

JULY-2026

PRESERVE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

I hope you are having a good summer. I'm writing this newsletter while on a trip that includes Etowah Indian Mounds State Park in Georgia and Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania. Visiting friends and traveling, two of my favorite things to do. In between driving and sightseeing we are watching the World Cup Games!!

Our Fall Calendar is on page 5 and a Florida History piece by Uzi Baram is on page 3. Enjoy.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
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Historical Trivia

Name this World Heritage Site in Collinsville, Illinois.



Answer on page 5



Archaeologists You Should Know

Dame Kathleen Mary Kenyon, DBE, FBA, FSA - Jericho - Archaeologist

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia & Encyclopedia Britannica.

Dame Kathleen Mary Kenyon was born the 5th of January 1906 in the Regent's Park area, London, England to Sir Frederic Kenyon and Amy Kenyon. She had one sister, Nora Kenyon. Her father was a biblical scholar and later director of the British Museum.

Kathleen had a long and successful career as an archaeologist. She led excavations of Tell es-Sultan, the site of ancient Jericho,

from 1952 to 1958, and has been called one of the most influential archaeologists of the 20th century. She was Principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford from 1962 to 1973.

She grew up in Bloomsbury, London, in a house attached to the British Museum. In later years Kenyon would remark that her father's position at the British Museum was particularly helpful for her education. Kathleen was an excellent student, winning awards

at school and particularly excelling in history. She studied first at St Paul's Girls' School, then read History at Somerville College, Oxford. While at Oxford, Kenyon played field hockey and also became the first female president of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. She graduated in 1929 and began a career in archaeology.

Continued on page 4 ...



Photos: Wikipedia

In The News

Royal Funerary Regalia Found Hidden in the Underground Vaults of Vilnius Cathedral

By Smitty. Sources: The History Blog, Euro News, and Arkenews.



The royal funerary regalia of rulers of 15th and 16th century Poland and Lithuania has been discovered in the underground vaults of **Vilnius Cathedral in Lithuania**. The treasury includes three funeral crowns, a scepter, an orb, rings, chains and coffin plaques. Originally discovered back in 1931 when the cathedral was being cleaned after a spring flood, the treasure trove was briefly put on display before being hidden in 1939 with the outbreak of WWII. They were secreted into niches in the walls of the crypt. Both the treasury and the funerary regalia have been lost for *nine decades*.

They were hidden somewhere in the vaults, but obviously neither location was documented. The treasury was rediscovered in 1985, walled up in a niche in one of the staircases. The team of archaeologists used non-invasive techniques like georadar, thermal imaging, metal detectors, and the testimony of a witness who was there when the regalia was hidden.



Continuing the search in 2024 for the royal funerary regalia, an endoscopic camera was inserted through the vault's walls, using pre-existing holes and cracks. On December 16, 2024, finally the long-lost royal funerary regalia was captured on camera after multiple unsuccessful attempts. In order to document, catalog, and relocate the items to a safe location, the wall has been removed, and the items were taken out.

The funerary regalia and the treasury were originally placed in the coffins of #1 - **Alexander Jagiellon (1461-1506)**, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, #2 - **Elizabeth of Habsburg (1526-1545)**, the first wife of #3 - **Sigismund II Augustus (1520-1572)**, and his second wife #4 - **Barbara Radziwiłł (1520/23-1551)**. The artefacts – whose exact value has yet to be revealed – are set to undergo examination and restoration before being put on display for the public, with both the Vilnius Archdiocese and Lithuania's Department of Cultural Heritage supporting further research.

Florida History

Three locks of human hair. Perico Island.

By Uzi Baram, Professor Emeritus New College of Florida, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: https://www.academia.edu/36657676/PERICO_ISLAND_REVISITED, Florida Anthropologist 35, Archeology of the Florida Gulf Coast. <https://stofthpo.com/seminole-history/> and <https://archaeoloausra.org/>

Three locks of human hair. Robert Austin led excavations a decade ago that recovered and repatriated under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) ancestral remains from Perico Island. Two radiocarbon dates suggest the hair dates from nearly 2500 to possibly 3000 years, one of the amazing details on ancestral Seminole life on the 1800-acre island, located between Palma Sola Bay and the Manatee River in Bradenton.

