



DECEMBER - 2020

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Time Sifters Presents
In partnership with Adult & Community Enrichment (ACE)

In-Depth Series USS Monitor & the Navies of the Civil War
A two day workshop via ZOOM
January 28 & 29, 9:30 - Noon

David Alberg
Former Sanctuary Superintendent
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA

Tane Renata Casserley
Resource Protection & Permit Coordinator
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA

William Hoffman
Director of Conservation
& Chief Conservator
The Mariners' Museum & Park

Turn over for Registration Information

Time Sifters Archaeology Society - A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society - P.O. Box 5383, Sarasota, FL 34277
www.timesifters.org
President: Darrah "Smitty" Smith - hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

ACE
Adult & Community Enrichment
TIME SIFTERS
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Photo: Naval History and Heritage Command

Dear Member:

We have decided that the Spring season will be presented on ZOOM. The Selby Library may become available for large groups by April. We are taking a break over the Holidays but we have a very busy January.

On **January 13** we have the “**Archaeology Year in Review**” via ZOOM.

On **January 28 & 29 of 2021** we will be presenting in partnership with Adult & Community Enrichment (ACE) via ZOOM “**USS Monitor & the Navies of the Civil War**”. The four part series will start at 9:30 am and finish by noon, with two, one hour presentations each day. **See page 2 for the curriculum and registration information.**

Thank you for being a Time Sifters member.

Darwin “Smitty” Smith, President

hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

Early Experiences

The Tale of the Armadillo and the Highway Patrol

By Jean Louise Lammie - University of South Florida and Time Sifters Board Member

When I first started in archaeology, my general philosophy was to avoid bones, human or non-human, and just stick with the belongings left behind as my window to the past. However, career advancement brought zooarchaeology, the study of non-human animal remains, to my attention. I admit a reluctance to touch dry bone at first, and I certainly never thought that one day I would be driving a dead armadillo home to be buried in my backyard.

It began with a call from a friend telling me she had “**recovered**” an **armadillo** for the zooarchaeology lab but didn't have anywhere to bury it. I offered my backyard, and the next day we put the armadillo in the freezer of the graduate lounge. It was wrapped in a suspicious looking black garbage bag, but nobody asked questions. At the end of a long day teaching, I recovered the armadillo from the freezer. During this process, its tale poked through the bag and was sticking out. The armadillo had breached containment.



The first part of my commute that day found me stuck in heavy traffic. This is normal and wouldn't usually be a problem - except for the **slowly melting, rotting carcass in my trunk**. It was a VERY hot day, and about 20 minutes into at least an hour-long drive, it became very clear that the armadillo was melting. The smell permeated my car seeping in from the trunk and overpowering my air conditioner. I rolled down all of the windows, and as soon as I cleared enough traffic, I floored it. The faster this armadillo got into the ground the better. Unfortunately, **the Florida Highway Patrol** has a problem with people driving **90 mph on the Suncoast Expressway**. I heard the siren



and saw the lights in my mirror. This was not good. I knew when I stopped the car the armadillo would win.

I pulled over, and the officer approached

my car. In the process of asking for my driver's license, he caught a whiff of my passenger. He asked me what was going on and told me to open my trunk. I don't know how you explain roadkill transportation, so I complied. What happened when he looked in my trunk is still a mystery to me. All I know is that he came back around, handed my license back, and said “**I'm not going to ask, please slow down.**” As he went back to his car and pulled away, I realized that I had indeed entered a new level of archaeology, one characterized by excitement for fresh roadkill - because fresh roadkill always smells better than that armadillo did on the rest of our slow ride home together.

Course Description

Day One - Part 1: The U.S.S. Monitor - Hero of a Nation (Speaker: Dave Alberg)

- The Civil War 1861-1862
- The U.S.S. Monitor, her construction, what made her so innovative?
- Battle of Hampton Roads and the Summer of 1862
- Her Loss off Cape Hatteras



Day One - Part 2: Heavy Metal on the High Seas: The History of the USS Monitor (Speaker: Tane Casserley)

- The Search for an American Icon
- The Creation of America's First National Marine Sanctuary
- Recovery of the USS Monitor (1998-2003)
- An Ironclad partnership: NOAA and The Mariners' Museum



Day Two - Part 3: Honoring our Nation's Heroes: The Effort to Identify and Lay to-Rest Two Sailors from The Civil War (Speaker: Dave Alberg)

- Discovery of human remains and the effort to recover them
- Forensic work of JPAC/CILHI
- Facial Reconstructions: The faces of two men from 1862. Who were they?
- Arlington National Cemetery



