



# FEBRUARY - 2021

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:



It is with a very heavy heart that I report the passing of a very good friend Dr. Steven Derfler on January 26th. I met Steve at OLLI where I enjoyed his lectures on Classical History. We developed a strong relationship that included three fantastic trips. One each to Israel, Morocco and Egypt. He was a Time Sifters Board member and gave six lectures for us. He provided numerous stories for our newsletter and valuable support and guidance to me. I will really miss him.

RIP old friend.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President

hmsbeagle22@gmail.com



*February 17 - at 6:00 PM - ZOOM.*

## Napoleon in Egypt

**Daniel Stephens**

*Lead Park Ranger, Interpretation  
De Soto National Memorial*

After having subdued Italy, Napoleon "had nothing to do". He set his sights on Egypt as his next target of expansion. He felt that the **Land of the Nile** was the gateway to the east. He would set out in 1798 to "show the world" what he was made of. At the front sailed Napoleon aboard the flagship, which was aptly christened **L'Orient**. Napoleon would bring two armies - the second being a scientific delegation, called **L'Institute D'Egypte** which was all about looting.

After his defeat to the British in 1801, the French forfeited the looted Egyptian antiquities to the British. The booty, with very few exceptions, ended up in the British Museum - over 21,000 pieces including **the Rosetta Stone**.



Photos: Mary Evans Picture Library; Jean Leon Gerome.

### Instructions for real time viewing:

Go to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZlodOuuqz0qEtAdsV6s-kspyIcHnFbX4z8S>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# Notes from a Time Sifter

## Human Rights for Uyghurs?

By Evelyn Mangie - Time Sifters Board Member

Americans are often reminded that other countries are not concerned with human rights. One of the offenders is China who is oppressing the **entire population of Uyghurs in Xinjiang province in north-west China.**

Uyghurs are Turkic-speakers with a distinct ancient culture that is very different from China's Han majority and Mongolian nomads. There are ten million Uyghurs today, descendants of both European and Asian traders that intermarried with area locals in the first millennium BC.

Mummified remains have Caucasoid features, some with reddish or blond hair, features that were noted in the 10th century Song Dynasty Old History of the Five Dynasties that describes the Uyghurs as sometimes blond and blue-eyed. Ancient Uyghurs existed as a tribal confederation of autonomous Khaganates. Khagan is a title of imperial rank in the Turkic languages equal to the status of emperor. The territory is mostly desert, but Uyghurs built cities in the oases by channeling water from the mountains through a complex series of qanats (tunnels) that encouraged commerce along **the Silk Road** that ran through the territory and made them prosperous. The old cities still show unique Uyghur architecture. Uyghurs originally followed a 3rd century Persian religion, Manichaeism, but converted to Buddhism until the 10th century when most Uyghurs adopted Sufi Islam, so there are thousands of ancient Buddhist shrines and Islamic Mosques as well as museums that display their ancient artifacts.



Photos: Reuters; Chinablog; Wikipedia; the silk route.co.uk; Pinterest

Their territory was often overtaken by outsiders. **Genghis Khan** swept through in the 13th century and the Uyghurs became part of the Mongol empire until the 16th century when they became vassals of the Qing Dynasty who changed the name of the territory from Xiyu, "Western Regions" to Xinjiang, "New Frontier". The Qing Dynasty was replaced by the Republic of China in 1912 and the Chinese warlords controlled Xinjiang. The Uyghurs continued to try to gain their independence back and were finally successful when they got the backing of the Soviet Communist government in 1944. That ended in 1949 when Mao created the People's Republic of China and instituted social and economic transformation of his empire.

**Drawn by the oil, natural gas and minerals of Xinjiang,** the Chinese have encouraged the Han to move into the region to

assimilate the Uyghur population that was seen as separatist. Uyghurs were harassed, their cities and cultural sites were destroyed, their farmland was seized, and they were denied jobs and positions in the government. The Han now

control media access, censor Uyghur writers and have altered Uyghur history. Owning books about Uyghurs is forbidden as is owning a prayer rug or growing a beard. The Han forced sterilization and installed cameras in private citizens'



homes. The Uyghurs resisted but were outnumbered,

and since 2015 nearly **three million have been placed in "re-education" camps** without any opportunity to challenge their oppressors. China denies this ethnic cleansing, but satellites confirm the existence of the camps and also reveal the destruction of Uyghur shrines, mosques, and cemeteries.

Modern Uyghurs, desperately trying to save their culture, have found help. The Uyghur Human Rights Project and the World Uyghur Congress are trying to preserve Uyghur culture, as do the Uyghur Academies of the USA, Europe, and Australia and Radio Free Asia. Uyghur emigrants in Central Asia and Australia promote Uyghur museums and teach Uyghur dress, dance, and song to their children in an effort to preserve their identity, and in the hope for the return of their rights in their homeland.

