



# JUNE - 2021

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Members & friends:

**THANK YOU!!!** Thank you to all the fantastic presenters this season. Thank you to the awesome Time Sifters Board for all their work and a big thank you to **YOU** the Members for supporting Time Sifters during this difficult season. We could not have done it with out your support.

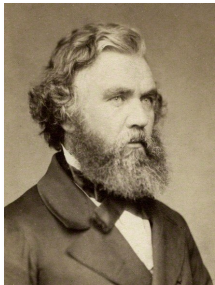
We are putting together our 2021/2022 season, which will kick off in September. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please drop me a line. If you haven't been to our website, [www.timesifters.org](http://www.timesifters.org) or our YouTube channel, please check them out for the latest society information and other interesting stuff from the world of Archaeology. Have a great summer and thank you for being a Time Sifters member.

Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President

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## Archaeologists You Should Know **Sir Austen Henry Layard** *Excavated Nimrod & Nineveh*

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. **Sources:** Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, New World Encyclopedia.



**Sir Austen Henry Layard** was born in Paris, France on March 5, 1817 to Henry P. J. Layard and Marianne Austen. His father was a member of the British Civil Service serving in Ceylon (modern Sri Lanka). Layard was a traveler, archaeologist, cuneiformist, art historian, draughtsman, collector, politician and diplomat. He is **best known as the excavator of Nimrud and Nineveh**, where he uncovered a large portion of the Assyrian palace reliefs, and in 1851 **the library of Ashurbanipal**.

Much of his boyhood was spent in Italy, but because his father's diplomatic assignments changed frequently, the family moved often. As a result he attended schools in Italy, England, France and Switzerland. While in



Photos: Wikipedia



Italy he acquired a taste for the fine arts and a love of travel from his

father.

In 1839, at the age of 22 and after spending nearly six years in the London law office of his uncle, Benjamin Austen, he began a journey on **horseback through Anatolia and Syria**. After wandering for many

months, chiefly in Persia, he returned in 1842 to Constantinople, where he made the acquaintance of Sir Stratford Canning, the British Ambassador, who employed him in various unofficial diplomatic missions in European Turkey.

Spending much time in the vicinity of Mosul and Iraq, Layard became increasingly interested in locating and unearthing the great cities of the Mesopotamia. During 1845-51 he excavated at Nimrud, the ancient Assyrian city located on the River Tigris, south of

Mosul. He discovered the famous **Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III** in 1846. The monument stands 6 1/2 feet tall and commemorates the king's victorious campaigns of 859-824 BCE. The excavations also revealed remarkable bas-reliefs, ivories, and sculptures. **A statue of Ashurnasirpal II** was found in an excellent state of preservation, as were the colossal winged man-headed lions guarding the palace

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DailyExpress

# Did You Know? Battlefield Archaeology

## Uncovering Untold Stories

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### The Importance of Battlefield Archaeology

Battlefield archaeology is important for any conflict, but even more so for the Revolutionary War. Unlike the Civil War, Revolutionary War documents such as reports, records, and letters, are very scarce. Because of this our understanding of Revolutionary War battles is often imprecise.

"**Military science,**" the rigorous, almost bureaucratic approach to warfare that characterized the Civil War, was in its most nascent stages at the time of the Revolutionary War. *Officers were not systematically expected to submit after-action reports or to meticulously map the terrain on which they fought.* Even the most dedicated Revolutionary War historians are confronted with deep fields of gray when it comes time to reconstruct military maneuvers. Except for exceptional cases, there is simply no written evidence of exactly where men marched, fought, and died. In the Civil War, we can locate individual regiments on the field; in the Revolutionary War, we struggle to identify which units were even present.

Battlefield archaeology is essential to improving our understanding of the Revolutionary War. Where historians see only inexact written references to embattled landscapes, archaeologists see treasure troves of new historical information waiting to be discovered. **Battlefields are covered in martial debris—** buttons, cartridges, bayonets, shrapnel, and more. Even though

they are buried underground, they have a story to tell—one that has never been told before.

To make their discoveries, archaeologists primarily use sophisticated metal detectors, and sometimes ground penetrating radar, to identify any potential item's location. After locating an item, the team carefully digs out the item, being

the item itself.

Archaeologists use total stations at



American Battlefield Trust



Daniel Sutherland



Atlasobscura.com



FoxNews.com

careful not to damage or disturb the potential artifact. **Each item is dutifully catalogued and identified.** Location is critical, so when an item is uncovered it is placed in a protective bag, assigned a unique catalogue number, and a small flag is placed where it was located. This process ensures that the artifact's location can be later verified. A found item's location is more important than

**Minute Man National Historical Park** to map the locations of artifacts. When used by qualified professionals, total stations, as very accurate, distance-measuring devices, record the location of artifacts as they are spread across the landscape - a key component in fully understanding a battle site.

