed up to provide refreshments at an upcoming meeting, a signup sheet is available at all meetings. The club meetings are much more enjoyable when we have refreshments during our break.

Future Monthly Meetings

Mar 9, 2012 Time 7:30 pm

Apr 13, 2012 Time 7:30 pm

May 11, 2012 Time 7:30 pm

Jun 8, 2012 Time 7:30 pm

Jul 13, 2012 Time 7:00 pm *

Aug 10, 2012 Time 7:30 pm

Sep 14, 2012 Time 7:30 pm

News From Bill

by Bill Phillips

Greetings in February

Have you been hunting since our last meeting? If not, you have missed some pretty good hunting weather. I don't know how long the moderate temps will last.

Re our February meeting: this meeting will be a housekeeping/business session rather than centering on a speaker. We'll finish our TCTC plans, get a recap of the club's annual income/outgo, provide copies of the bylaws, pass out copies of the membership roster, talk about the "refreshment signup sheet", etc. (Since we'll be working so hard, I sincerely hope people have signed up to bring snacks!) Make a list if you have questions or suggestions about the business of the club. We'll cover as much as we can in the time allotted.

I have some great news concerning our prizes for the TCTC convention, some of which I am not going to tell you yet. What I will tell you is that I think everyone will be impressed. The Executive Board has approved three prizes which are items in great demand right now, and the cost to the club will be only a little above what we spent last year. I know that when the membership learns what they are, everyone will want to buy tickets. I think these items will be the best prizes we have had at the TCTC for some time. I will have full details at the meeting.

Pertaining to the TCTC convention, we need to nail down who can help set up the booth on Friday and who can man the booth on Sat. and Sun. We also need to know who will supply displays and how we get everything there. We will have fundraiser tickets for our TCTC booth ready at the Feb. meeting for you to purchase or take to sell to someone else. I think we can do great with ticket sales with our line-up of prizes with everyone's help.

* Note Early Start Time

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
BILL PHILLIPS

VICE PRESIDENT:
CODEY KLEE

Treasurer:
SUSAN PHILLIPS

SECRETARY:
ALICE BRANGER

OTHER CONTACTS

HUNT MASTER:
CHUCK HOWELL

REFRESHMENTS CHAIR:
MICKEY GREER

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
MIKE SHAW

WEBMASTER:
SUSAN PHILLIPS

**SEE YOUR MEMBER
DIRECTORY FOR
TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

This space is reserved for free member ads. Do you have something you wish to sell or buy? Member ads, including pictures, will be printed as space allows.

We also have space for paid ads. If you have a business or service available and wish to advertise to club members (and those who visit our newsletter on the Webpage), reasonable rates apply.

Another big subject we need to talk about is whether or not to have a March meeting as there will be several people going down on Friday night. Remember to bring your FOM entries for Feb. Last but not least, we will have our monthly Fund Raiser drawing. I've heard the fundraiser will have a very February theme.

Notes On Our January Speaker

by Susan Phillips

When Codey introduced January's speaker he told us that Bill West and his family have lived on the Robinson-West River Plantation for 32 years and that Mr. West was going to talk about artifacts he's found, the chain of events which followed their discovery, and the plantation's "... association with such historical characters as General Sam Houston, Governor George Tyler Wood, General Gilbert Du Motier Lafayette and others." And he did! The West family is living what many of us dream about – access to a piece of land which the family is actively engaged in exploring for artifacts, documents, and spoken accounts to bring its 150+ years of history to light and life.

Mr. West took us through how he found the house and bought it without knowing its history. He took us through the work he and wife Barbara had to do to make the once abandoned house a livable home. He told us of that first "find" – made by accident – that got the family hooked on finding out more. He shared anecdotes about artifacts lost and found (and lost AND found again), and spoke of bits talking with people whose families had associations with the plantation. Once he'd given us the story of his family's 30+ years on the place, his wife Barbara ran a slide show presentation so we could see the house, the land and the found objects. In between, grandson John Koester played guitar and sang "Dixie" and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down." It was truly a family affair.

