

# ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the  
South Suburban Archaeological Society  
Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at  
The Irwin Center  
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

## Upcoming Events - 2018

September 20	Ann Durkin Keating, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM "Rising Up from Indian Country: The Battle of Fort Dearborn and The Birth of Chicago"
October 1	Officers' Meeting ~ 7:30 PM Mama & Me Pizzeria
October 18	Michael Ruggeri, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM "The Birdman Complex of the Mississippian Civilization"

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

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South Suburban Archaeological Society  
Corresponding Secretary



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September 2018

Thursday, September 20 – 7:30 PM



## RIISING UP FROM INDIAN COUNTRY The Battle of Fort Dearborn & The Birth of Chicago By Ann Durkin Keating, Ph.D.

In August 1812, under threat from the Potawatomi, Captain Nathan Heald began the evacuation of 94 people from the isolated outpost of Fort Dearborn to Fort Wayne, hundreds of miles away. The group included several dozen soldiers, as well as nine women and eighteen children. After traveling only a mile and a half, they were attacked by 500 Potawatomi warriors. In under an hour, 52 members of Heald's party were killed, and the rest were taken prisoner; the Potawatomi then burned Fort Dearborn before returning to their villages.

These events are now seen as a foundational moment in Chicago's storied past. Noted historian Ann Durkin Keating will recount the Battle of Fort Dearborn, while situating it within the context of several wider histories that span the nearly four decades between the 1795 Treaty of Greenville, in which Native Americans gave up a square mile at the mouth of the Chicago River, and the 1833 Treaty of Chicago, in which the American government and the Potawatomi exchanged five million acres of land west of the Mississippi River for a tract of the same size in northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin.

This is a story not only of military conquest, but of the lives of people on all sides of the conflict. Dr. Keating will highlight such figures as Jean Baptiste Point de Sable and John Kinzie, and demonstrate that early Chicago was a place of cross-cultural reliance among the French, the Americans, and the Native Americans.

Ann Durkin Keating is Professor of History at North Central College. While much of her teaching has focused on urban and suburban history and studies, she has taught broadly in U.S. History. She has authored many works and is co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*.

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In Memoriam .

Our Next Business Meeting..... will be on Monday, October 1, 7:30 PM, at Mama & Me Pizzeria, 18219 Dixie Hwy., Homewood.

Bookmarks! Find us online.....

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## IN THE NEWS—Discovery of World's Oldest Cheese!

Archaeologists have identified a substance found inside an ancient Egyptian tomb: 3,200-year-old cheese!

Several years ago, a research team found a solidified whitish mass on a collection of jars in the tomb of Ptahmes, a high-ranking Egyptian official in the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C. (*BBC news*).

The discovery was significant, as no cheese had previously been found in Ancient Egypt, and could be the oldest cheese residue on earth. The revelation was published in the journal *Analytical Chemistry*.

The material analyzed is probably the most ancient archaeological solid residue of cheese ever found to date, said Dr. Enrico Greco, of the University of Catania. Greco worked alongside colleagues at the Cairo University in Egypt to identify the substance.

We know it was made mostly from sheep's and goat's milk, but for me it's really hard to imagine a specific flavor, he said.

Professor Paul Kindstedt, University of Vermont cheese historian and chemistry professor, explained that the cheese would have had a really, really acidic bite to it.

Also found in the cheese were traces of a bacteria behind an infectious disease called brucellosis, which comes from consuming unpasteurized dairy products. If confirmed, it would be the oldest evidence of the disease, which still exists today.

The tomb is located at the Saqqara necropolis near Cairo. After being first unearthed in 1885, it was lost to shifting sands until its rediscovery in 2010.

*Time News*

## IN THE NEWS—Lost City Emerges From Kansas Farm Field!

Donald Blakeslee, an anthropologist and archaeology professor at Wichita State University, has used freshly translated documents written over 400 years ago by Spanish conquistadors and an array of high-tech equipment to locate what he believes to be the lost city of *Etzanoa*, home to perhaps 20,000 people between 1450 and 1700.

These people lived in thatched, beehive-shaped houses that ran for at least five miles along the bluffs and banks of the Walnut and Arkansas Rivers. Blakeslee believes that the site is the second-largest ancient settlement in the U.S. after Cahokia.

Francisco Vazquez de Coronado came to central Kansas in 1541 chasing stories of gold. Instead, he found Native Americans in a collection of settlements he dubbed Quivira. In 1601, Juan de Onate led 70 conquistadors from the Spanish colony of New Mexico into south-central Kansas in search of Quivira, riches, tribute, and converts for the Catholic Church.

They were ultimately ambushed by 1,500 Escanxagues and withdrew back to New Mexico, never to return. French explorers arrived in the area a century later, but found nothing.

The early Great Plains has long been imagined as a vast empty space populated by nomadic tribes following buffalo herds. But if Blakeslee is right, at least some of the tribes were urban. They built large towns, raised crops, made fine pottery, processed bison on a massive scale and led a settled existence. Their trade connections ran all the way to the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan in Mexico.

*Los Angeles Times*