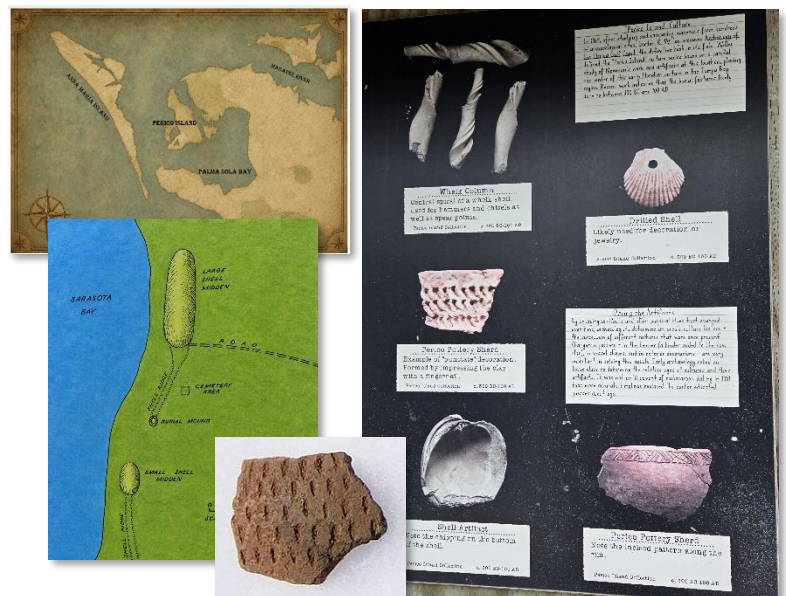
Like so much of the Florida past, excavations are a crucial component of insights into the lives of the ancient ones. Marshall Newman of the Smithsonian excavated on Perico Island in the winter of 1933 and 1934 documenting the burial mound, a small shell mound, and a cemetery.

Gordon Willey in *Archaeology of the Florida Gulf Coast* used the finds to define the Perico Island Culture and Period. In the late 1970s, archaeologists subsumed Perico Island Culture into the Manasota Culture (2500-1300 years ago across Sarasota and Manatee counties). Still, Perico Island stands as a significant center in antiquity.

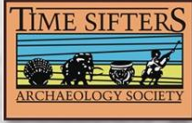
Three thousand years ago, Perico Island's history began with burials, ceremonial feasting, and other communal events. Beyond the human remains, what Austin's excavations found was extraordinary: a wooden enclosure possibly for keeping live turtles, special meals of monk seal and other marine mammals, shellfish remains, and lots of birds and fish. There were many types of wood used for the ceremonial center and the use of earlier soils for the mounds reminds us of the active terraforming of the area through generations, and, using the archaeological terminology of features, many structures through the mortuary. This was a place where people gathered, coming by boat,

for untold generations. The finds are curated at the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature in Bradenton. On the island, where once stood a thriving ceremonial center is an interpretive sign and a tower for sweeping vistas. The Spanish named the people to the north around Tampa Bay as Tocobaga: we question, were the people of the ceremonial center also Tocobaga or did they identify differently?

The island is named for Perico Pompon, a fisherman who was part of the Cuban fishing rancho industry of the 1770-1840s; Perico was one of three fisherfolk who led Josiah Gates to the Manatee Mineral Spring where Gates established what became the Village of Manatee on top of the previous Angola Maroon Community. The Cuban Fishing Rancho Industry connected the Florida Gulf Coast with Havana. Though the historical importance of Perico Island has been muffled by the use of Manasota Culture for the region, visiting the two accessible Manatee County preserves on the island, Perico Preserve and Neal Preserve, lets us walk the same ground as the ancient ones who honored the land and seascapes, and their ancestors buried in the cemeteries. The interpretive signs at Neal Preserve are misleading, like too many official representations of ancient history that hinder respect for the achievements of ancestral Seminoles but hopefully can encourage visitors to learn more about this ancient mortuary ritual landscape.



Photos: ChatGPT, Uzi Baram, & Peach State Archaeological Society.



Speakers for 2026/2027

All are at 5:45 PM live at the Selby Library
1331 First St., Sarasota

Time Sifters Archaeology Society is pleased to announce our 2026 - 2027 Fall schedule of presentations. All lectures will start at 5:45 PM and are free. Each presentation will be about one hour with time for questions and answers. Please come and join us.

September 16

**“Crusader Castles: Protecting the Holy Land”
Dr. Matt King**

October 21

**“Smoking Tobacco, Sipping Coffee, and
Subjected to the Sultan: Insights from the Archaeology
of the Ottoman Empire”
Dr. Uzi Baram**

November 18

**“Tracing the Footprints of Imperial Expansion
at Monte Lima, Peru”
Dr. Sarah Taylor**

January 20, 2027

**“Year in Review: What’s been Discovered &
What’s being Talked About”
Dr. David Miano**



Photos: Wikipedia, Britannia, Pinterest, twitter, Wikipedia, Vindolanda Trust, & Pinterest.

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Historical Trivia: - #198 - Cahokia Mounds.