One of the most amusing incidents told us by Mr. West was how the nearby town, Pointblank, got its name. Apparently, in the early days the Alabama grandparents of the Robinsons (the founders of the plantation – did I mention there have been only TWO owners of this property?) were afraid their grandchildren would grown up wild and unlettered in such a new and primitive part of the world. They sent a French governess to teach the children. It's reported that, as the river steamer she was travelling on approached the point on which the plantation lands were first visible, she was struck by the sight of the cotton fields covered in white. As Mr. West put it, she exclaimed, "Oolala - le point blanc!" When time came to create a town (to establish a post office), someone remembered what the French governess said. Now, even in the beginning, Texans spoke with something of an accent and in the retelling of the story "point blanc" became "Pointblank" – nothing, we were somewhat disappointed to learn, to do with guns or shootin'.

MEMBER NEWS

Jack Lowry reminds all members:

There is one thing that will probably be mentioned by others, but lest they don't: TCTC Convention time is at hand. Those that cannot attend but have displays that they will allow to be shown, and even those that will attend, should take a few minutes to perform maintenance and cleaning on their displays....

Greg Williams says we all need to see this:

Port Nicholson Shipwreck Worth Billions Found Off Cape Cod: Greg Brooks
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/01/port-nichelson-shipwreck-n_1247835.html?icid=maingrid10/htmlws-main-nbld11|sec1_lnk3%26pLid%3D131957

Susan Phillips says:

I used a 2-minute sound bite of this article at January's meeting because an 1858 Flying Eagle penny was the honorarium for the speaker that night (the plantation he talked about was established during the time this coin was being minted).

<https://www.littletoncoin.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Display%7C10001%7C10001%7C-1%7C%7ClearnNav%7CFlying-Eagle-Cent-Start-of-Something-Small-in-US-Coinage.html>

One of the most interesting things I heard was that the West's were working with a conservator from the state. When Mr. West mentioned that fact early in his presentation, I was afraid that he was going to say that he was going to be prevented from digging on the property. Not so! Apparently the state is helping the family, suggesting how the plantation buildings might have been laid out, etc., to aid the family in unearthing a more complete and accurate record of their property's history. This was truly an enjoyable presentation.

P.S. We learned that there are public days when the West homestead is open to visitors. This summer just might be the year we drive down to the Lake Livingston area for a closer look at Robinson-West River Plantation!

Minutes of the January 13 Meeting

by Alice Branger

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Codey introduced our visitors, and then he introduced the speaker, Mr. Bill West. Mr. West gave a talk about the Robinson-West River Plantation Ranch where he & his family have lived since about 1978. We took our break around 8:30 after the speaker's presentation. Bill thought that we might want to cancel the March meeting due to the fact that some people may be in Bryan helping to set up the booth for the Texas Treasure Show which will be held that weekend.

Susan gave the treasurers report and then reported on what the prizes for the night would be. Bill said he would be announcing the Find of the Year & the Treasure Hunter of the Year at the end of the meeting after all other prizes were announced.

50/50 drawing was won by Lewis Murray (\$13.00)

Birthday/anniversary drawing was won by Dee Reynolds

Nametag drawing was won by Jack Lowery

Our Find of the Year winner was Jack Lowery – His prize was the renewal of his club membership for this year.

Cody Klee was our Treasure Hunter of the Year

Congratulations to all our winners tonight.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

| <u>Door Prize Winners</u> | |
|--|----------------|
| Prizes were Chase Bank key chains w/flashlight | |
| Barbara Cundiff | Larry Voyles |
| John Cross | Randy Rutledge |
| Nick Voyles | |

FUND RAISER WINNERS

| Fund Raiser Winners | |
|---|---------------|
| Prize | Winners |
| 1822 large cent | Bill Phillips |
| 1864 2-cent piece | Betty Moore |
| 1865 3-cent piece | Gene Gibbs |
| 1852 3-cent piece (“fishtail” or “trime”) | Codey Klee |
| 1867 Shield 5-cent (no rays) | Alan Boone |
| 1809 Half cent | Ben Hong |
| 1990 “Wheatie” Silver Round | Lewis Murray |

FINDS OF THE MONTH CONTEST

Coins:

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st | Jack Lowry | 1941 Silver Quarter |
| 2nd | Codey Klee | 20 Pence Coin |
| 3rd | Allen Boone | 1944 One Centavo |

Jewelry

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st | Jack Lowry | 14 kt Ring w/Ruby |
| 2nd | Allen Boone | 10 kt Sterling Ring |
| 3rd | Codey Klee | Three-tone Crucifix |

