



IN SEARCH OF

GALVEZTOWN

**AN ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG UNCOVERS FRAGMENTS OF LIFE
AT A SPANISH OUTPOST IN 18TH-CENTURY LOUISIANA**

One damp Saturday morning in March of 2008, Rob Mann extracted a dainty, white porcelain shard from a neat, shallow square trench carved into Glen Cambre's front yard. Carefully turning the fragment over, Mann revealed a lovely floral motif — a pattern of brown stems and green and blue petals and leaves on a white background, hand-painted, delicately sketched. It was a shard of a Chinese export teacup.

Rob Mann is Louisiana's Southeast Regional Archeologist with a professional expertise in historical American archeology. He can identify the teacup and other artifacts unearthed from the Cambre greensward — fragments of French faience and coarse Spanish

earthenware, brick rubble, nails, chunks of coal, pieces of bone — as evidence of daily life of the residents of Galveztown, a Spanish colonial community perched at the confluence of Bayou Manchac and the Amite River between 1779 and 1806. But he can't establish the provenance of the artifacts because, although the settlement's history and significance has been studied and well documented, virtually nothing of Galveztown's material culture is known.

**BY
MARY ANN STERNBERG**

Pottery shards are among the artifacts unearthed in archeological digs at the Galveztown site.

PHOTO BY GINI WICKMAN

Exactly where was the town plaza or the gridded arpent squares laid around it on named streets, sited with identical houses? Where was the St. Bernard Church and its cemetery? What was the exact location of the settlement's two consecutive forts? In fact, was the second fort actually built?

When Rob Mann arrived in Louisiana in 2001, a veteran of professional fieldwork and site analysis in other regions, he was amazed to learn about the Galveztown site. "An 18th-century site in south Louisiana is pretty rare," Mann observed. And the fact that one as historically significant as Galveztown had never been investigated was doubly surprising. But true: with the exception of several informal attempts, including an incomplete master's thesis, a superficial pass by an archeology consultant, and some unprofessional metal detector work, the site of the Galveztown community had never been methodically investigated.

But the archeologist's interest was prodded by an encounter with Janelle and John Hickey, active members of the Canary Islander Historical Society, comprised of descendants of families from the Canary Islands. Janelle has traced her lineage back to Galveztown settler Jose Gonzales Cabo, who arrived during the late 18th century to serve in the Spanish military and populate Governor Bernardo de Galvez's newly created strategic settlements, including Galveztown. John's professional background in research and data made him an enthusiastic partner in uncovering Canary Islander history and part of a formidable team, ardent about the unexplored Galveztown site.

When the Hickeys first took Rob Mann to see the site, he was pleased to find it remarkably undisturbed. Over the intervening two centuries, "only Highway 42, a few driveways, and plowing" had intruded on the landscape where Galveztown had been.

Glen Cambre is a soft-spoken attorney and a vocational historian who lives modestly on a large expanse of this historic ground that has been in his family since the 1880s. He doesn't question that his property was part of Galveztown, offering a charming tale as proof: Spanish officials asked native Indians for the best location to build their fort, to control the Amite River and the confluence where it meets Bayou Manchac. The natives told them to build "at the leaning oak," the highest point in the area.

It just happens that a massive, three-trunked, ancient live oak, with two large flatly arced boughs shades Glen Cambre's backyard. It also happens, Cambre claims with a wry smile, that although adjacent properties have often been inundated, his property has never flooded.

And when he allowed novices with metal detectors to prowling his property, they found Hessian belt buckles, 18th

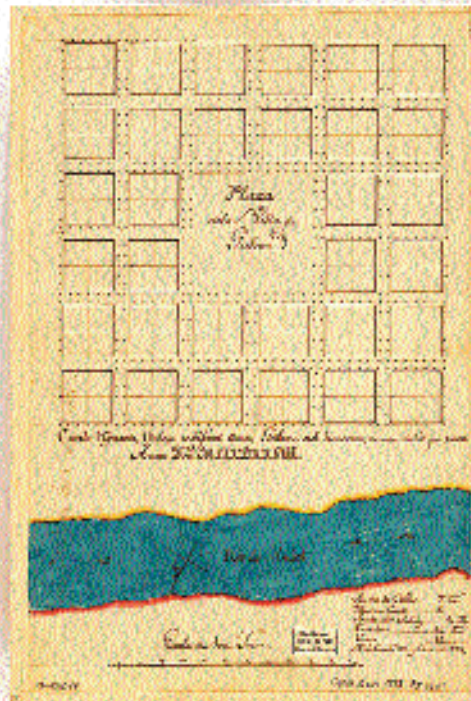
century square-head nails, and round metal cuff buttons. He keeps a collection of these proudly framed in shadow boxes.

