



JULY-2021

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I have just finished a trip that included visits to: The Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee, one of US Grant's homes in Galena, IL, Lincoln's homestead in Springfield IL, the fantastic Cahokia Mounds, President Harrison's Home in IN, three Frank Lloyd Wright houses, the awesome Serpent Mound in OH, the Fort Hill Earthworks and the Fort Ancient Earthworks in OH. It was a great drive through the countryside seeing part of our history.

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 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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Paleoanthropologist You Should Know

Donald Carl Johanson

Discoverer of "Lucy," one of the most complete skeletons of Australopithecus Afarensis

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



Donald Carl Johanson, was born June 28, 1943 in Chicago. He was the only child of Swedish immigrants Carl Johanson and Sally Johnson. His father died when he was two years old and he was raised by his mother in Hartford, CT. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Although he initially studied chemistry at the university, he eventually switched majors to anthropology and worked during summers on archeological digs. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in anthropology in 1966. He transferred to University of Chicago to study under noted



Photo: Academy of Achievement; Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Wikipedia, Wired.

American anthropologist F. Clark Howell for his graduate studies, doing a comprehensive study on chimpanzee dentition for his doctoral thesis. Johanson completed a master's degree in 1970 and a Ph.D. in 1974.

In 1973 he discovered **AL 129-1**, a small but humanlike knee, and the first knee known from the hominid fossil record in Hadar, Ethiopia. The following year, Johanson and Tom Gray discovered an even more spectacular find, **AL 288-1**, a partial skeleton of a female australopithecine better known by its nickname of **"Lucy"**. The specimen was dated to **3.2 million years** ago and is the first known member of *Australopithecine Afarensis*, a species thought to be one of the direct ancestors of modern humans. Eventually over 40% of the skeleton was

Continued on page 4 ...

Did You Know?

The Star-Spangled Garrison Banner.

Permission by: Hallowed Ground, American Battlefield Trust



Photo: reddit.com

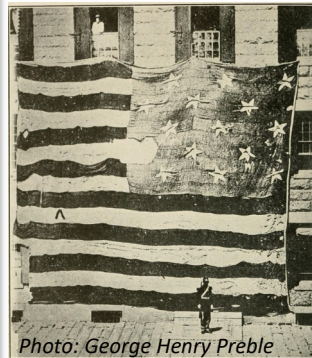


Photo: George Henry Preble

the British will have no difficulty seeing it from a distance.”

The commission to make the banners went to a well respected Baltimore flag maker named Mary Young Pickersgill, who had undertaken other smaller projects set by the U.S. Army and Navy. Over the course of six weeks, 37 year old Pickersgill worked with her daughter, Caroline; two teenage



Photo: Wikipedia

For as famous as it is, the so-called Star-Spangled Banner is shrouded in plenty of misconceptions. Perhaps most important is this: **The massive relic on display in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History is NOT the flag that flew over Fort McHenry while it was under British attack.** Given the foul weather during the bombardment, the fort instead flew its smaller storm flag, raising the massive version when the British disengaged the following morning.

In the terminology of the time, as national flags, both emblems would have been

termed “ensigns”; as an especially oversized version, the larger one was a “garrison flag.” In fact, before it received its more poetic moniker, Fort McHenry’s example was known as the **“Great Garrison Flag.”**

Both flags that figure into the **Battle of Baltimore** were ordered by the fort’s commandant in the summer of 1813. Although only newly arrived from the war at the Canadian frontier, Major George Armistead was confident that the British forces would turn their might toward Baltimore and wrote to his superiors that it was *“my desire to have a flag so large*

nieces, Eliza and Margaret Young; an indentured African American apprentice, Grace Wisher, and her own mother Rebecca Young; who had taught her the art of flag making, plus additional hired seamstresses as necessary.

The dimension of the Great Garrison Flag dwarfed the home that Pickersgill rented so to have enough workspace, the women negotiated use of the nearby **Claggett’s Brewery** late into the evening after the day’s production had ceased. For their labors, they were ultimately paid **\$405.90** for

Continued on page 3 ...

Continued from page 2 ...

Banner ...

the Great Garrison Flag and **\$168.54** for the storm flag – about **\$9,200** adjusted for inflation.

Just how big was the flag flying over Fort McHenry at dawn on September 14, 1814? It measured 30 by 42 feet, making it reportedly the largest flag flown in combat up to that time. Each of the 15 red and white stripes measured two feet across (until 1818, a star and a stripe were added for each state that joined the Union), do the 15 stars, arrayed in five offset rows. The whole project took about 400 yards of fabric (English wool bunting for the stripes and blue canton, white cotton for the stars) and **weighed more than 50 pounds. It took 11 men to hoist the great Garrison Flag to the top of its 90-foot pole.**

After the war, the flag passed into the possession of the Armistead family, where it

stayed for around 90 years, occasionally displayed for patriotic gatherings. During this time, as was typical before any formal regulations for treatment of the nation flag were adopted, pieces of the ensign were clipped off to use as gifts. Increasingly concerned about the flag's fragility, in 1907 Armistead's grandson Eben Appleton loaned the Star-Spangled Banner to the Smithsonian Institution, making it an outright gift five years later.

In 1914, the Smithsonian began a massive restoration, as legendary embroiderer **Amelia Fowler and a team of assistants** applied 1.7 million patented honeycomb stitches to mount the flag to a linen backing.

