



MARIE BETH JONES  
BRAZOS TALES

## Waldeck slaves return in ill health

Thirty of the male slaves at Brazoria County's Waldeck Plantation had been "impressed" by the Confederate forces at Galveston to work on the forts built to protect the coast at that point.

After his return from that city, Hamblin Bass reported he had found two of them had been lost by death and another badly hurt on the railroad and tow when they were sent to Louisiana to work as teamsters.

"The sending of the latter two "was done without my knowledge, and I regard it as an outrage," the plantation's owner wrote, adding he had succeeded in getting 15 others released, leaving 12 behind — eight in Galveston and two each in Houston and Louisiana.

Nearly all of the slaves had been ill, he wrote, and two of those he had brought back to Waldeck were very sick, "one of which I fear I shall lose," he said, adding, "Nearly all of them had been sick, more or less."

At one time, he said, there had been about 3,000 negroes at Galveston, "when in my opinion five hundred would have been quite sufficient."

A great many of this number died, he added, with more dying every day. He felt they were "cared no more for than so many pigs."

He added all of the blacks on the island "are very anxious to get away," and mentioned "there was great rejoicing" when he went after those belonging to him.

In a letter to his son-in-law, Bass wrote he had been able to retrieve his slaves and had just returned from Houston, where he had been looking after the ones there and in Galveston.

Shortly thereafter, he wrote he had just received an order from Confederate Gen. John B. Magruder releasing all of his slaves, and noted 10 of those he had brought home from Houston were sick, and it was doubtful the two who been sent to Louisiana would ever be returned.

He was not the only one in the area to face such problems, he added, noting "Mr. Mills has lost 13 out of the thirty he

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PRENTICE C. JAMES/Special to The Facts

David Thomas, executive director of the Lake Jackson Historical Museum, discusses artifacts from Native Americans who lived in the Greater Houston and Brazosport areas during Monday's private viewing at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.



PRENTICE C. JAMES/Special to The Facts

A forensically recreated bust, cast from the real skull of a Native American female between the age of 18 and 20 years old, awaits public viewing along with other American Indian artifacts at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum. It is believed the woman lived around the year 1500.



PRENTICE C. JAMES/Special to The Facts

A saddlebag constructed of rawhide, glass beads and cloth by Native Americans indigenous to the Greater Houston and Brazosport areas is displayed during Monday's exclusive viewing at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.

## Native territory

New artifacts donated to Lake Jackson museum will tell more about area's early inhabitants

By CORINNA RICHARDSON  
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LAKE JACKSON

Colonial settlers during Stephen F. Austin's time sought to rid themselves of the Karankawa who were native to what is now Brazoria County, but it's important for modern residents to remember they were here.

"Especially when you can look into the face of one of these people, it just helps us realize that the history in this region did not start with colonization," Lake Jackson Historical Museum Executive Director David Thomas said. "This is a good way to look at the rich culture that was here and had been here for some time."

By "this," he means the museum's newest

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"These artifacts should be here in their territory rather than in our museum in downtown Houston. They're fascinating, and (Thomas) has done a great job of doing the research and creating a whole new life, so we were happy to transfer these."

— Alison Ayres Bell, executive director, Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park



GIN CRAWFORD  
CONVERSATIONS WITH GIN

## Washing house delivers a blow

My house needed power-washing really bad, so when Peter came down, he went with me to pick out a power washer. To be more accurate, I went with him to pick me out a powder washer.

When we got home with it, he said, "OK, Missy. Come here and let me show you how YOU are going to put it together." Well I go by the philosophy that all a person needs in this world is WD-40, a hammer and duct tape. We didn't need any of those things; we needed a Phillips head screwdriver — seems that was a chore, but we found one.

I thought he was kidding about me putting the thing together, but he wasn't. So he told me what went where and lo and behold I put it together ... well, most of it anyway — the important parts.

Now comes the time to use it. Hooking it up wasn't exactly a picnic. The faucet that was closest to the porch, seems I broke it off a few weeks ago. Peter never gets deterred. We just went to another one and another one until we found one that worked. Now all we have to do is find an outside electrical plug that works. Therein lies the problem. There wasn't one that worked. So we ended up plugging it inside the house.