There's no question that Glen Cambre lives on one part of the Galveztown site and, in fact, it's possible that his house may even be located at the same spot as the fort. But because of a dearth of public funding for archeology, and little private sector interest in underwriting archaeological projects, even sites as significant as Galveztown have remained unexplored.

So Rob Mann created an unorthodox plan. With the enthusiastic backing of the Hickeys and Glen Cambre's permission, he created a short course in field archeology through LSU Leisure Courses and attracted a group of twelve volunteers, with others on a waiting list. The group included John and Janelle Hickey, of course, as well as a nurse with a cardiology group, the owner of a drapery business, an IT compliance manager, and others who are avocationally interested in archeology and wanting to learn professional methods for digging in the dirt.

On six consecutive Saturdays, under Mann's painstaking supervision, they crouched on the greensward between Glenn Cambre's house and Highway 42, shoveling square holes as neat as hospital corners down to the plough line, troweling up bucketsful of heavy mud, sifting them through large box nets, and collecting a range of lifestyle artifacts greater than had ever before been uncovered and studied at Galveztown.

Rob Mann is sure they unearthed only a minuscule fraction of what is likely there. But it is a beginning and has become increasingly important as rural Ascension Parish near Baton Rouge continues to develop rapidly. Highway 42, which bisects the Galveztown site, is scheduled to be widened and new subdivisions and small businesses are mushrooming in the area. "We need to learn from it



left: Map of Galveztown in 1778.

below: Glen Cambre currently owns the Ascension Parish land where Galveztown once stood, marked by a massive three-trunked live oak mentioned in colonial-era documents.



PHOTO BY MARY ANN STERNBERG

before development impacts it," Mann warned, since no laws exist to restrict digging up cultural resources. At the national level, he observed, "we lose hundreds of sites per year to development of suburbs."

Who knows what will happen at Galveztown?

AN AUSPICIOUS LOCATION

In November, 1778, Bernardo de Galvez, governor of Spanish Louisiana, arrived at the northeast corner of the Isle of Orleans, where Bayou Manchac meets the Amite River. He was on a reconnaissance mission, exploring his new territory to ascertain where to strengthen Spanish defenses against the British in West Florida. Perhaps the governor was surprised to be greeted by a small encampment of refugees from the British community of Canewood, just across the Amite River, who had moved to this quiet corner of Spanish territory to avoid the frictions of the American Revolution. Galvez encouraged the squatters to remain and, as the tale goes, they gratefully named their tiny enclave Villa de Galvez.

The governor was impressed with the apparent high elevation and easy water access of the land at the confluence of the two waterways and deemed it suitable for a settlement and fort. It was a strategic location to cut off British trade to the Gulf, through Bayou Manchac, the Amite River, and the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain. It would be one of four settlements planned for the defense of New Orleans — Galveztown on the Amite River, Valenzuela on Bayou Lafourche, and St. Bernard and Barataria south of the port city.

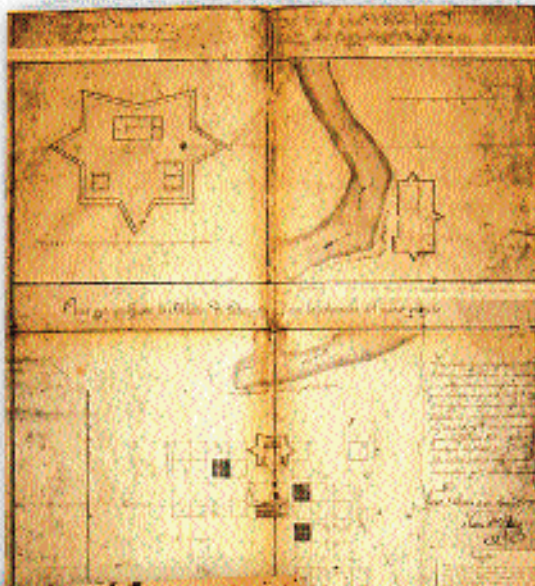
Lieutenant governor Francisco

Bouligny received glowing words from Galvez about the site, but Bouligny was fearful that the location, surrounded by swamps, forests, and bayous, was not propitious. Nevertheless, the governor appointed Francisco Collet to be commandant at Galveztown, charging him with laying out lots, building homes, and transforming the indigenous forests into fields before the first new Spanish settlers arrived.