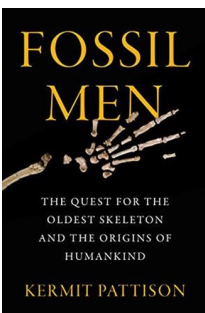
Over the ensuing century, the science of material conservation has evolved considerably (from attempting to replicate its original appearance to ensuring its long-term stability), and the flag has gone through multiple

evolutions of display. Determined to keep the relic on display without compromising its integrity unnecessarily, in 1996, the Smithsonian began preparations to give the flag a full conservation treatment.

The multimillion-dollar project began in 1998, and museum visitors were able to watch the painstaking work of undoing previous, well intentioned repairs – even today, there remain 37 visible patches – through a massive window. Specialized techniques were used to clean and stabilize the flag, and to protect it as the surrounding museum underwent its own renovation.



Permission by: Hallowed Ground, American Battlefield Trust



A Time Sifters Book Review

Fossil Men

The Quest for the Oldest Skeleton and the Origins of Humankind

By: Kermit Pattison

Review by Kirkus

Perhaps once a decade, a journalist recounts the history and latest findings in human evolution, a subject of apparently endless appeal - Martin Meredith's *Born in Africa* (2011) remains a page-turner. Pattison caught the bug in 2012 and devoted seven years to gathering material. The result is a satisfying education on the status of the human family tree over the past five million years, and the author provides detailed explanations of how anthropologists tease information from bones, teeth, and local geology. It's a journalistic maxim that

readers prefer personalities to events, and Pattison describes plenty of ambitious, media-savvy researchers whose often bitter hostility has stalled progress but makes for lively reading. He passes quickly over the father of African anthropology, the colorful **Louis Leakey**, spends more time on his wife and family and their pioneering findings, and gives a major role to **Donald Johanson**, whose 1974 discovery of a partial skeleton of "*Lucy*," a small, primitive human ancestor. Mostly Pattison focuses on anatomist **Owen Lovejoy** and anthropologist

Tim White, whose energy, work ethic, and opinions made him a lightning rod for controversy even before his team's 1994 finding of "*Ardi*," a skeleton older than *Lucy* whose age approaches the era when hominids and chimpanzees diverged from their presumed common ancestor. Colleagues fumed for 15 years as his team studied the bones, and the resulting massive 2009 report aggravated matters. The anthropological community learned that "they were looking up the wrong tree for human origins, and that their quest to link early humanity to modern apes was nullified by *Ardi* because the last common ancestor looked like no modern species." Pattison delivers a gripping and reasonably balanced account of the predictably hostile reception, and this remains a controversial interpretation, although it has made some converts.

Continued from page 1 ...

Donald Carl Johanson ...

recovered. Johanson was astonished to find so much of her skeleton all at once. Pamela Alderman, a member of the expedition, suggested she be named "Lucy" after the Beatles' song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" which was played repeatedly during the night of the discovery.

A bipedal hominin, **Lucy stood about three and a half feet tall**; her bipedalism supported Raymond Dart's theory that australopithecines walked upright. Johanson and his team concluded from Lucy's rib that she ate a plant-based diet, and from her curved finger bones that she was probably still at home in trees.

In 1975 there was yet another major find in Hadar, when his team found **AL 333, nicknamed "the First Family"**, a collection of prehistoric hominin teeth and bones of at least 13 individuals. In 1976, more hominid fossils were discovered, along with stone tools which, **at 2.5 million years**, were the oldest in the world. After 1976, political conditions in Ethiopia prevented further expeditions for nearly 15 years.

In 1981, Johanson founded the **Institute of Human Origins (IHO)**, a non-profit research institution devoted to the study of prehistory, in Berkeley, CA. In 1987, the IHO was given permission to

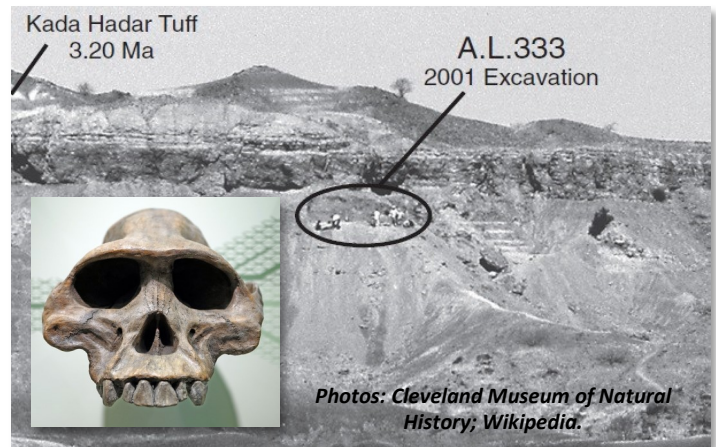


conduct an expedition to Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania where he discovered a jaw and limb bones of a specimen of **Homo habilis, later known as Olduvai Hominid 62 (OH 62). OH 62, dated to 1.8 million years** ago, which were the first H. habilis specimens discovered that had parts of arms and legs.

During his tenure at IHO, Johanson oversaw the discovery of **AL 444-2, the most complete A. afarensis skull known**, which supported the idea that A. afarensis was separate from other hominid species. In 1997, the IHO moved from Berkeley to Phoenix, AZ and became affiliated with Arizona State University.

Johanson wrote or co-wrote several books, including "Lucy, the Beginnings of Humankind" (1981; with Maitland A. Edey), "Journey from the Dawn: Life with the World's First Family" (1990; with Kevin O'Farrell), and "From Lucy to Language" (1996; with Blake Edgar).

He currently lives in Chicago.



Photos: Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Wikipedia.

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