Now, I'm waiting for him to show me how to use it when he says, "Here's the nozzle, now step up on this ladder (did I ever mention that I don't do ladders very well? Especially beyond the first step?) So I do as he says, but I'm on the first step. Now I squeeze the trigger and let her rip. It rips all right. I didn't expect all that power of water. And, of course, it wasn't as easy as I thought.

Then he told me I would need to step one step higher and put the nozzle closer to the stuff I was trying to clean off the roof and sides of the porch. I was one wet rat. I never expected to get that much water on me. I asked him if he ever got this wet when he cleaned his house, and of course he said, "No!" Most of the time I couldn't see what I was cleaning

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## Improperly picking up, moving a turtle can leave it shellshocked

When I was young, I used to drive my mom and sisters crazy asking them to stop when I saw a turtle in the road. Back then, I wanted to bring the turtle home to live in our backyard.

These days, I still stop, but now I just give them a lift across the road so they don't get run over. I hate seeing smashed turtles on the road. It's such a senseless way for them to die, and it's so easily avoided.

I've also learned a lot since then. I now know turtle collection on roads seriously contributes to population declines in many species, and I feel it is more important than ever to help them out.



SUSAN HEATH  
NATURE NOTES

Turtles are mostly seen crossing roads between March and November. The females are searching for the perfect spot to lay their eggs and the males are looking for mates and new territories. Along the coast, I primarily see red-eared sliders and box turtles, but there are many others.

Turtles are particularly vulnerable to both collection and roadkill because they are typically slow-moving and

non-aggressive. Watch out for those snapping turtles, though. They definitely know how to be aggressive if they feel threatened.

Did you know there is a proper and improper way to help a turtle across the road? I've always heard you can safely pick up a snapping turtle by its tail, but this is untrue. You should never pick up a turtle this way because you can injure it.

Small turtles can be picked up by putting one hand on each side of the shell behind the front legs. Try to keep the turtle low to the ground when



SUSAN A. HEATH/Contributed photo

Turtles are particularly vulnerable to both collection and roadkill because they are typically slow-moving and non-aggressive.

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## Artifacts

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artifacts, including a bronze bust of a Native American woman's face.

"When nonprofits divest themselves of collections, really the most appropriate thing to do — because all museums hold collections in the public trust — when something's not necessarily fitting in with your mission, you can try to give it to another museum where it's a better fit," Thomas said. "That's what's happening here."

Alison Bell is the executive director of the Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park, and knowing her, Thomas reached out to discuss whether anything in the organization's collections might be more appropriately displayed in Lake Jackson. As it happened, they did have some pieces.

The transfer of several pieces of pottery, a collection of arrowheads, the bust and a Comanche saddlebag are part of the local museum's efforts to develop its Karankawa exhibit, Thomas said.

"These artifacts should be here in their territory rather than in our museum in downtown Houston," Bell said. "They're fascinating, and (Thomas) has done a great job of doing the research and creating a whole new life, so we were happy to transfer these."

The focus of the heritage society is 10 historic house museums.

"We furnish the houses from the period in which they were built and interpret them based on who was living there," she said. "One of our houses, for example, belonged to William Marsh Rice, who started Rice University. Another house belonged to a wealthy family — all of our houses are from Houston; they're just moved to Sam Houston Park."

Most of them date from the mid-1800s until the early 1900s, she said.

"They do have some contemporary interpretations, like they have one original home still on its foundation," Thomas said. "It would be contemporary to the Jackson Plantation and



PRENTICE C. JAMES/Special to The Facts

**Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park's executive director, Alison Ayres, Bell and the Lake Jackson Historical Museum's executive director, David Thomas, discuss the unique partnership between the two entities during Monday's visit at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.**



PRENTICE C. JAMES/Special to The Facts

**Arrowheads from the Akokisa Native American tribe, about the size of a dime, will soon be made available for public viewing at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.**

other plantations here. But they don't have a permanent exhibit for native artifacts."

With the exception of the saddlebag, the pieces were unearthed in the 1960s at a Jamaica Beach site in Galveston, Thomas said. They were donated to the heritage society in the late 1980s, he said.

The bronze bust is a

forensic recreation based on a found skull, he said. A mold was made of the skull, and sculptor Betty Pat Gatliff and anthropologist Rebecca Storey, a professor at the University of Houston, worked together to create what the woman looked like, Thomas said.

