

# ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the  
SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at  
The Marie Irwin Community Center  
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

## NOVEMBER - 2019

Thursday, Will Kelley, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM  
November 21 SSAS Members' Night 2019  
"Before the Pilgrims: European Exploration in  
Northeastern North America"

Monday, Officers' Meeting ~ 7:30 PM  
January 6 Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood

Thursday, Katherine Kanne, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM  
January 16 "Becoming 'Equestrian' in the Bronze Age"

Deadline for material to be included in the next  
ArkyFacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.

**nitel** Sponsorship, making it possible...

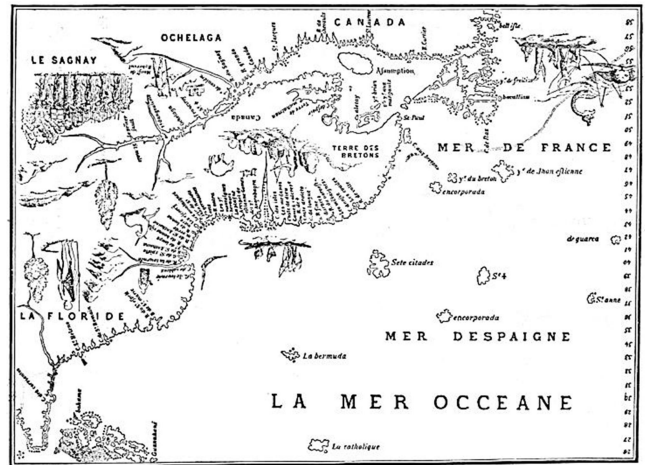


# ArkyFacts

November 2019

Thursday, November 21 – 7:30 PM

## BEFORE THE PILGRIMS: EUROPEAN EXPLORATION IN NORTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA by Will Kelley, Ph.D.



THE "DAUPHIN MAP" OF CANADA, CIRCA 1543, SHOWING  
CARTIER'S DISCOVERIES

For many decades American schoolchildren learned that the European settlement of the east coast of North America began with the Plymouth Colony. Jamestown, if mentioned at all, was a distant second, and St. Augustine was forgotten. But this is a gross distortion. After the 1497 voyages of John Cabot, a steady stream of Portuguese, Basques, Bretons, Normans, and interior French arrived in New France. They came for fishing, whaling, trading, and occasionally, colonial settlement. The Native Americans met these newcomers with strategies that expressed their own interests, ranging from alliances to armed conflict. For instance, the Norse settlement on Greenland was only finally abandoned in the 1440's, leaving the Inuit with a centuries-old taste for iron that had to be met.

By the time the Pilgrims arrived, even permanent European settlements had been in New France for fifteen years. Historians and archaeologists have recently added to our understanding of the so-called "Contact Period," one that established many of the patterns of misunderstanding and flawed interaction that shaped later centuries. Dr. Kelley will sketch out some of the most important of these recent findings.

William R. Kelley, Ph.D. in Anthropology, teaches in the social sciences at Governors State University and is President of the South Suburban Archaeological Society. He has a long-standing interest in North American archaeology.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Fall Raffle Event.....** Tickets will still be available at the November 21 program for the evening's drawing. The prize is a \$100.00 Gift Certificate to LaVoute Bar & Bistro in downtown Homewood. You need not be present to win, but please provide a contact phone number.

**Our First Business Meeting of 2020.....** will be on Monday, January 6 - 7:30 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, 18219 Dixie Hwy., Homewood.

***We wish everyone a Wonderful Holiday Season & a Happy and Healthy New Year!!***

Bookmarks! Find us online.....

**Search: "South Suburban Archaeological Society on Weebly"**

**OR: <http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com/>**

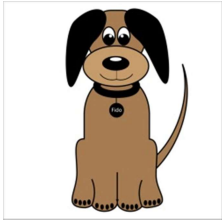
**OR: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>**

**South Suburban Chapter Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>**



**nitel**

SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort, and financial support, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at NITEL.



## DOGS-Archaeology's Best Friends?

How can dogs possibly sniff out remains buried amid ash or debris?

