



JUNE - 2024

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

At the 76th Annual FAS Convention, Time Sifters received *the Arthur R. Lee Chapter Award for "Outstanding Public Outreach & Education"*. Well done team!!!

It's SUMMER! We are taking a much needed break. We are doing some traveling and visiting friends. In the meantime we are working on the next season ... so far we have three presentations lined up. First we go back to Turkey to visit an excavation on a Hittite city dating to 1650 BCE; for Halloween we will be visiting a Florida cemetery. We also will see the results of 3D mapping of Pompeii.



Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
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2023 – 2024 Season

Thank you to all of the speakers and their excellent lectures.

Thank you to **Evelyn Mangie** for the wonderful stories each month.

Thank you to **Ken Woodworth** for keeping the books straight.

Thank you to **Marion Almy** and **Sherry Svekis** for making the Research Grant a success.

Thank you to **Mary Maisel** for remembering all the things we said we were going to do.

Thank you to **Karen Jensen**, the idea person. Keeping them coming!

Thank you to our newest member **Jack Brown** for all of his support.

And another thank you to **Sherry Svekis** for all her help, ideas, and support, I couldn't do it without her.

Smitty



Archaeologists You Should Know

Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie, Lady Mallowan

Author - Archaeologist

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. **Sources:** Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, latebloomers.com & CNN.



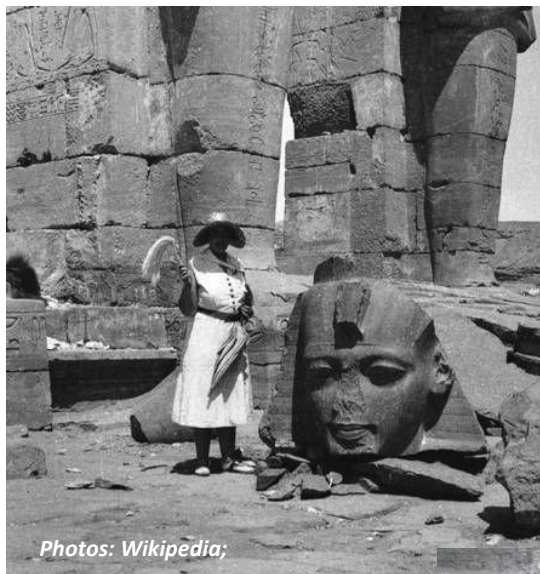
Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie was born on the 15th of September 1890 in Torquay,

Devon, England into a wealthy upper middle-class family. She was the youngest of three children born to Frederick Alvah Miller and his wife Clarissa Margaret "Clara" Miller. She was mostly home schooled with a few years spent in boarding schools. She married Archibald Christie in 1914. They were then separated because of each other's commitment during World War I. She served as a nurse in the Voluntary Aid Detachment of the British Red Cross. He served as a pilot in the British Royal Flying Corps. They had a daughter, Rosalind. They divorced in 1928.

In autumn 1928, after several months of therapy for severe depression, Agatha decided to put her marriage behind her and seek out the Sun. She booked a passage on the Orient Express to Baghdad. She'd been following tales of the famous archaeological site, Ur of Chaldees, in the newspapers. As it turned out, Katherine, wife of Ur's director Leonard Woolley, was a fan. The two became great friends.

The Wooleys invited her back the following year when she met Woolley's assistant, Max Mallowan. They got on famously despite their age difference. (He was 26 and she was 40.) By the end of the year, they had married.

The Mallowans proved to be an excellent archaeological team.



Photos: Wikipedia;



Agatha acted as the photographic technician on every dig, developing the prints herself, and soon discovered she had a talent for pottery restoration. Her black and white photographs of excavation sites are still used by archaeologists and researchers today.

From 1949-1958, they excavated the site of Nimrud in Iraq, known for its ivories. Agatha pioneered the techniques used to preserve and clean the ivories. *Max noted:* "For the preservation of the objects and their treatment in the field, Agathas' controlled imagination came to our aid. She instantly realized that objects which had lived under water for over 2000 years had to be nursed back into a new and relatively arid climate... Agatha painstakingly cleaned each ivory piece with an orange stick and diluted cold cream, a brilliant method." *John Curtis*, keeper of the Middle East collections at the British Museum says they make up "the finest collection of ancient carved ivories that have

ever been found at an archaeological excavation" and they are in good condition, possibly because of Christie's efforts.

