



OCTOBER - 2020

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

We have decided that the entire Fall season will be presented on ZOOM. The Selby Library is unavailable for large groups and we agree that for safety reasons we should present our lectures on ZOOM. Our October lecture, **“A Digital Approach to Egmont Key’s History”**, is by Dr. Laura Harrison, Time Sifters Board Member and Research Assistant Professor at USF. A short description follows this letter.

We have teamed up with ACE (Adult & Community Enrichment) for our annual **In-Depth Series** lecture. On **January 28 & 29 of 2021** we will be presenting 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. We will have more information about registration soon.

Thank you for being a Time Sifters member.

Darwin “Smitty” Smith, President hmsbeagle22@gmail.com

October 21 - at 6:00 PM - ZOOM.



A Digital Approach to Egmont Key’s History

Dr. Laura Harrison

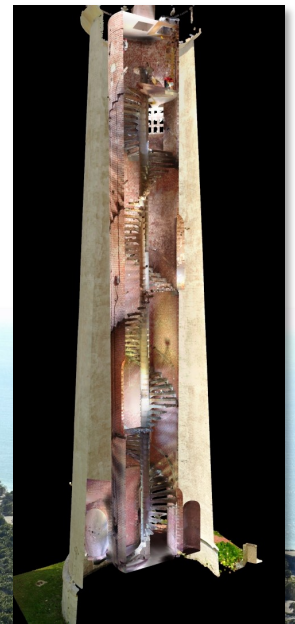
*Research Assistant Professor, Lab Director, Access 3D Lab,
University of South Florida .*

Egmont Key, the outermost barrier island in Tampa Bay, is a popular tourist destination with multiple natural and heritage sites. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the island served as a Spanish-American War fort, a Yellow Fever quarantine camp, a navigational aid for the Port of Tampa, and a prison for captured Seminoles.

Today, many heritage sites on Egmont Key are threatened by intensive coastal erosion. This presentation details how archival research, community outreach, and virtualization technologies, such as 3D scanning and virtual reality, bring the many stories of Egmont Key’s past, present and future to life.



Photos: VRBO.com & Laura Harrison



A Time Sifters Book Review

Historical Fiction: Jeff Shaara

by: Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member



One side of American History, is the conflicts and wars we have been involved in. Historical fiction adds to the facts and details by including the human element.

Some authors take a huge amount of license in their stories, stretching the facts to fit the story. Others like **Jeff Shaara** are meticulous in their research and build the story around the truth/facts.

Jeff Shaara is a descendant of Italian immigrants and was born in New Brunswick, NJ. "Shaara" was originally spelled "Sciarra". He grew up in Tallahassee, FL, and graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Criminology. He currently lives in Gettysburg, PA.

Jeff followed his father's footsteps upon the latter's death, and began writing historical

fiction and documenting the American wars based on the journals and letters of the most historically relevant characters of both sides of the conflict. Using the same format developed by his father he wrote **the Civil War** novels, "Gods and Generals" and "The Last Full Measure", which are the prequel and sequel, respectively, to his father Michael's award-winning novel "The Killer Angels".

Building on the success of these books he continued with "Gone for Soldiers" about the Mexican War. This novel tells us about the earlier careers of the main characters from the previous books.

He then wrote a two volume set on the **American Revolution** which included "Rise to Rebellion" and "The Glorious Cause". He also wrote a single novel on **World War I**, "To The Last Man". Next was a four book series on **World War II**, "The Rising Tide", "The Steel Wave", "No Less Than Victory" and "The Final Storm".