They came in January, 1779, a mix of Spanish soldiers and emigrés from the Canary Islands joining the British squatters. The Canary Islands, a small archipelago off the coast of Morocco, also known as the Fortunate Islands, had been taken over by the Spanish in 1495. By the 1770s, they were struggling economically and therefore a likely source of recruits to populate the new Spanish colony of Louisiana. The crown advertised for recruits with defined specifications: age — between 17 and 36; height — at least five feet one-half inches tall; appearance — robust and without noticeable imperfections or vice. When too few single men were available, married men with families were accepted; however, mulattoes, gypsies, executioners, and butchers were excluded.

Approximately 2,000 Isleños, as Canary Islanders in Louisiana have been called, arrived over a several year period, beginning in 1778. The men were small farmers, poor and illiterate, accompanied by their wives, children, and close relatives. On the ships' manifests are listed names that remain familiar in south Louisiana — Acosta, Garcia, de Silva, Gonzales, Rodriguez, Diaz, Truxillo, Perez, Gutierrez, Ramos, Bermudez, and others.

Fourteen Canary Islander families — 50 individuals — arrived in January, 1779, followed in February, March and



LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COLLECTION

RIGHT: Perchet map, 1797.

BELOW: List of Galveztown settlers from Iberville Museum exhibit.

*Isleños q. han de Establecer
la nueva Poblacion de
Galveztown.*

REPOSICION DE LA ISLA DE CUBA

| <i>Años de 1779</i> | <i>Tolios</i> | <i>Tolios</i> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Josef Lameco</i> | 1 | <i>Andres Albar, Nioco</i> 22 |
| <i>Antonio Montecino</i> | 2 | <i>Juan Sanchez Chelano</i> 30 |
| <i>Josef Morales</i> | 3 | <i>Bartolomeo Alvarado</i> 31 |
| <i>Josef Rodriguez</i> | 4 | <i>Juan Suarez</i> 32 |
| <i>Juan e Inacio Martin</i> | 5 | <i>Pablo Suarez</i> 33 |
| <i>Alonso Capitan</i> | 6 | <i>Esteban (P. nico)</i> 34 |
| <i>Domingo de Leon</i> | 7 | <i>Miguel Martin</i> 35 |
| <i>Josef Juan de Gonzalez</i> | 8 | <i>Josef Albar</i> 36 |
| <i>Melchor Martin</i> | 9 | <i>Salvador Ramirez</i> 37 |
| <i>Juan Martin</i> | 10 | <i>Juan Medina</i> 38 |
| <i>Domingo Rodriguez</i> | 11 | <i>Alonso Suarez</i> 39 |
| <i>Agustin Pinto</i> | 12 | <i>Juan Antonio Sanchez</i> 40 |

Disease plagued the settlement and, in the summer of 1780, before the harvest could be gathered, a hurricane damaged buildings and flooded fields.

April by additional Canary Islanders and Spanish colonists. The population expanded to 400.

The town had been laid out in traditional Spanish style — a square plaza with a Catholic church at one end and one-square-arpent blocks laid out around the plaza. Each square was divided into four 90x90-foot lots on which

would sit identical galleried, wooden houses measuring 16 by 32 feet each. By May 20, 1779, twenty homes had been

finished, save roofing shingles, and the fields were planted with "corn, rice, beans, potatoes, peas, flax and wheat." According to records, a coffee house and a single-room jail had been built by one of the Englishmen.

But Galveztown was almost completely dependent on the Spanish government for resources and Commandant Collel regularly requisitioned supplies of all kinds from New Orleans. He also complained in letters to Governor Galvez about a lack of workers; the Isleños were challenged in the fields and were ill-equipped to construct mills to grind their corn or build boats or pirogues. Carpentry, in fact, was performed by the English, French and Acadians who lived among them. Sometimes Collel's letters complained that the government sent the wrong supplies, such as building nails which impeded construction. He also wrote that flooding prevented access to the woods to cut trees for lumber.