Day Two - Part 4: Two Decades of Progress in Artifact Conservation and the USS Monitor (Speaker: Will Hoffman)

- Provide an overview of the Monitor conservation effort to date including the establishment of the USS Monitor Center and Batten Conservation Complex at The Mariners Museum and Park
- Highlight some of the challenges and accomplishments during the treatment of several high-profile objects.
- Outline future steps to be undertaken with the conservation project



Speaker Bios



David Alberg spent 15 years as the Sanctuary Superintendent for the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. As Superintendent, Alberg provided daily oversight of the sanctuary and managed the long-term management of the wreck site, and the artifacts recovered from the ship. In November 2020, Alberg joined the National Park Service (NPS) where he serves as the Chief of Resource Management and Compliance at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Arizona and Nevada.



Tane Renata Casserley is the Resource Protection & Permit Coordinator for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA. He is responsible for the development of policies and programs to address commercial/recreational uses/impacts in and around the sanctuary. Casserley holds a graduate certificate in maritime archaeology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Masters from the Program in Maritime Studies at East Carolina University. He has led NOAA archaeological expeditions in the Florida Keys, the Great Lakes, California, the NW Hawaiian Islands, Alaska, and the USS Monitor. Other projects included a sunken B-29 Superfortress in Lake Mead, the CSS Mary Celestia in Bermuda, USS Arizona, and was most recently part of an expedition to RMS Titanic.



William Hoffman is the Director of Conservation and Chief Conservator at *the Mariners' Museum and Park*. Hoffman oversees all conservation-related activities. He has bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Fine Arts at the State University of New York College at Buffalo and received his master's degree in Art Conservation from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, specializing in the conservation of objects. His work at *The Mariners' Museum and Park* has focused on the conservation of archaeological metals recovered from the wreck site of the ironclad USS Monitor.

Registration begins December 7 through the Adult & Community Enrichment (ACE) program.

HOW TO REGISTER:

ONLINE ... Visit www.ace-sarasota.com. If you haven't taken an ACE class, you will need to create a profile first.

IN PERSON ... 4748 Beneva Road, bldg.3, Sarasota. ACE office closed (Dec.21 – Jan.3).

BY PHONE Call (941) 361-6590. Office Hours: M-Th from 8:00am to 5:30pm and Friday 8:00am to 3:30pm.

COST ... \$69.00



Archaeologists You Should Know

Gertrude Caton Thompson

Great Zimbabwe & Al-Fayyūm depression

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member;



Gertrude Caton Thompson was born in London, England on February 1, 1888. Her parents were William Caton Thompson and Ethel Page. She attended

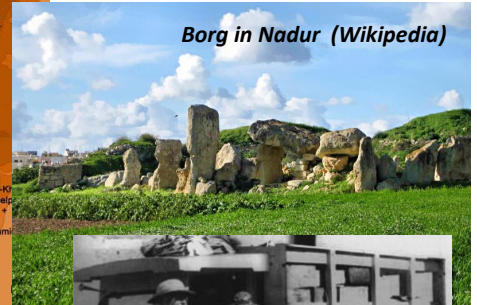
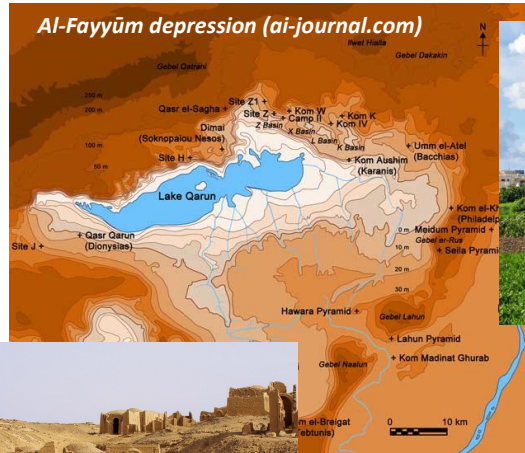
private schools in Paris and England. Caton Thompson attended the British School of Archaeology in Egypt; University College London; Newnham College, Cambridge.

Caton Thompson was an English archaeologist when participation by women in the discipline was uncommon. She was one of a group including Kathleen Kenyon, Margaret Murray, Dorothy Garrod, Dorothea Bate, and Agatha Christie who were the female pioneers in field.

Her interest in archaeology began in 1911, when she had attended a lecture course on Ancient Greece, given by Sarah Paterson at the British Museum. That same year she and her mother vacationed in Egypt.