Coming back to the **Civil War**, the new series was about the

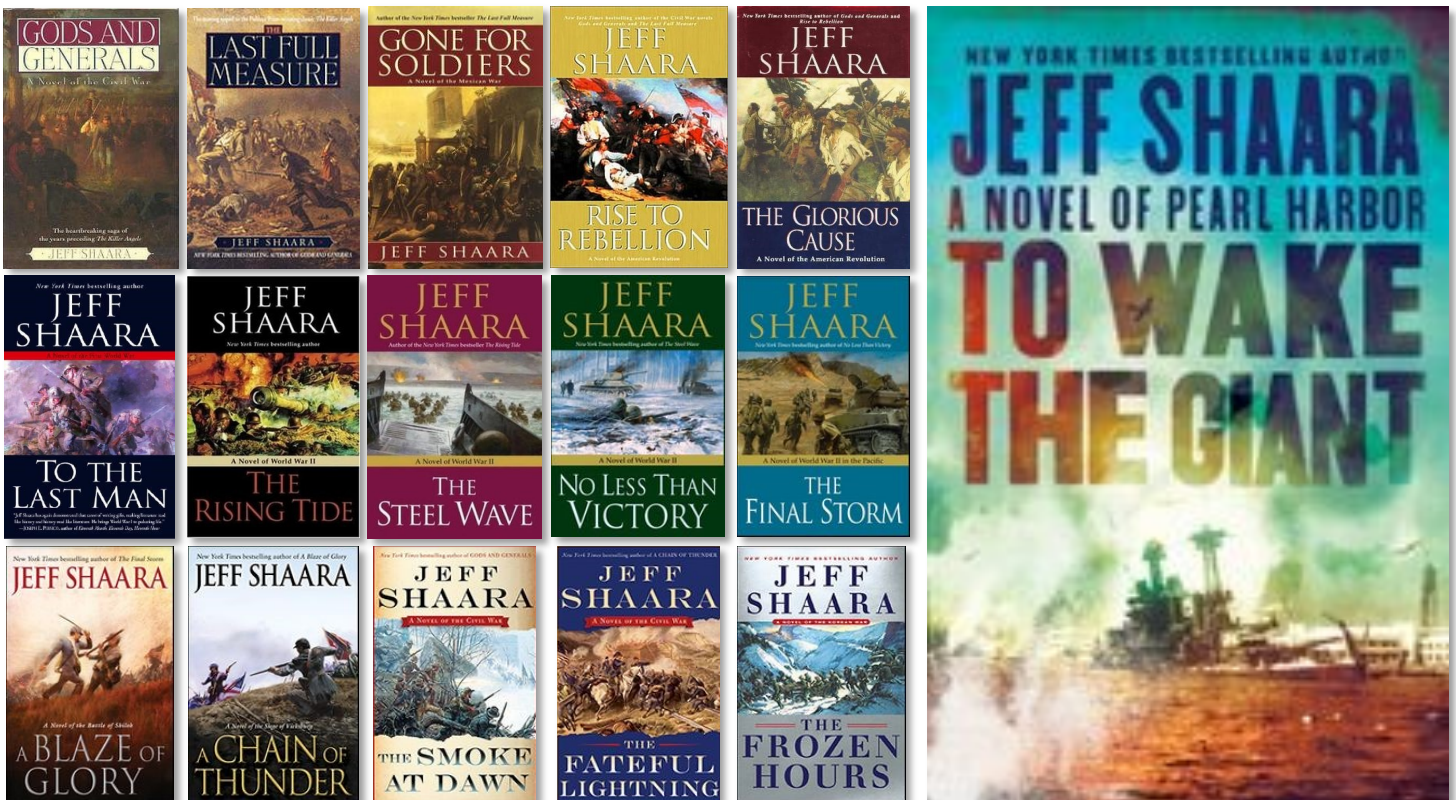
conflict in the Western Theater. This four book series includes: "A Blaze of Glory", "A Chain of Thunder", "Smoke at Dawn", and "The Fateful Lightning".

For something totally different, he published the **Korean War** saga titled "The Frozen Hours", a dramatic story of the struggle between the United States Marines and their Chinese adversaries in the fall of 1950, at the Chosin Reservoir.

