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The Levi Jordan Plantation Internet Project

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The Levi Jordan Plantation web site focuses on an archaeological and historical site in Brazoria, Texas. As many readers of this newsletter are aware, research at the site has been underway for some 14 years under the direction of Ken Brown at the University of Houston. The plantation was built in 1848 by Levi Jordan, his family, and the people who were enslaved by them (and, later, who worked for them as tenant farmers and sharecroppers).

This web site is the result of a collaboration between historical archaeologists, African American descendants and European American descendants (and other community members) to create an ongoing conversation to discuss the diverse archaeologies and histories of this plantation. A major focus of the site is to discuss how people seem to have used African beliefs and ways of using material culture to deal with the oppression of slavery and its aftermath, tenancy. However, there is also a great deal of information about the lives of Jordan and his family, as well as information about how descendants of the plantation's residents are working together now to tell the histories of their ancestors. While Ken Brown and his students provided most of the archaeological and historical content for the web site, many other people have contributed content as well: anthropologists, other archaeologists, historians and descendant community members.

In addition to providing a forum to discuss the archaeologies and histories of the Jordan Plantation, the web site is also designed to help archaeologists and community members learn more about how people communicate about archaeology and history on the Internet. We hope that readers of this newsletter will participate in this research in various ways by answering the online questionnaires, by posting to discussion groups and using feedback forms, as well as by direct communication with us.