The litany of Galveztown's problems was only partially offset by the welcome arrival of a Spanish Catholic priest, Father Francisco Lopez. Since the promised church had not yet been built, Father Lopez held services in a corner of the barracks gallery and led prayers for the waters of the Amite River to recede. More happily, he also began officiating marriages between Isleño daughters and Spanish soldiers.

During the summer of 1779, Collel warned Galvez of British movement nearby which provoked the governor to order formation of two Galveztown militias — one Isleño, one composed of the expats — and sent two canon and some light flintlock muskets to arm them. At the same time, waves of diseases — calenture, mange, dropsy, scurvy, and smallpox — were infecting the settlers and claiming increasing numbers of lives. Collel bemoaned that so many were sick that every home was a small hospital and gardens went untended. "I am sad that I cannot do anything about it," he wrote to Galvez.

DISEASE, FLOODS AND HURRICANES

As war between Spain and Great Britain grew more likely, Governor Galvez ordered Collel and his militias to attack the British on the Amite River. At the end of August, the Galveztown troops captured seven British ships and more than a hundred soldiers, including "3 Serjeants, 1 drummer, 7 rank and file Independent Company," as well as the nearby British Fort Graham. In September, after being detained in New Orleans by a hurricane, Galvez led an army of disparate soldiers up the Mississippi River from New Orleans and captured the British forts at Manchac, Baton Rouge and Natchez. This gained part of West Florida for the Spanish crown and ended the immediate geographic threat from British forces across Bayou Manchac and the Amite River.

Galveztown, however, remained a strategic outpost because the British still occupied Mobile and Pensacola. So Galvez sent reinforcements to Galveztown, to help complete construction of the fort in case British forces should attempt to attack the Spanish using the back route — the lakes, Amite River, and Bayou Manchac. After Galvez successfully conquered Mobile and Pensacola, however, Galveztown's strategic importance disappeared, even as living conditions

continued to worsen.

Disease plagued the settlement and, in the summer of 1780, before the harvest could be gathered, a hurricane damaged buildings and flooded fields. This assured both settlers and the Spanish government that Galveztown would not soon become self-sufficient. In 1781, frustrated settlers petitioned the governor for more support; by then, Collel supported their appeal. But little improved and a small group of residents fled the community.

Collel was replaced as commandant by Captain Antonio de St. Maxent, Galvez's brother-in-law, no doubt with the hope that St. Maxent could duplicate the success he had achieved as commandant at Valenzuela. At St. Maxent's arrival, the settlement boasted 67 completed houses with others underway and fields prepared for cultivation. But then a drought damaged the crops and St. Maxent, like Collel before him, was forced to plead for more food.

In 1782, a Mississippi River flood, one of the most devastating of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, overwhelmed south Louisiana and affected Galveztown, despite its distance of more than 15 miles from the river. The flooding also affected Native Americans living near Galveztown who then raided the little community to steal food and animals. On orders from the new governor, Esteban Miro, St. Maxent offered food to the Indians to placate them which of course meant that

Galveztown would require even greater support from the Spanish government.

With all of their travails, the settlers, and especially the Isleños, were disheartened by the loss of their resident Catholic priest. Father Lopez had died in 1779 and had not been replaced; the congregation had been served by priests who made infrequent cross-country trips from St. Gabriel on the Mississippi River or by residents making the arduous trip to St. Gabriel themselves. To

bolster morale, Governor Miro suggested that if Galveztown residents could grow a successful enough crop, they sell their surpluses in New Orleans, St. Gabriel, or elsewhere, and make money. It was a hollow offer considering Galveztown's consistent food shortages. Miro also increased their unhappiness by forbidding anyone to flee the village.

Commandant St. Maxent never achieved the success he anticipated and was succeeded by his brother, Francisco Maximiliano, and then shortly thereafter by Lieutenant Joseph Petely. Petely's description of his new jurisdiction was bleak: "more than half of the houses had fallen into ruins" due to deaths or departures. The remaining residents still clamored for a church, their own priest, and the requisites to celebrate mass. But it was Petely's successor, Marcos DeVilliers, who arrived in 1787, who was finally able to respond. Sometime between 1787 and 1791, the Church of St. Bernard was completed and a Capuchin friar assigned. He remained there until 1799.

