

10. Window Sash Latch

This artifact is a latch used for keeping a sash window closed. Sash windows are vertically sliding with a counter-balancing device made up of weights, lines, and pulleys. The weights and counter-weights allowed the window to remain open without the use of external latches or other hardware.

11. Whiteware Cream Pitcher Spout

This fragment is the spout from a whiteware cream pitcher. Whiteware is highly refined clay with a vitreous surface. It was commonly imported to America from Britain during the 1800s, but the demand for undecorated ware increased significantly in America by 1860. This type became a common tableware setting for middle class families in this area of Texas after the 1860s. This specimen is dated from 1850 to present.

12. Cotter Pin

This artifact is a hand forged cotter pin. A cotter pin is a metal fastener with two tines that are bent during installation. Cotter pin fitting is an early method of fastening hardware and dates back to the 1600s.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BURLESON CABIN

This photograph (reproduced from the San Marcos-Hays County Collection at the San Marcos Public Library) is from an old postcard showing the cabin's east side and an enclosed dogtrot. It is believed this photograph was taken sometime after the cabin was abandoned, but before it collapsed in a heavy rainstorm in 1917.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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All of us at CAS wish to express our collective gratitude to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for their support and contributions in public outreach and education.

Finally, CAS would like to thank the San Marcos Public Library for providing the image of the Burleson cabin and the excellent venue for this exhibit.

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Artifacts of the Burleson Homestead



Created by:

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Archaeological
Studies

And

The Daughters of the
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INTRODUCTION

General Edward Burleson commanded the First Regiment at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836. Burleson was elected Vice President of the Republic of Texas alongside Sam Houston. He sponsored the bill to create Hays County while he served as a senator.

In 1846, Burleson founded the city of San Marcos with two others by donating land to create town lots, streets, a cemetery, and a public square. As settlers arrived, each received one town lot. The town of San Marcos was officially established in 1851.

Burleson died from pneumonia on December 26, 1851 and was survived by his wife Sarah and his seven children.

In 2000, The Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) conducted an archaeological excavation of the historic Burleson Homestead. CAS also conducted archival research on structures located within the project boundaries. With the completion of the excavations and archival research, a great deal has been learned concerning Burleson's ownership and use of the San Marcos Springs. Specifically, CAS determined that the original cabin had been completely dismantled and a replica cabin was assembled nearby, not on the original foundation.

The artifacts displayed in the present exhibit were recovered from the archaeological excavations at the Burleson Homestead site and are considered to have been associated with the homestead at the time of Burleson's occupation. Artifacts recovered from this project were processed and curated at CAS.

ARTIFACTS

1. Whiteware Sherd with Maker's Mark

This piece is the base of a vase or cup with an English Registry mark used between 1842 and 1867. The letters and numerals stamped onto the vessel indicate that the design for this piece was registered in England no earlier than August 8, 1853. The printed design in pink is known as the 'horsecatcher'.

2. Porcelain Doll Leg

This is a fragmented porcelain doll leg from a China Limb doll. China Limb doll legs, arms, and heads were made of porcelain, but the bodies were most often made of cloth. Because of their popularity beginning around 1850, there is a possibility this artifact could have belonged to the young Elizabeth Burleson. See photo no. 2.

3. Metal Slide Buckle (or Clasp)

This artifact is a small, round brass slide buckle or clasp. Its crossbar has been melded to the circular body. The buckle is back-marked with the following stamps: "US DESIGN REGISTERED 898 D ~ 1841", suggesting it was designed for the military in 1841. With such an early date of design, and the Army's tendency to issue standard equipment over many years, this specimen could represent General Burleson's occupation of the site.

4. Edgeware Sherd

This specimen is the only piece of edgeware observed, and may be an heirloom of the Burleson family. It has been identified as a cockle-edge (small shell with feather motif), dating to between 1795 and 1825. See photo no. 4.

5. Bottle Neck

This item is a thick, dark brown stopper closure-type neck. Two vertical mold seams

on opposite sides of the neck have been partially smoothed by a lip finishing tool. Its brown color suggests a pre-1900 date of manufacture; however, it was made in a blow-back mold and designed to accommodate a stopper-type closure, suggesting a date between 1850 and 1903.

6. Patent Medicine Bottle Neck

This item is an Aqua stopper-type closure neck fragment, and is likely part of a patent medicine bottle. It has been finished with a lipping tool and has no observable mold seams, suggesting a date of manufacture most probably between 1850 and 1903. See photo no 6.

7. Handpainted Ceramic

By the 1840s, common designs of handpainted ceramics included springs, often combined with the cut sponge technique. Previous motifs were superseded in the 1870s by large floral designs, popular through about 1900.

8. Wardrobe Lock

This fragmentary artifact is a piece of metal hardware that was used to lock a wooden wardrobe. Interestingly, according to the list of General Edward Burleson's possessions at death from the Hays County probate records, he owned a walnut wardrobe that valued \$25.

9. Copper Cover for Padlock

This keyhole cover has "J JERRY & CO.," an eagle, and a symbol of a key stamped into it. It was used to cover the keyhole of a padlock. See photo no. 9.