"We know that she was an 18- to 20-year-old



PRENTICE C. JAMES/Special to The Facts

**Alison Ayres Bell, executive director of the Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park, provides insight regarding an intricately constructed saddlebag by the Comanche Native American tribe.**

young woman, and it looks like, most likely, she died in childbirth," he said. "There's no way to know for certain, but there were some infant bones found as well, so it's possible the mother and child died during delivery because she was otherwise in really good health."

Dating puts her time

of death at about 1500, meaning she could have been present when Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca landed in Galveston, Thomas said. She could have been a Karankawa or an Akokisa woman, or an Akokisa woman who married into a Karankawa tribe, he said.

The bust previously spent time on display

at the Brazoria County Historical Museum, he said.

Neither the bust nor any of the new artifacts are on display yet. The plan is to bring in experts to more clearly identify the pieces, and Thomas hopes to have the items on display before the end of the summer, he said.

The site where everything was found was disturbed by construction, then the public was invited to come dig, so it's unclear what happened to many of the artifacts, Thomas said.

The arrowheads are so tiny they might have been intended for funerary purposes rather than hunting, Thomas said.

"We also know the person that found them at first thought they'd discovered clay marbles, until one of the marbles broke open and he found that inside of it was one of these arrowheads," he said. "So at that point he started breaking them all open, and sure enough they all had an arrowhead in them, but they were perfectly round clay marbles so they had to have been intentional."

The Comanche saddlebag is one artifact not from that site and from a different time period, Thomas said. The red cloth would've been traded to the Comanche, or captured or stolen. It and the glass beads help date the piece to the mid-19th century, when the Comanche people were a problem for colonial settlers, he said.

The Comanche also proved problematic for the Karankawa, it seems.

"The Comanche didn't have a friendly relationship with the Karankawa," Thomas said. "I do not know how early they would've made contact, but once they did, they were enemies."

The Karankawa were typically on the losing end of the ensuing battles, contributing to the tribe's decimation, he said.

"However, ironically, toward the end of the Karankawas' documentation in Texas, the one known Karankawa chief had a Comanche wife," he said.

Corinna Richardson is the content editor for The Facts. Contact her at 979-237-0150.

## Gin

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because of the water that was falling in my face.

It was my idea to let me do the whole thing so I would know how to clean the outside of the house when he wasn't here. What the heck was I thinking? I have more to do tomorrow and the next day and the next day.

This is not the fun I thought it was going to be — a ladder, the hose above my head, getting up and down and moving everything I have on the porch. And he threatened me with my life if he comes back next week and I have managed to wash down the bird nests that are up there. Pressure. Just what I need ... more pressure!

I promise you, if they are not there next week, it will purely be because of an accident.

I'm not ready to hire out cleaning people's houses with a power-washer just yet. I figure by the time I finish mine, I would be ready ... but no!

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Here are good summer recipes from Pillsbury. Everyone's good friend is Pillsbury. They make a pie crust just like mom used to make, so what's to making a pie anymore?

### BEWITCHING BRIE MINI TARTS

#### INGREDIENTS

1 can (8-ounce) Pillsbury refrigerated Crescent Dough Sheet or 1 can (8-ounce) Pillsbury refrigerated crescent rolls

1 round (7-ounce) brie cheese

1/2 cup red pepper jelly, melted

1/2 cup chopped walnuts, toasted

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 375 degrees. If using dough sheet, unroll dough; starting in center, press into 12-by-9-inch rectangle, firmly pressing perforations to seal.

Cut dough into 12 squares. Gently press each square into ungreased mini muffin cup, shaping edges to form rim 1/4-inch above top of cup.

With sharp knife, carefully remove rind from cheese. Cut cheese into 12 pieces; place in dough-lined cups. Spoon jelly evenly over cheese. Sprinkle with walnuts.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Cool 5 minutes. Remove from muffin cups. Serve warm.

**TIPS:** Other flavors that would work well in this recipe instead of red pepper jelly are strawberry jelly, raspberry jam or cranberry chutney.

I think some of that jalapeño pepper jelly we all have sitting around would be good in this recipe, too.