Galveztown's 1788 population census reported 268 residents, even as many of them continued to petition to leave, especially to relocate to the Canary Islander settlement at St. Bernard. DeVilliers too wrote that the community had numerous empty or collapsed houses and others only sheltering animals. In August 1793, another



BERNARDO DE GALVEZ

hurricane flooded the fields and devastated the town. This prompted the priest, who lived in a squalid cabin that apparently flooded during normal south Louisiana rain storms, to threaten to leave unless he could have a proper rectory. His wish was granted in 1794, the same year in which two hurricanes battered Galveztown, causing flooding, destruction of houses and the barracks, and the drowning of numerous livestock. And the hurricanes were followed by a torrential flood on the Amite River which overcame the planted fields.

Fifteen years after its settlement, Galveztown seemed nearly as desperate as it had been at the outset.

DeVillier was followed by Captain Francisco Rivas who became commandant in December, 1794, at a time when the Spanish government had once again identified Galveztown as a place of strategic importance. It was, wrote the current governor, Francisco Luis Hector, Baron de Carondelet, "a point of transit much frequented, both by Americans going to Georgia and Natchez, and by the savages going to the capital and elsewhere. I consider it of the supremest importance to rebuild the fort of Galvez-town, now in total ruin ... its situation to be at the point formed by the confluence of the Amite and Iberville rivers ... and made to hold a garrison of a hundred men in time of war, (from the New Orleans garrison) and a hundred and fifty militamen from the district."

But Rivas had inherited an unhappy community filled with residents who desperately wanted to move elsewhere, knowing that Canary Islanders in other settlements were much more successful. The commandant prodded them to work harder; the governor was unsympathetic. In April 1796, however,

the Amite River flooded the streets so deep that residents paddled pirogues within the town. Rivas began to express sympathy for their plight to Carondelet.

Rivas' opinion was reinforced when Juan Maria Perchet, touring Spanish military



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installations, filed a report about Galveztown that observed the settlement was too close to the Amite and surrounded by water-filled swamps — a reprise of Boulogny's earlier warning. Perchet documented the population at 109 individuals in 21 families. "They are lodged in miserable cabins. The lands that surround this place are little suited for labor and sterile for the progress of agriculture." On the map that Perchet drew of Galveztown, he noted "the houses ... are only huts which at the time of building cost only 80 pesos. The only important buildings are the residences of Captain Paoli and that of the commander of the post which belongs to the King. (The latter) besides being very uncomfortable is threatening to collapse at any moment."

But the Spanish government continued to focus on the need for territorial defense because, in 1795, the Treaty of San Lorenzo had ceded Spanish territory above the 31st parallel to the Americans. As a protection from possible American incursions, Governor Manuel Gayosa de Lemos, Carondelet's successor, ordered the fort at Galveztown rebuilt. And so the village struggled on until 1801 when another hurricane damaged the barracks, a military kitchen, and many of the remaining houses.

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

In 1802, Spain quietly returned the Isle of Orleans to France, which sold it and the Louisiana territory to the United States in 1803 as the Louisiana Purchase. This transaction placed Galveztown on American soil leaving only West Florida (above Bayou Manchac) still part of the Spanish crown.

Dr. John Watkins, representing the new American government of Louisiana, arrived at Galveztown in 1804, noted the miserable conditions, and invited the remaining residents to stay, with the assurance that the new government would protect their rights and property. Not surprisingly, however, many Spaniards and Canary Islanders took the opportunity to leave. Some moved across Bayou Manchac to Baton Rouge, the largest remaining Spanish post on the Mississippi River, where lots were laid out for them. This area, now in the shadow of the Louisiana state capitol building, is known as Spanish Town. Others left Galveztown to move inland on higher ground where Acadian settlers were located and had soon established a new settlement which they named Galvez.

In the spring of 1805 before the last residents departed Galveztown, they received unexpected visitors. Shepherd Brown, in charge of the community for the American government, welcomed the arrival of a small schooner, the *Nonpariel*, that had undertaken an arduous voyage along Bayou Manchac. According to a story that appeared in an 1841 issue of the magazine *The American Pioneer*, the sailing vessel left Marietta, Ohio, to ply the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, cutting through Bayou Manchac for New Orleans through the back route. Captain Jonathan Devoll intended to set up a sailing service on Lake Pontchartrain and had been assured that the back route through Manchac would save time after only a short stretch of difficult channel. But obstructions along the first eight miles of the bayou were notorious and, unfortunately, the current from the Mississippi River into Manchac was so forceful that once the boat had entered the bayou they could not turn back.