# UNESCO World Heritage Sites

## #307 - The Statue of Liberty, USA.

By Smitty Smith - Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia, National Park Service, the Statute of Liberty- Ellis Island Foundation

**The Statue of Liberty**, whose official name is "**Liberty Enlightening the World**" is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor in New York. The copper statue, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was designed by French sculptor **Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi** and its metal framework was built by **Alexandre Gustave Eiffel**. The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886 by President Grover Cleveland.

Frenchman **Edouard de Laboulaye** first proposed the idea of a monument for the United States in 1865. Ten years later sculptor Bartholdi was commissioned to design a sculpture with 1876 in mind for completion, to commemorate the centennial of the American Declaration of Independence.

Alexandre Gustave Eiffel (designer of the Eiffel Tower) was commissioned to design the massive iron pylon and secondary skeletal framework which allows Bartholdi statue's copper skin to move independently yet stand upright.

It was agreed that the American people were to build the pedestal, and the French people were responsible for the Statue and its assembly in the United States.

Architect **Richard Morris Hunt** designed the Statue's granite pedestal inside the courtyard of the star-shaped walls of **Fort Wood on Bedloe's Island** in 1884. He donated his fee to help fund the Statue. The pedestal construction was finished in April 1886. The Statue was completed in France in July 1884 and arrived in New York Harbor in June 1885 onboard the French frigate "*Isere*."

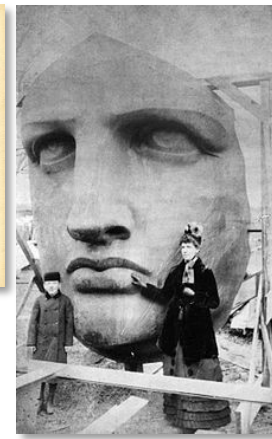
**For transit, the Statue was reduced to 350 individual pieces and packed in 214 crates.** The Statue was reassembled on her new pedestal in four months' time. **On October 28, 1886, it was dedicated by President Cleveland.** The statue's completion was



marked by New York's first ticker-tape parade. She was a centennial gift ten years late.

**The Statue of Liberty is a figure of Libertas**, a robed Roman liberty goddess. She holds a torch above her head with her right hand, and in her left hand carries a tabula ansata inscribed in Roman numerals with **JULY IV MDCCLXXVI** (July 4, 1776), the date of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. A broken shackle and chain lay at her feet as she walks forward, commemorating the recent national abolition of slavery.

The Statue is made of copper 3/32 in. (2.4 millimeters) thick,



the same as two U.S. pennies put together. The Statue's copper has naturally oxidized to form its familiar "patina" green coating. This patina is as thick, in many

places, as the copper behind it and is protecting the copper from naturally wearing away.

**The Statue is 305ft. 1in. from the ground to the tip of the flame.** It is the equivalent height of a 22-story building. In 1886, it was the tallest structure in New York. The torch has been closed to tourists since the "Black Tom" explosion of July 30, 1916, which was one of the largest acts of sabotage to our national monuments. National Park Service staff must climb a narrow 40ft. ladder in order to maintain the floodlights which light the torch. The crown is still open but by appointment only.

It is a welcoming sight to immigrants arriving from abroad. The statue has become an icon of freedom and of the United States, and a National Park tourism destination.

The statue was administered by the United States Lighthouse Board until 1901. In 1933, the care and administration of the National Monument was transferred to the National Park Service. In 1984, the Statue of Liberty was designated **UNESCO World Heritage Site, #307.**



# What's up at the Lab?

## Manatee Mineral Spring "Well Monster"

By Sherry Svekis, Vice President, Time Sifters

One of the most exciting things during excavation last year was the unexpected discovery of **a well**. In all the historic accounts of the settlement by Manatee Mineral Spring, there was no mention of a well. The well was constructed out of barrel staves, with a square of wooden planking around the top. It was full of sand, artifacts, pieces of wood, and, very near the top, a large rusted hunk of metal. Squarish in shape, but no top or bottom. We named it the **"well monster"** because its corrosion had encased another metal form, a piece of wood, glass shards, and a piece of ceramic.

In the lab, we spent a lot of time brushing off sand and loose corrosion before we documented and photographed it. Last week, I drove it up to Tallahassee and left it with **Florida's Bureau of Archaeological Research** so they could perform the conservation on it. It will need a long time in a good sized electrolysis tank.



Above: Barrel well; white sand at the bottom is fanning out as fresh water flows in.



Above: The "Well Monster".  
Right: The author photographing the monster.



Above: Ready for its photo shoot.

All photos: Sherry Svekis

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