



FEBRUARY - 2024

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

Something Special this month ... In addition to the lecture we have COOKIES, COFFEE & CONVERSATION! Please join us at 5:30 for some stimulating conversation with fellow members and have a cup of coffee and some cookies.

Who is interested in a Field Trip to see the Key Marco Cat in person? Let me know.

Don't forget that your 2024 dues are due in January. We have two ways that you can pay: Via paypal on the webpage or mail a check to Time Sifters, Inc., PO Box 5283, Sarasota, FL. 34277.

The webpage has old newsletters and videos of most of the past lectures. We also have the lectures on our YouTube channel, just type Time Sifters and they will show up.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
hmsbeagle22@gmail.com



Macha Picchu 1912 —1997 (National Geographic)

February 21 - at 5:45 PM at the Selby Library in downtown Sarasota

Göbekli Tepe: *The World's First Temple?*

Atakan Atabas
*Ph.D Student of Anthropology,
University of Central Florida*



Göbekli Tepe, translated as 'potbelly hill' in Turkish, stands out as one of the most intriguing discoveries in Anatolian archaeology. Located in southeastern Türkiye, Göbekli Tepe is attributed to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic. This period, approximately spanning 9600–8800 BCE, has significantly reshaped our comprehension of human civilization. Unearthed in 1994 by the German archaeologist Klaus Schmidt, the site not only prompts inquiries into the social and technical capabilities of hunter-gatherer societies but also into their belief systems. The revelation of Göbekli Tepe compelled researchers to reassess prevailing theories regarding the social evolution of societies.

The remarkable architectural features of Göbekli Tepe comprise circular structures adorned with T-shaped stone megaliths, measuring 9.5–16 feet in height and up to 10 tons in weight and arranged in symmetrical patterns. These T-shaped pillars primarily serve as canvases for the depiction of animal figures such as snakes, foxes, boars, cranes, aurochs, wild sheep, gazelles, and lions/leopards. Some of these T-shaped pillars exhibit appendages and hands arranged as



Photos: Wikipedia, sci-nature, Atakan Atabas

though cradling their abdomens, suggesting a representation of human beings.

Atakan is a doctoral student in the Anthropology Dept. at the UCF. He has earned a master's degree in Classical Archaeology from FSU and a master's degree in Art History from the University of Illinois. His primary academic focus revolves around Bronze and Iron Age Anatolian Art and Archaeology. Currently, his scholarly pursuits involve the integration of artificial intelligence within the field of archaeology, specifically in the assessment of ancient architecture and the analysis of spatial usage at the Iron Age site of Kerkenes.

Notes from a Time Sifter

War: “The inevitable result of bumbling leaders, ancient hatreds, intransigent ideologies, dire poverty, historic injustices, and a huge supply of weapons and impressionable young men.”

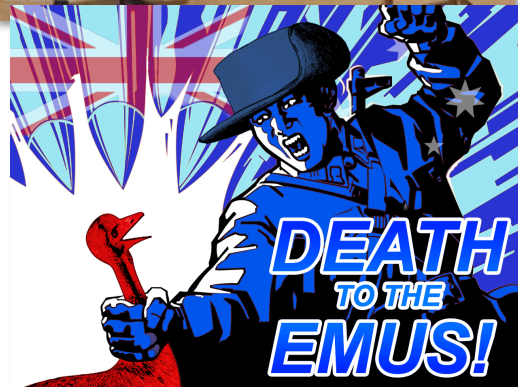
Christopher Blattman, Professor of Global Conflict Studies at University of Chicago

By Evelyn Mangie, Time Sifters Board Member

The word “war” is from the Frankish-German word, **werra**, meaning confusion, discord. *Webster’s dictionary* defines “war” as “an open and declared armed hostile conflict between states or nations.” So, it is not murder (think Cain and Abel) but a complex, organized, deliberate human activity. Christopher Blattman, author of *Why We Fight, The Roots of War and the Paths to Peace*, explains that war is the “inevitable result of bumbling leaders, ancient hatreds, intransigent ideologies, dire poverty, historic injustices, and a huge supply of weapons and impressionable young men.” It grows out of a tribe mentality that has existed since the hunter-gatherer era. It is not human nature; it is a human choice.