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# Battlefield Archaeology ...

After the dig, **the artifacts are inputted into Geographic Information Software (GIS)**, and a map of the survey site is created. This software, combined with a laser measuring and GPS system, ensures that an artifact's exact location is identified.

**Location is the critical element** of battlefield archaeology that enables us to expand our understanding of a battle. *When the dig is complete and the map is compiled, the distribution of artifacts can show fields of fire, areas of engagement, and unit positions.* Grouping of spent and deformed musket balls show where units came under heavy fire. Similarly, concentrations of dropped cartridges can show where the lines were located. Identifying canister, grapeshot, and solid shot, all help show what the artillery was targeting.

The items themselves, tied to their location, are also important to constructing the narrative of a Revolutionary War battle. Buttons,

buckles, and other pieces of equipment can help identify which unit traversed a location. This is particularly helpful with well-equipped and distinctively marked British troops. Because of the wide variation in Revolutionary War weaponry, both small arms and artillery, the size and type of



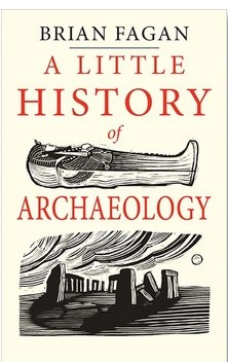
ammunition becomes a sort of unit fingerprint that can help identify movements and positions on the field.

Historic discoveries sometimes require futuristic technologies. Battlefield archaeology can help



uncover the untold stories of the Revolutionary War, and provide us a more complete understanding of the battles that forged our nation.

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## A Time Sifters Book Review

# A Little History of Archaeology

Review by Yale Books

*"An entertaining account of the development of archaeology across the world. . . Fagan's recollections . . . help bring the history to life."* - **Current World Archaeology**

*"Learned and lively."* - **Wall Street Journal**

### A Little History of Archaeology By: Brian Fagan

What is archaeology? The word may bring to mind images of golden pharaohs and lost civilizations, or Neanderthal skulls and Ice Age cave art. Archaeology is all of these, but also far more: *the only science to encompass the entire span of human history* - more than three million years!

This *Little History* tells the riveting stories of some of the great archaeologists and their amazing discoveries around the globe: ancient Egyptian tombs,

Mayan ruins, and the first colonial settlements at Jamestown, mysterious Stonehenge, the incredibly preserved Pompeii, and many, many more. In 40 brief, exciting chapters, the book recounts archaeology's development from its 18th-century origins to its 21st-century technological advances. Shining light on the most intriguing events in the history of the field, this absolutely up-to-date book illuminates archaeology's controversies, discoveries, heroes and scoundrels, global sites, and newest methods for curious

readers of every age.

Brian Fagan is emeritus professor of anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara, an internationally recognized authority on global prehistory, and the author of dozens of books on archaeological topics, including **Fishing: How the Sea Fed Civilization**.

ISBN: 9780300224641  
Publication Date: April 10, 2018  
288 pages, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2  
40 b/w illus.

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## Sir Austen Henry Layard ...

entrance. The large number of cuneiform inscriptions dealing with King Ashurnasirpal II provide more details about him and his reign than are known for any other ruler of this epoch.

In 1847, Layard explored the mound of Kuyunjik near Mosul, correctly identifying the site as the remains of the ancient Assyrian capital of Nineveh. In the Kuyunjik mound, Layard

rediscovered the lost palace, with its 71 rooms and colossal base-reliefs. He also unearthed the palace and famous **library of Ashurbanipal** with 22,000 inscribed clay tablets. These artifacts have become the most valued treasures of the British Museum.

His well-documented findings are included, with his beautiful illustrations, in

**Babylon**", also beautifully illustrated and titled *A Second Series of the Monuments of Nineveh*, which was published in 1853. He also worked at Ashur, Babylon, Nippur, and other sites in Babylonia and Assyria.

During his later career in government and diplomacy, Layard served in the British Parliament (1852–57 and 1860–69), became undersecretary of foreign affairs



his renowned publications including a two volume set published in 1848–1849, *Nineveh and Its Remains* which illustrated and documented the first excavation and most of the artifacts discovered. Another publication described the later expeditions, **"Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and**

(1861–66), and the British Ambassador at Istanbul (1877–80). He was knighted in 1878.

On March 9, 1869 he married his first cousin once removed, Mary Enid Evelyn Guest. In 1874, they retired to Venice where he devoted his time to collecting artwork of the Venetian school, and to writing on Italian art.

He died on July 5, 1894 and is buried in the cemetery of Canford Magna Parish Church in Dorset, England.

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