Dogs' natural ability to detect odors is up to 100,000 times better than humans'. Some highly trained dogs certified by the non-profit Institute for Canine Forensics (ICF) are familiarized with the odors of human bones and teeth at a very early age, some even a few weeks after birth. Known as "historical human remains detection dogs," they specifically learn how to locate remains that can be thousands of years old, even being able to detect former burial spots when a body has been removed.

Archaeologists have worked with ICF dogs for more than twenty years, often to locate graves without disturbing them.

ICF dogs have aided a number of Native American tribes seeking to identify burials on tribal and ancestral lands, typically when the burials are threatened by a construction project.

These dogs have also been involved in trying to solve cold cases, including one of the most famous--locating the remains of Amelia Earhart. Four dogs and their handlers went to remote Nikumaroro Island in Kiribati with archaeologist Tom King and the National Geographic Society. Their job was to recover soil samples for DNA testing in areas where human bones had been found in 1940 (and then went missing).

The hard-working handlers give all credit to the pups, claiming "We just get to come along because we have two thumbs and can drive!"



*American Archaeology*

## New Cahokia Web Pages.....

Mike Ruggeri has created two new Cahokia websites that we're sure our members will enjoy. Thank you Mike!

*Mike Ruggeri's Ancient Cahokia*

<https://mikeruggerisancientcahokia.tumblr.com>

*Mike Ruggeri's Ancient Cahokia on Word Press*

<https://mikeruggerisancientcahokia.wordpress.com>

Also, for upcoming events, visit Mike's *Ancient Americas Lectures & Conferences* website at <http://mikeruggerisevents.tumblr.com>

## Looking Forward to 2020.....

Please join SSAS in 2020 for excursions, special events, and programs that cover a wide range of topics from around the world! Our monthly program lineup for 2020 will include presentations on:

- Becoming 'Equestrian' in the Bronze Age
- "The Tunnel Under the Lake"
- Archaeology of the River Thames
- Holy Land Antiquities
- Childrens' Graves & Cemetery History in Chicago
- 3D Scanning, Drones, Aerial Photography & Other Cool Technology used in Illinois Archaeology
- An update on the Kankakee Protohistory Project
- .....and more!

Our regularly scheduled 2020 programming will begin at the Irwin Center on Thursday, January 16. We hope to see you there!

## IN THE NEWS.....

### Neanderthal “glue” Points to Complex Thinking

Traces of ancient “glue” on a stone tool from 50,000 years ago points to complex thinking by Neanderthals, experts say. The glue was made from birch tar in a process that required forward planning and involved several different steps. It adds to mounting evidence that we have underestimated the capabilities of our evolutionary cousins.

Only a handful of Neanderthal tools bear signs of adhesive, but experts say the process could have been widespread.

The tool, found in the Netherlands, has spent the last 50,000 years under the North Sea. This may have helped preserve the tar adhesive. The simple stone flake was probably used either for cutting plant fibers or for scraping animal skins.

While birch tar may have been used in some cases by Neanderthals to attach stone tools to wooden handles, this particular tool probably had a grip made only of tar. It would have enabled the user to apply more pressure to the stone flake without cutting into the hand, turning the edge into a precision cutting tool.

*Excerpted from the BBC News, October 21, 2019 (Paul Rincon, Science Editor).*

*For more information and pictures, visit*  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-50131120>

## PODCASTS.....

### Doggerland

For those of you who enjoy podcasts, visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0006707> for a discussion of “Doggerland” on the BBC radio and podcast series *In Our Time*.

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the people, plants and animals once living on Doggerland (after Dogger Bank). This land is now under the North Sea, but was once inhabited up to c7000BC or roughly 3,000 years before the beginnings of Stonehenge.

There are traces of this landscape at low tide, such as the tree stumps at Redcar; yet more is being learned from diving and seismic surveys, which are building a picture of an ideal environment (with rivers and hills) for humans to hunt and gather.

Rising seas submerged this land as glaciers melted, forcing the people of Doggerland to move to higher ground, and leaving the coasts of modern-day Britain on one side, and Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and France on the other.

### GIBSON WOODS EVENT

On **Sunday, November 10 at 1:00 PM** there will be a screening of “*Octave Chanute-Patron Saint of Flight*” and a screening of the short documentary, “*The Ideal Section of Lincoln Highway*.” This event is free and open to the public; however, please call to reserve a seat (219)844-3188.

6201 Parrish Avenue  
Hammond, Indiana