We see evidence for war in the **cave paintings at the Acacus Mountains in Libya** that could date as early as 12,000 BCE, and in a site near Lake Turkana in Kenya where archaeologists found the unburied remains of men, women, and children that date to ca. 8500 BCE. They were hunter-gatherers with no material possessions, so they must have been fighting over the prime spot on the lake where animals gathered for water and food.

Wars increased during the Neolithic period because farmers had possessions worth fighting for. It took cooperation to build and maintain permanent settlements. That cooperation gave rise to armies that gave communities the ability to declare war, but it did not give people the common sense to declare war



Photos: Medomed.org, ancient-origins, factinate.com, BBC News, Reddit.com, warhistoryonline.

for good reasons only. Those who declare war believe they have a legitimate (sometimes even God-sanctioned) reason to do it, but, like beauty, logic is in the mind of the beholder, and

isn’t always evident to others.

For example, **Roman Emperor Caligula, in 40 CE, declared war on Neptune, the god of the sea**, because his ship nearly sank during a storm. Neptune ignored Caligula so Caligula declared victory and ordered his troops to gather seashells

from the beach to prove his success. Neptune ignored that too.

The Italian city of Bologna declared war on the neighboring city of Modena in 1325 CE because **several Modena soldiers sneaked over Bologna’s wall and stole a bucket from the town well**. The people of Bologna demanded its return, the people of Modena refused, and war was declared. An armistice was finally signed but the conflict left 2,000 casualties. Modena kept the bucket that is still displayed in the town hall.

The Ashanti tribe in Ghana, Africa, gilded a stool that their ruler used as his throne. The British took over and in 1900 they demanded the Ashanti give them the stool as a symbol of British

Continued on page 4 ...

In the News

Researchers Work to Identify Revolutionary War Casualties

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Archaeology Magazine, News19 WLTX, Wikipedia.

February 16, 2023. *The Battle of Camden* (August 16, 1780), also known as the Battle of Camden Court House, was a major victory for the British in the Southern theater of the American Revolutionary War. On August 16, 1780, British forces under Lieutenant General Charles, Lord Cornwallis routed the American forces led by Major General Horatio Gates about four miles north of Camden, SC.

Archaeologists have recovered on the Battlefield the remains of 14 Revolutionary War Soldiers who fought during the Battle. According to the *South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust* (SCBPT), the remains, some less than six inches below the surface in seven separate locations across the battlefield, were located during site research, were carefully excavated, and removed over an eight-week period beginning in September.

Through preliminary field examination, the archaeology team believes they have recovered 12 bodies that are Patriot Continental soldiers from either Maryland or Delaware; one that is likely a North Carolina Loyalist and one who served with the British 71st Regiment of Foot, Fraser's Highlanders. As for the others, it will take some time as they are taking DNA tests from those who have called saying they believe they are related.

"We know the ages of all the soldiers," added Doug Bostick of SCBPT. "Two of the soldiers are between 14 and 16 years old," he said. Artifacts buried with these two individuals suggest they came from Maryland. "The loyalist from North Carolina has Native American ancestry that's determined by his teeth," Bostick said. "So, this particular group of Loyalists from North Carolina came out of the area where the Lumbee Tribe was