Relics

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st | Bill Phillips | Old Plow Blade |
| 2nd | (Tie) Codey Klee | 1941 Nickel |
| 2nd | (Tie) Henry Moore | CiCi Token |
| 3rd | Codey Klee | Ring Sizer |

Most Unusual

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Bill Phillips | Rusty Medal |
| 2 nd | Henry Moore | Enamel Pin |
| 3 rd (Tie) | Jack Lowry | Spoon |
| 3 rd (Tie) | Allen Boone | 10 kt Ruby Ring |

Second Chance

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 st | Jack Lowry | Child's Ring w/Stone |
| 2 nd | Codey Klee | EPCOT Quarter |
| 3 rd | Susan Phillips | Ring |

An Interesting Article from One of Our Members

Submitted by Dick Dandalides

Dog tag lost in World War I returned to soldier's son

By Kevin Murphy | Reuters

KANSAS CITY, MO (Reuters) - Somehow, maybe in a struggle to remove his helmet, [Kent Potter](#) lost his dog tag on a French battlefield in World War I.

[Private Potter](#), who worked on an Army supply train that consisted mostly of mules and horses, survived the war and returned home to [Kansas](#) without the tag, which remained buried for more than 90 years.

At a ceremony hosted in the small town of Cottonwood Falls on Thursday, however, the worn, round metal tag finally landed back with the Potter family thanks to the efforts of two Frenchmen.

"I'm amazed that these two people in France still remember and appreciate what the United States did for their country," said [Dale Potter](#), 75, the son and only child of Private Potter.

While World War I tags are often sold to military collectors, the two Frenchmen, [Michael Toussaint](#) and [Jean-Claude Fonderflick](#), have instead sought to return the medallions they find to descendants of the soldiers who lost them.

Using metal detectors to search former battlefields, they have so far discovered a handful of American dog tags, including those of Walter Renfro.

"When they first called, my husband and I thought it was some kind of scam," said Renfro's granddaughter, Rita Drake, who learned details of the men's efforts through email exchanges. "No one is that nice anymore."

Later, Drake, who lives in El Paso, Illinois, helped the men locate the Potter family through military records that showed the soldier was from east-central Kansas. She also located the Wisconsin descendants of another lost dog tag owner, Leonard Stoltz.

She is still searching for relatives of the two other soldiers, Frank Kubas of [Kansas City, Kansas](#), and [Charles R. Thomas](#), home state uncertain.

At the Chase County Historical Museum in Cottonwood Falls on Thursday, where a picture of Private Potter and his Army company hung on the wall, Dale Potter received his father's [dog tag](#) in a ceremony attended by about 40 people.

Potter, in an interview, said his father rarely spoke of the war and never mentioned the lost dog tag, which was replaced.

Still, Potter did tell his son about a day he encountered mustard gas in a battlefield shelling and lost his helmet trying to get his mask on.

"That could have been when he lost his tag," Potter said.

He suffered burns to his head, which caused him to lose his hair relatively early in life, Potter said. He also suffered from emphysema caused by the mustard gas, he added.

"It was pretty tough on him," Potter said.

Potter said he is grateful to get a small piece of his father's war-torn past-- and thankful he survived whatever made him lose the dog tag.

"My dad didn't die there, he came home," Potter said. "There were so many who did not get to come home."

(Reporting By Kevin Murphy; Editing by Mary Wisniewski and Paul Thomasch)

Photographs of Our Speaker

Submitted by Susan Phillips

A bit about

Bill D. West

1. 1959---Graduate---Sam Houston H.S.-Houston
2. 1960---Baseball Scholarship---Grand Canyon University---Phoenix, Arizona
3. 1970s---United States forest ranger---Sedona, Arizona
4. 1976---Author---'Battle At Oak Creek'
5. 1976---Bill & Barbara--- Man & Woman of the Year-- Sedona, Arizona
6. 2000---Teacher of the Year---Huntsville, Texas
7. 2010---Member---San Jacinto County Historical Commission
8. 2010---Member---Texas Archeological Society
9. 2011---Education Committee---Texas Archeological Society
10. 2011---Author---'To Live Again', Archeology and History of The Robinson-West River Plantation.
11. Teacher and coach for 45 years.





Finds of the Month

Submitted by Susan Phillips



Jack Lowry's 14K gold and ruby ring



Bill Phillips' hames part



Bill Phillips' plow part



Jack Lowry's ring with cross and blue stone



Jack Lowry's 1941 quarter