### MOZZARELLA AND PESTO CRESCENT MINI TARTS

#### INGREDIENTS

1 can (8-ounce) refrigerated Pillsbury Crescent Dough Sheet

1 tablespoon butter, melted

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/3 cup refrigerated basil pesto (from 7-ounce container)

12 (1-inch) fresh mozzarella cheese balls, drained (from 8-ounce container), cut in half

6 grape tomatoes, quartered

3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil leaves

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Spray 24 miniature muffin cups with cooking spray.

Unroll crescent dough sheet into 12-by-8-inch rectangle.

Cut into six rows by four rows to make 24 squares.

Gently press dough squares into muffin cups (dough will not completely cover inside of cup; do not press too much). In a small bowl, mix melted butter and garlic powder. Brush mixture lightly onto insides of crescent dough. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until edges are golden brown.

Fill each baked crescent cup with generous 1/2 teaspoon pesto, cheese ball half and tomato quarter. Bake 2 to 4 minutes or until cheese is softened. Remove from pan. Top with basil before serving. Serve warm.

**TIPS:** Fresh mozzarella comes in various sizes and forms. We tested with the 1/3-ounce ciliegine (cherry size or 1-inch balls), cut in half, for this mini tart recipe.

Using a pizza cutter works well for cutting the dough into squares for your savory mini tarts. Try to get even-sized pieces for the best results.

Cooking vegetarian? Always read labels to make sure each recipe ingredient is vegetarian. Products and ingredient sources can change.

### MINI FRENCH SILK CRESCENT PIES

#### INGREDIENTS

1 can (8-ounce) Pillsbury refrigerated Crescent Dough Sheet or 1 can (8-ounce) Pillsbury refrigerated crescent rolls.

#### TART FILLING

1 cup milk

1 box (4-serving size) chocolate instant pudding and pie filling mix

1 cup frozen (thawed) whipped topping

#### TOPPING

1/2 cup frozen (thawed) whipped toppings

2 tablespoons mini semi-sweet chocolate chips

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 375 degrees.

If using dough sheet, unroll dough on work surface. Press into 12-by-9-inch rectangle. If using crescent rolls, unroll dough into one large rectangle on work surface. Press into 12-by-9-inch rectangle, firmly pressing perforations to seal. Cut into six rows by four rows to make 24 squares.

Gently press squares into 24 ungreased mini muffin cups (dough will not completely cover inside of cup; do not press too much). Bake 6 to 8 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Cool completely in pans, about 10 minutes. Remove from pans.

Meanwhile, in medium bowl, beat milk and pudding mix with wire whisk until mixture begins to thicken. Fold in 1 cup whipped topping. Fill each cooled cup with about 1 tablespoon pudding mixture.

Spoon 1/2 cup whipped topping into sandwich-size resealable food-storage plastic bag; seal bag. Cut tip from one bottom corner of bag; squeeze topping onto tarts, and sprinkle each with chocolate chips. Store in refrigerator.

**TIPS:** You can make the crescent tarts up to six hours ahead and fill them up to four hours before serving. Store covered in refrigerator.

For creamy lemon tarts, try substituting lemon instant pudding and pie filling mix for the chocolate. Just omit the chocolate chips and instead garnish with a little grated lemon peel.

For me, of course, the lemon would definitely be my choice. And thank you Pillsbury for the recipes.

If you have recipes or tips to share, or a request, send to Conversations with Gin, P.O. Box 334, Clute, TX. 77531, or virginiaacrawford30@yahoo.com.

## Nature

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moving it because if it pushes free from your hands, you don't want it to fall very far. And beware their defense mechanism of letting loose a stream of urine!

Larger turtles, and especially snapping turtles, should not be picked up. You can help them across the road by pushing them with a blunt object. If you do pick up a turtle, be sure to wash your hands afterward or use hand sanitizer.

The final rule of helping turtles across the road is to always move the turtle in the direction it was going. If you turn it around, it will simply turn right back around and attempt to go across the road again after you are gone.

Turtles are on a mission, and they won't take a hint from you about going back in the direction they came from.

Also, although you may be tempted to relocate a turtle for its safety; this is not a good idea. Turtles have home ranges, and if you move them somewhere else, they will attempt to return to the area they call home.

Turtles are slow to sexually mature, lay relatively few eggs, and mortality of eggs and hatchlings is usually pretty high. Add that to an increasingly fragmented habitat and you can see why turtle populations are in trouble. So next time you see a turtle in the road, stop and give them a helping hand to the other side.

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