They worked together as an archaeological team and a married couple for 45 years. She also found time to write.

Christie died peacefully on 12 January 1976 at age 85 from natural causes at her home at Winterbrook House, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, England, and is buried nearby in Church of St Mary, Cholsey, Oxfordshire

Despite being the bestselling novelist of all time and a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, archaeology was the world Agatha Christie loved best. She considered her days on site "some of the most perfect I have ever known."

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

#87 - Valley of the Kings, Egypt

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia, World Heritage Site, Britannica, and Ancient-Egypt online

World Heritage site #87 is the Ancient City of Thebes which was the capital of Egypt during the period of the Middle and New Kingdoms (1500 to 1000 BCE). It includes the two temples of Karnak and Luxor on the East bank of the Nile, and a large archaeological area on the West Bank consisting of seven named temples or complexes, and the necropolises of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens. It lies about 435 miles south of Cairo on the banks of the River Nile.

Today we are highlighting one third of World Heritage site #87 - The Valley of the Kings.

The Valley is an area in Egypt where, for a period of nearly 500 years from the 18th Dynasty to the 20th Dynasty, rock-cut tombs were excavated for pharaohs and powerful nobles under the New Kingdom of ancient Egypt.

The area is a wadi sitting on the west bank of the Nile, opposite Thebes. There are two main sections: the East Valley, where the majority of the royal tombs are situated; and the West Valley, otherwise known as the Valley of the Monkeys.



The Valley was used for royal burials from approximately 1539 BCE to 1075 BCE. It contains

tombs, beginning with Thutmose I (or possibly earlier, during the reign of Amenhotep I) and ending with Ramses X or XI, although non-royal burials continued. Therefore, only about **20 of the tombs** actually contain the remains of kings. The remains of nobles and of the royal family, together with unmarked pits and embalming caches, make up the rest.

Around the time of Ramses II (ca. 1301 BCE) construction

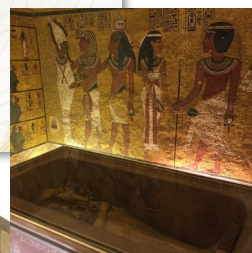
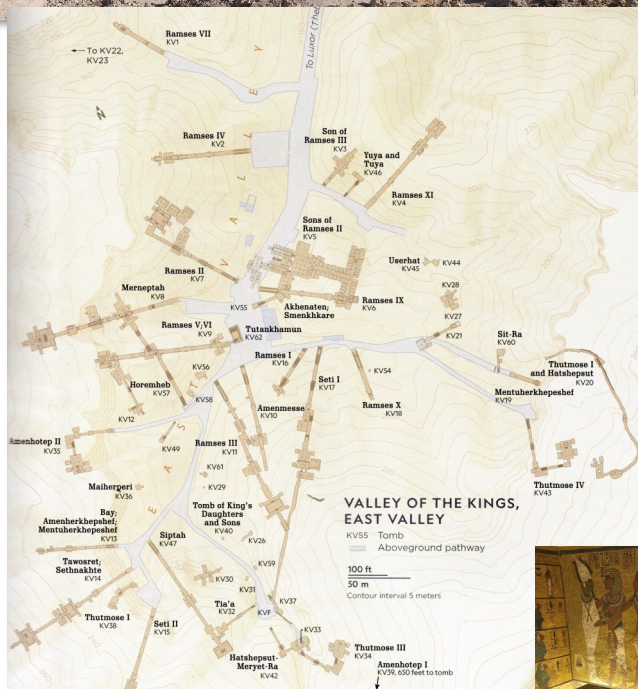
began in the separate Valley of the Queens.

The royal tombs are decorated with

traditional scenes from Egyptian mythology. Almost all of the tombs seem to have been opened and robbed in antiquity, but they still give an idea of the opulence and power of Egypt's

pharaohs.

