Dear Member:

March is Florida Archaeology Month and this year we are celebrating “African American Cemeteries in Florida”. We will have free special posters available at our March lecture. There will be events planned throughout Florida during the month. Check your local newspapers and our website.

Coming up in May is the Florida Anthropological Society’s (FAS) 72nd Annual Conference to be held in Naples, May 8—10 at the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort. The program includes archaeological exhibits, three halls with continuous 15 minute lectures with over 50 speakers talking about their latest projects, a reception, a dinner with Keynote Speaker Dr. Ryan Wheeler who will talk about the intersection of Florida archaeology and northern museums. For more information and to register, please go to the FAS website. https://fasweb.org/annual-conference

Thank you for being a Time Sifters member.

Darwin “Smitty” Smith, President hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

March 18, 6:00 PM - Selby Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota

Mocama (Timucua) Indians and Spanish Missions: Life Beneath the Bell.

Dr. Keith Ashley
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of North Florida

When most people think of Spanish Missions, they think of California, New Mexico, or even Texas. What many do not realize is that the Spanish Mission system in La Florida occurred earlier and lasted longer than it did in any of those other areas. Among the Mocama-speaking Timucua of northeastern Florida, mission communities existed between 1587 and 1702. This lecture discusses Mocama life under the mission bell, with emphasis on archaeological excavations at San Juan del Puerto and Santa Cruz de Guadalquini in Jacksonville, Florida.
Iran is not the top vacation spot for most of the Western world because of the political problems between Iran and the USA, but there are many magnificent historical sites within Iran that history lovers would visit if they felt welcome. The threat of violence worsened on January 4, 2020, when President Trump, in a tit-for-tat power display, threatened to target 52 Iranian cultural sites (52 represented the number of American hostages Iran held in 2010). There have been attacks on cultural sites by others. It is a purposeful act to physically destroy a cultural group (ethnic cleansing) and has a devastating impact on a population. It is not new.

**Alexander the Great** conquered the great Achaemenid Persian Empire in 330 BCE. He burned the king’s palace at Persepolis as payback for the Persian torching of Athens and the Acropolis 150 years earlier. Plutarch tells us that Alexander took so many treasures from Persepolis that it took 20,000 mules and 5,000 camels to carry the loot back to Greece.

The Nazi Luftwaffe destroyed the Royal Opera House in Malta in 1942 and by the end of WWII, had collected hundreds of thousands of cultural objects. The United States horribly damaged the Hiroshima Prefectural Industry Promotion Building along with the rest of the city in 1945.

The loss of any of these sites, purposely or accidentally, is a great loss to the world, so any time governments aim destructive weapons at each other, fear rises among historians and archaeologists.

The first modern code to prevent the destruction of cultural heritage properties came from Abraham Lincoln in 1863. It was part of the Lieber Code that updated general laws of war adopted by English kings as early as 1385 (Richard II). Even the Romans believed that destruction of historic objects should only be done as a last resort, and Machiavelli wrote “that war should not be about annihilating the enemy but should involve only the soldiers on the field.” The terrible destruction of cultural heritage sites during World War II prompted a meeting of world leaders who convened at the Hague in the Netherlands where they adopted a treaty called the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict that is dedicated to safe-guarding historic properties. It calls for respect for cultural property, the designation of competent authorities responsible for safeguarding these properties, marking the properties with a distinctive emblem of the Convention, establishing special military units responsible for their protection and sanctions for those who breach these rules (UNESCO.org). The agreement was strengthened in 1977 with Article 53 to the Geneva Conventions that prohibits any acts of hostility directed against historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples, the use of such objects in support of the military effort, and making such objects the object of reprisals.

The International Criminal Tribunal was created by the United Nations Security Council in 1993 to prosecute war crimes and the Court of Justice has convicted several people for destructions at Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Bosnia, and in 2016, the International Criminal Court successfully convicted a member of a jihadist group for destruction of cultural heritage sites in Timbuktu.

The president’s threat also brought attention to Iran’s fascinating history and the 24 ancient sites there that UNESCO recognizes as World Heritage sites; there are at
News & Events

March 24, 6:00
University of South Florida, Tampa, Building CWY 107
The Archaeological Institute of America, Tampa Bay Society, Lecture Series:

“Natural & Eternal? The Birth of the Fertility Figurine in Interwar (France)” Dr. Claire Heckel

March 25, 5:30 to 7:30,
Shannon Staub Library, 4675 Career Lane, North Port, FL 34289

“Southwest Florida Archaeology Panel”
Join Sarasota County Archaeologist Steve Koski & other local experts. Registration is required. Register online or at the Reference Desk. (941) 861-1110—scgov.net/library

April 4 - All Day
“American Battlefield Trust Park Day—2020”
Since 1996, community-minded citizens have taken part in Park Day events at various sites across the country. Activities are chosen by each participating site and can include building trails, raking leaves, painting signs, putting up fences and contributing to site interpretation.
If you are interested in volunteering or hosting an event, visit our event page or email parkday@battlefields.org for more information about the Trust’s next Park Day.

Continued from page 2 ...

least 56 more Iranian properties on a tentative list for acceptance by the UNESCO committee. Iran’s most famous ancient site, Persepolis, was built by the Achaemenid Persian kings in the 5th century BCE. UNESCO calls it “one of the world’s greatest archaeological sites.” The broken structures left by Alexander’s pillage lay buried until 1620 CE when it was recognized by the outside world, but archaeological excavation was not begun until 1931 when the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago got permission to excavate. Scientific excavation continued through 1939 with help from The University Museum in Philadelphia and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston who have reconstructed the palace as well as the huge area around Persepolis, restoring as much as possible to this historical treasure.

Some of the structures that were devastated during WWII have also been restored ... Monte Casino in Italy and St. Stevens Cathedral in Vienna, but many suffered too much damage and cannot be rebuilt.
Fortunately, the U.S. military has reminded us that striking cultural sites is a war crime, so there will be no American attacks on any historical sites anywhere.
March 18, 2020

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April 13

2019 Cornelia Futor Memorial Student Paper Winners
1st and 2nd Place Student Paper Presenters

May 20, 2020

Archaeology & the Bible:
Excavation of Nahal Yatir—A Biblical City
Dr. Steven Derfler