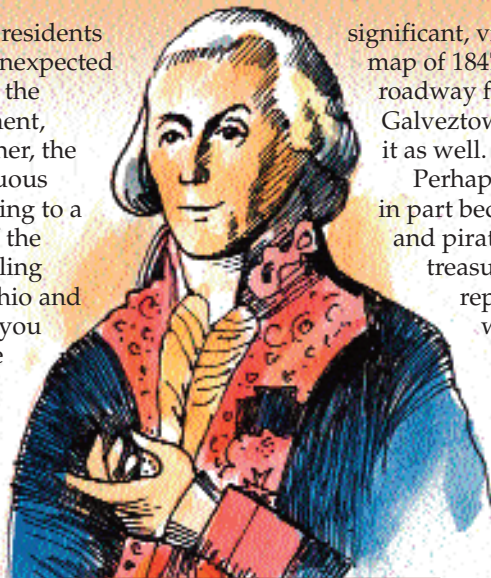
So "day after day was consumed with constant labor with axes and saws" instead of the anticipated clear sailing. The boat only made headway, the article noted, because a passenger who had boarded at Natchez had fortuitously brought along crosscut saws. The *Nonpariel* struggled for 20 days before it reaching the mouth of the 18 and a half mile bayou.

When the *Nonpariel* finally arrived at Galveztown on June 23rd, the captain and crew sold some of their remaining provisions to the remaining settlers — "meal for \$3 per barrel and the remainder of cheese at 50 cents a pound, and few barrels of flour at \$14." And Captain Devoll took on a pilot from Galveztown to help him navigate the rest of the trip, unaware that the worst was behind him.

Soon thereafter, Galveztown virtually disappeared. Church records end in 1807 and the fort, of no use to the American government, fell to ruin as did the few remaining intact buildings. It seemed something of a cosmic joke that immigrants from a place called the Fortunate Islands had struggled so much in an unfortunate place like Galveztown.

When American geographer and surveyor William Darby arrived at the location of Galveztown in 1816, he found little of consequence save a few ruined houses. But, seemingly ignorant of the village's history, he wrote optimistically that "this town must in the progressive advance of Louisiana become a place of note ... its situation gives it many natural advantages that will in no great length of time be called into operation."

Galveztown remained a designated settlement on Louisiana maps for decades. An 1834 area map shows the village as if it were still a



**FRANCISCO LUIS HECTOR,
BARON DE CARONDELET**

significant, viable community; an Ascension Parish map of 1847 depicts Galveztown as well as the roadway from St. Gabriel on the Mississippi to Galveztown on the Amite; and other maps reflected it as well.

Perhaps the notion of Galveztown was sustained in part because of legends. The famous smuggler and pirate, Jean Lafitte, was said to have hidden treasure at Galveztown. It had also been reported that one of Lafitte's boats loaded with precious metal, possibly gold, had sunk in the Amite River at Galveztown. These optimistic tales may have evolved because Jean Lafitte, after greatly assisting the Americans at the Battle of New Orleans in 1814, moved to Galveston, Texas.

In 1888, a promotional brochure was published to promote development in Ascension Parish. The "Ascension Parish inducement to settlement by Ascension Branch Sugar Planters Association" presented the Galveztown site quite imaginatively: "The port of Galvez on the Amite near the mouth of the Manchac is eligible for establishing an extensive lumber trade. This is near the site of the old town of Galvez (sic) where the pioneers of civilization in Louisiana founded a small city during the 17th (sic) century which was then the center of political and ecclesiastical society. Galvez was once the capital of the province where the Governor resided and the chief dignitary of the dominant Roman Catholic Church dispensed papal laws. Not a vestige of the ancient town remains save here and there small bits of brick and mortar which the trickling rain or burrowing snouts of swine unearth to bear mute evidence that here was once a brick-paved city, said to have contained a thousand inhabitants or more. The spot is today the sole property of a lineal descendant of the brave explorers who founded the town. Mr. Miguel Gonzales, who has attained more than fourscore years, is the lone inhabitant and owner of the site of this ancient city."

In 1924, LSU masters student V.M. Scramuzza completed a thesis about Galveztown in which he reported visiting the site and finding "no remnants are extant ... not even a trace of the fort is left but in the springtime when the soil is freshly plowed, rectangular spots of a darker color evince the places where the cabins stood." He surmised that the graveyard was located on the southeast end of the settlement and noted that neighbors had found bricks from the old town and were said to remember crisscrossed tree lines that might have delineated the village streets.