In total, Jeff has written 15 *New York Times* bestselling novels. His 16th novel "To Wake the Giant" was released in May of 2020 and is about the attack on **Pearl Harbor**.

There are other authors who have written extensively on these subjects and half the fun is the search for good ones. If you have a recommendation, please drop us a line so that we can share it with other members.

Sources: Wikipedia & Jeff Shaara.com.



Notes from a Time Sifter

Statuomania: Excessive or passionate enthusiasm for erecting statues. Oxford Dictionary

By Evelyn Mangie Time Sifters Board Member

Statuomania is the obsession with putting up statues. It also describes the conflict that is now raging over public monuments in the United States.

Statues are erected to remember or honor a person or event. The oldest life-sized statue (as far as we know) is the **Urfa man** in

terra-cotta that archaeologists estimate took 36 years to complete. The message: *"I am the true king and I will be just as strong in the afterlife as I am now"*.

Successful Romans could have their images made into public statues if they were politicians or generals or if they made a

churches. Full-sized statues diminished in the Western Christian churches during the Middle Ages, but they were again widely produced in the 15th and 16th centuries after artists like Donatello and Michelangelo discovered they could make a living from their sculpting talents. The 18th and 19th centuries brought a growth of public commemorative statues when monarchs, politicians, generals, landowners, artists, writers, and even generic soldiers were immortalized in stone, metal, cement, or plaster for all to remember.

Governments, both federal and local, decide on whether and where a public statue can be erected. Most statues are privately funded by support groups who continue to own them and are expected to finance maintenance. The most

prolific were the United Daughters of the Confederacy who sponsored hundreds of statues between the 1890s and the 1920s.

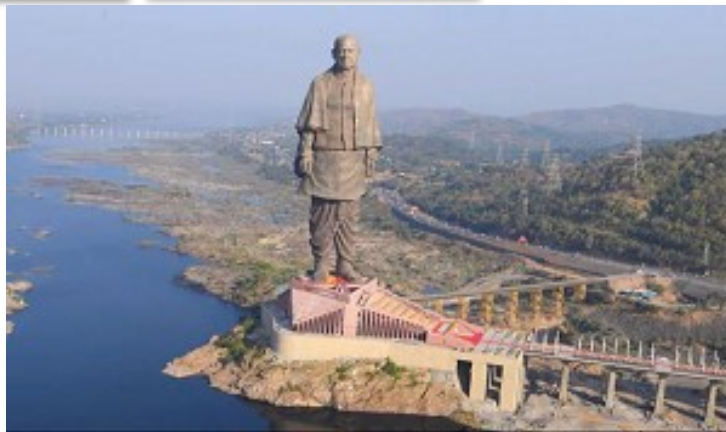
The tallest statue in the world (597' toe to head) is the

Statue of Unity in Mumbai, India to honor Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel whose most important achievement was the peaceful unification of India in 1947. The statue was commissioned by the Gujarat and Federal governments, constructed in China, and dedicated in 2018. It claims a daily average of over 15,000 visitors.



Photos: Urfa man (Şanlıurfa Museum); Sargon the Great (Baghdad Museum); Hammurabi (the Louvre); The Statue of Unity (Travelwithrd.com)

Turkey that was made ca. 9000 BCE. Other monuments stand nearby in Gobekli, but there are few clues that tell us what these monuments meant. Other very ancient statues are obvious in their intent even though only parts remain. One example of that is the statue of **Sargon the Great** (2334-2284 BCE). All that is left is his head, but it clearly shows a smiling but powerful leader. Another example is the head is **Hammurabi** (1792-1750 BCE) whose wrinkles validate his wisdom. Almost all ancient kings had statues of themselves to reinforce their legitimacy. Qin Dynasty (221-201 BCE) emperor Shi Huangdi immortalized his entire army in