An inheritance received in 1912 helped ensure her financial independence and support her later excavations. Caton Thompson's first experience in the field came in 1915 working as a **bottle washer** in an excavation in France. During WW I, she worked for the Government in the British Ministry. In 1921 she embarked on studies at University College London where she was taught by **Margaret Murray, Flinders Petrie and Dorothea Bate**, excavating in Upper Egypt during the winter of that year. The following year she began attending courses at Newnham College, Cambridge, before joining further excavations in Egypt with Petrie and **Guy Brunton** in 1924.

In 1921, along with Margaret



Murray, she helped in the excavation of **the megalithic temple of Borg en Nadur near St. George's Bay in Malta**. Her task was to investigate the caves near the temple for Neanderthal skulls, hoping to find evidence for a land bridge between Malta and Africa. No evidence to support this theory was found but the excavation yielded other notable artifacts, such as Bronze Age pottery.

While a student at the British School of Archaeology in Egypt (1921–26), she and the geologist **Elinor Wight Gardner** began the first archaeological survey of the **Al-Fayyūm depression**. Their work in the Al-Fayyūm over the next two years for the Royal Anthropological Institute included

discovering two unknown Neolithic cultures at this site in Upper Egypt, the older dating to about 5000 BCE and the other to about 4500 BCE. Also in Egypt she participated in excavations at **Abydos, Badari, and Qau el Kebir**. Her work was distinguished

by its meticulousness. Caton Thompson used the new system of organizing the site into 10 x 30 foot intervals. She carefully excavated in arbitrary six-inch levels, and recorded the exact position of each artifact. **Along with her excavation techniques, she was also the first to use air surveys to locate archaeological sites.** Such approaches to excavation were in many respects a generation ahead of her time.

In 1928, the British Academy invited her to investigate the origins of ruins of **Great Zimbabwe** in southeastern Zimbabwe near Lake Mutirikwe. She had assembled **the first of its kind all-female expedition** for the Zimbabwe

Continued on page 4 ...

What is it?

Can You Help Solve this Artifact Mystery?

This is the lid of some piece of crockery. Have you seen one like it? Do you have any ideas about what type of pot it was for and why there was a hole in this lid? We'd love to hear them!

email ssvekis@gmail.com.



Continued from page 2 ...

Thompson ...

excavations. The site contained three sets of structures which contained multiple buildings that pointed to indigenous African design and construction during the time of the European Middle Ages. Her team's findings laid to rest the controversy as to whether the site was the work of Africans or of some other civilization. Caton Thompson used ceramics, similar to what modern villagers were using, and structures like terrace walls to determine who built the structures of the site. Working with Kathleen Kenyon, Caton Thompson's excavations led her to the unequivocal view that Zimbabwe was the product of a "native civilization". Today, modern archaeologists now agree that the city was the product of a Shona-speaking African civilization.

Returning to Egypt, she conducted excavations on prehistoric sites at **Kharga Oasis** with Elinor Gardner. There were three expeditions to the Kharga Oasis from 1930 to 1933. Gardner did the surveying

for many of the excavations. Since the Kharga Scarp contained many Paleolithic and Neolithic sites, Caton Thompson was able to excavate implements used by both civilizations.

In 1932, **she employed Mary Leakey** to illustrate her book "*The Desert Fayum*", greatly influencing Mary's later career in paleoanthropology. Towards the end of 1937 Caton Thompson and Elinor Gardner, accompanied by **Freya Stark**, initiated the first systematic excavation in the Yemen at **Hadhramaut**.

Caton Thompson retired from fieldwork after the WWII in Broadway, Worcestershire, England. She published her memoirs entitled "*Mixed Memoirs*" in 1983. She passed away in 1985 at the age of 97 and is buried in Broadway.

Honors and accolades

In 1934 Caton Thompson was the first woman to receive the *Rivers Medal* from the Royal Anthropological Institute. In 1938 she was offered the post of *Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge* but rejected the role.

It was subsequently accepted by Dorothy Garrod. She was a research fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge in 1923 and honorary fellow from 1934 - 45, receiving an honorary d in 1954. She was the first female *President of the Prehistoric Society* (1940-1946). Elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1944. *Vice President of the Royal Anthropological Institute* in 1944. She received the *Huxley Medal* from the Royal Anthropological Institute in 1946. In 1961 she was a founding member of the British School of History and Archaeology in East Africa and was made an honorary fellow after serving on the council for 10 years.

Sources - Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, and SciHi blog



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