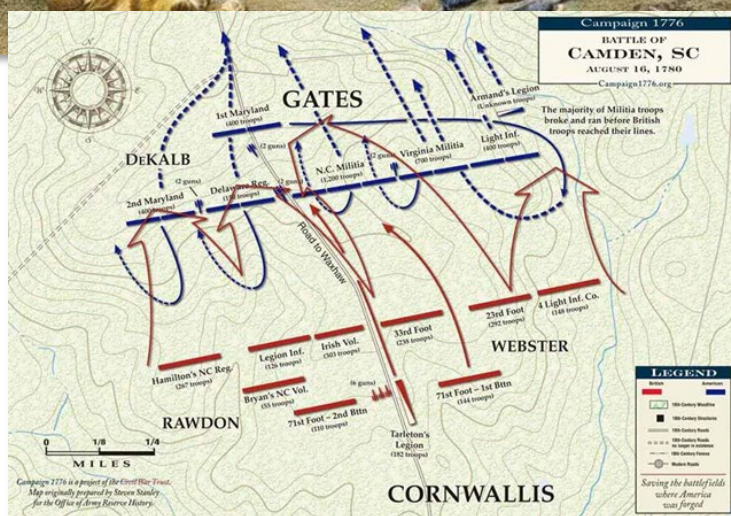


Photos: Wikipedia, Battlefield Trust, University of South Carolina.

pretty prevalent, so it might be he was from the tribe."

As for names, Bostick says they are closing in on one of three for the British 71st Regiment of Foot, Fraser's Highlanders. As for the others, it will take some time as they are taking DNA tests from those who have called saying they believe they are related.

"We're just starting the DNA process," Bostick said. "The identification of these remains will extend into the Fall. When these soldiers were reinterred in April, we marked them with a simple headstone that says *"Unknown Continental Soldier,"* but later, when we



identify them, we will come back and put a headstone with their name on them."



Continued from page 2 ...

War ...

dominance. The Ashanti refused and hid the stool, so the British declared war. The war lasted for several months, and more than 3,000 people died. The British won the war, but they couldn't find the stool. It was found 20 years later by some laborers who stripped the gold from it. Everyone lost interest in the remaining wooden stool.

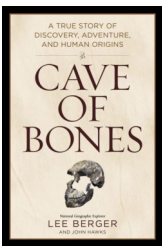
Australia declared war on a flock of about 50 Emus in 1932 that were trampling crops in the



fields. Soldiers with machine guns fired on them but some of the guns jammed and the emus scattered. The soldiers finally gave up and the army retreated. *The Emus won.*

Greece declared war on Bulgaria in 1925 after a Bulgarian soldier shot a Greek soldier when he chased his pet dog across the border. The League of Nations had to intervene to end the war, but 50 Bulgarians were killed before it could be stopped. No one knows what happened to the dog.

Wars are serious business and deaths are tragic no matter the reason. Can our leaders keep us from such silliness? Be careful who you vote for.



A Time Sifters Book Review

Cave of Bones: A True Story of Discovery, Adventure, and Human Origins.

By: John Hawks & Lee Berger (review by: Goodreads)

In the summer of 2022, Lee Berger lost 50 pounds in order to wriggle through impossibly small openings in the *Rising Star cave complex in South Africa*—spaces where his team has been unearthing the remains of **Homo naledi**, a proto-human likely to have coexisted with *Homo sapiens* some 250,000 years ago. The lead researcher on the site, Berger had never made his way into the dark, cramped, dangerous underground spaces where many of the naledi fossils had been found. Now he was ready to do so.

Once inside the cave, Berger made shocking new discoveries that expand our understanding of this early hominid, discoveries that stand to alter our fundamental understanding of what makes us human. So what does it all mean?

Join Berger on the adventure of a lifetime as he explores the Rising Star cave system and begins the complicated process of explaining these extraordinary finds—finds that force a rethinking of human evolution, and discoveries that Berger calls "*the Rosetta stone of the human mind.*"

Reflections of Manatee
LECTURE
SERIES PRESENTS

Join historian and author Robert Redd on a tour of the lesser-known aspects of Florida in the Civil War including Floridians who fought for the Union, Florida's large role in beef and salt production for the Confederacy, the Battles of Olustee and Natural Bridge that saved Tallahassee from Union occupation, and the United State's Colored Troops mission in Manatee County.

SATURDAY
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