"Mr. Butler Gonzales's father (probably the aforementioned Miguel) was the first to plough the field where the town had been," Scramuzza wrote. "On the river bank cannon balls were still lying on the ground."



ESTEBAN MIRO

UNEARTHING THE PAST

In a light-filled basement room on the LSU

campus sits Rob Mann, surrounded by walls of bookshelves crammed with historical and cultural tomes and lab tables covered with sifting boxes. In the wood frames are pieces of bottle glass, a myriad of fragments of broken ceramics, shards of a smoking pipe, chips and chunks of brick, and other relics — a representative sampling of the found material from his Galveztown dig.

“We found good examples of 18th century French pottery such as faience,” Mann says with satisfaction. Such pieces are “a very important time marker because French goods were still in New Orleans, despite the fact that Spain owned the territory ... and faience wasn’t imported much after 1800 or 1810.” When the Spanish continued to supply Galveztown, they might have sent pottery. Or a commandant might have brought his household goods with him.

Mann fingers a fragment of orange brick, a deep bright color, probably from a house chimney from one of the identical houses built on the arpent squares of the village. “We don’t know if they made brick there,” he mentions, but they might have. And there are other brick pieces of a deeper orange color, better fired and denser. “They may have been made elsewhere and brought in,” Mann offers.

This is fascinating work for an historical archeologist and infinitely mysterious. “Galveztown lends itself to asking about larger geopolitical issues,” Mann muses. “We know it was illegal to trade with the British across the bayou although fraternizing definitely took place.” It was documented between British Fort Bute and Spanish Fort St. Gabriel on the Mississippi River. But how much did the settlers at Galveztown interact with the British at Canewood and its fort? Were shards of British ceramics brought in by

the refugee settlers that Governor Galvez encountered or later, through trade? Who smoked the pipes found in broken pieces on Glenn Cambre’s land? Who used the glasses and bottles of which shards and fragments were found?

So far, there is only one certainty: Rob Mann knows exactly where each found artifact was located. His team had laid out a 50-meter grid across the grass, taping and erecting orange flags every ten meters, before digging the

one-foot square test pits. For each artifact, Mann took a photograph and identified its find location. He has a trove of clues.

What’s next? “We would create a digital map of Glen Cambre’s excavated yard,” said Mann, juxtaposing the situation of the trenches and the location where each item was found. He would then “create a narrative about what we found, which may lead to a report.” And, since one of his duties as Southeast Regional Archeologist is public

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above: Volunteers dig and shift dirt at one of the archeological digs supervised by Dr. Robert Mann, Southeast Regional Archeologist.
right: McAlester map, 1868

40th Cong. 2^d Sess. Senate Ex. Doc. No. 81.



B.

Extract From Dep't of the Gulf Maps No. 1

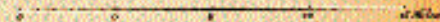
Prepared under direction of

Br. B. G. M. D. M. ALESTER, M. A.

Y. M. S. S. Report on his Examination and Sur-

PASS & BAYOU MANCHAC & AMITE RIVER

SCALE OF MILES



outreach, he will talk about Galveztown to the public at as many events as he can. "And I may eventually write a journal article."

Through the discovery and interpretation of physical artifacts, archeology seeks to understand how humans of the past interacted with their environment, offering different information than documents and maps can convey. So perhaps someday, the rest of Galveztown's story will be known — where its buildings and fields were situated, how its residents lived and died, worked and played.

For now, however, these secrets remain buried. **LCV**

Mary Ann Sternberg serves as internship coordinator for the Manship School of Mass Communications at LSU in Baton Rouge, as well as a consultant for the school's public relations efforts on behalf of its programs. Her most recent book, *Winding Through Time: The Forgotten History and Present-Day Peril of Bayou Manchac*, was published by LSU Press in 2007. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information about Dr. Robert Mann's course in field archeology at LSU, call (225) 578-6739.



PHOTO BY MARY ANN STERNBERG

top: The bottom of a wine bottle comes into view at a Galveztown dig site.



PHOTO BY GINI MCKIN

left: Broken glass, shards of pottery, pieces of smoking pipes and building materials are among the artifacts unearthed at the Galveztown digs.



LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COLLECTION