The modern abbreviation "KV" stands for "Kings' Valley". In 1827, Sir John Gardner Wilkinson, an



Photos: Wikipedia, animalia-life, dkfindout.com

To date, the Valley of the Kings is known to contain 65 tombs and chambers, ranging in size from the simple pit that is KV54 to the complex tomb that is KV5, which alone has over 120 chambers for the sons of Ramses II.

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Valley of the Kings ...



and archaeologists continued to clear and record tombs. KV5 was only rediscovered in the 1990s after being dismissed as unimportant by previous investigators. Some of the tombs are unoccupied, others remain unidentifiable as regards to their owners, and still others are merely pits used for storage.

KV62 was the last large find until early 2006, when KV63 was excavated and found not to be a tomb, but a storage chamber, as none of the seven coffins hold mummies; instead, there are clay pots used in the mummification process. KV64 was later found using radar technology but has yet to be excavated.

English Egyptologist painted KV numbers over the entrances to the 21 tombs that lay open in the East Valley at that time, beginning at the valley entrance and moving southward and tombs that have

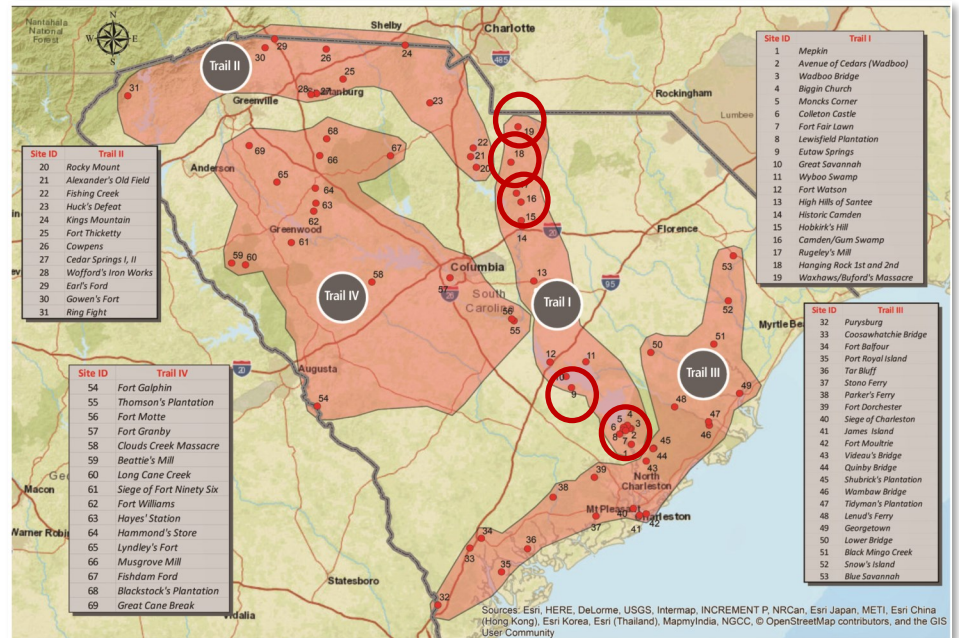
been opened since Wilkinson's time have been added to the list. The numbers range from KV1 (Ramses VII) to KV64 (discovered in 2011). Since the early 19th century CE, antiquarians

Liberty Trail: Walking Trails at SC Battlefield Parks.

The Liberty Trail and its partners have broken ground on trails at four significant **Revolutionary War** sites across South Carolina: Ft. Fair Lawn, Camden, Waxhaws, and Hanging Rock. These sites, along with Eutaw Springs, are being realized as new battlefield parks in the first phase of the Liberty Trail.

More than 200 battles and skirmishes occurred in SC during the war, from the Lowcountry to the Midlands and Upstate. The Revolutionary War touched nearly every county in the state. The Liberty Trail is an innovative driving route to connect battlefields and tell the inspiring stories of this chapter of American History.

Sources: **Hallowed Ground, American Battlefield Trust and Columbia Metro**



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