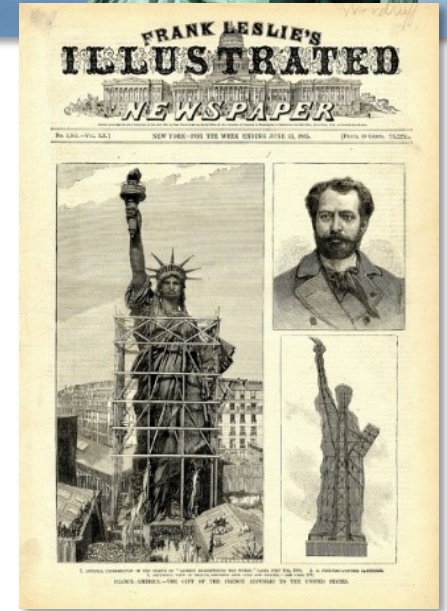
substantial donation for a public project. There was a statue of a deity in every Greek and Roman temple, just as in today's Christian churches. There never were religious statues in Jewish synagogues or Islamic mosques but there were statues in abundance in Christian churches until 8th and 9th centuries CE when the Iconoclasts put a ban on images in Eastern Byzantine

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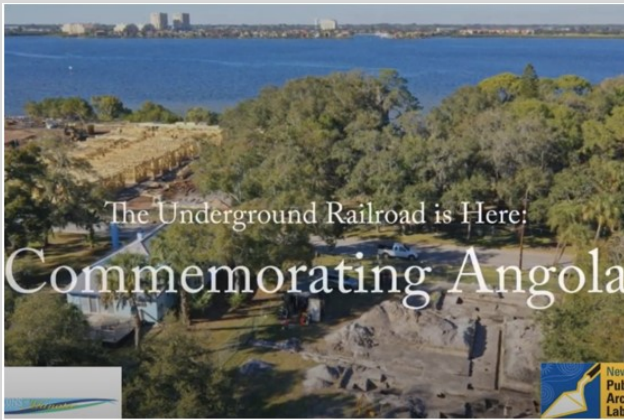
Statuomania: ...

The most recognized statue in the world is **the Statue of Liberty** (152' torch to toe) in New York Harbor to represent liberty (she holds a copy of the Declaration of Independence in her left hand) and the goodwill between the people of France and the United States. It was inspired in 1871 by a French politician, Edouard de Laboulaye, designed by a French sculptor, Frederic Bartholdi, built by French engineers Gustave Eiffel and Maurice Koechlin, and offered as a joint project of the people of both countries to commemorate our centennial. The statue was built in France and the platform was built in NYC, all financed by lotteries, prominent donors like Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, and Joseph Pulitzer, and ordinary citizens including pennies from school children. The statue was dedicated in 1876 and still draws millions of tourists.

Not all statues are beloved. The suffragettes in 1876 resented that a woman portrayed liberty for a government that refused to allow them to vote. The Romans destroyed Emperor Caligula's statues, the American colonists melted the statue of King George III and made bullets from the lead, the French damaged the gallery of French Kings during the French Revolution, the postwar German government quickly took down all memorials related to the Nazis, the Hungarians pulled down the statue of Stalin in Budapest after the Revolution in 1956, South Africans took away the statue of Cecil Rhodes in 2015, and in 2020, the townspeople of Bristol, England dumped the statue of slaver, Edward Colston, into the port from where the slave ships set sail. Today's **statuomania** is not new nor is it unique to the United States.



What's up at the Lab?



September was International Underground Railroad Month and the good folks at Florida Public Archaeology Network filmed an update from the lab where we are processing the artifacts from the Angola maroon community. Check out the video on Time Sifters website - it's in

the right-hand column and is titled- **“The Underground Railroad is Here: Commemorating Angola.”**

Time Sifters Presents

November 18, 6:00 PM - On ZOOM

Studying People from Medieval Transylvania: Perspectives from Bioarchaeology

Dr. Jonathan Bethard
Assistant Professor, University of South Florida

Instructions for real time viewing:
1. Go to www.zoom.com
2. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7341qjnhOTmzQO>

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

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