

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

JANUARY - 2023

Thursday, Dr. John E. Terrell - 7:30 PM

January 19 "History, Heritage & Myth:

Modeling the Settlement of Polynesia"

(This will be an in-person presentation AND also available via Zoom.)

Monday, Officers' Meeting - 6:00 PM

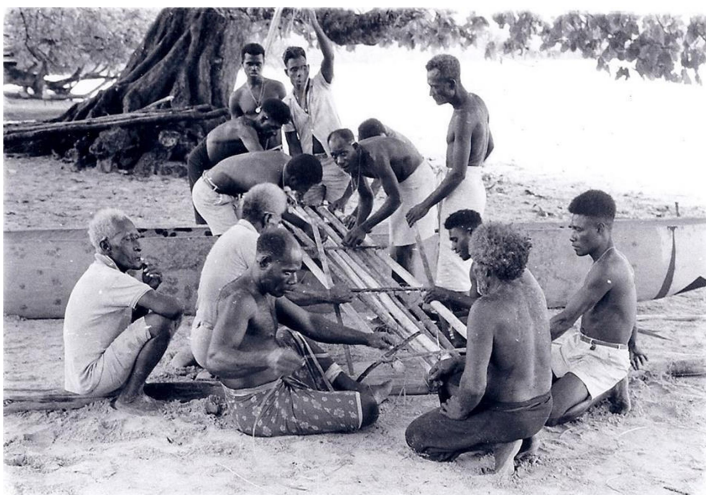
January 30 PANERA BREAD

820 175th St., Homewood

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

For more information about South Suburban Archaeological Society, or if you have a special need
because of a disability, contact SSAS President





ArkyFacts

January 2023

Thursday, January 19 – 7:30 PM

“History, Heritage & Myth:
Modeling the Settlement of Polynesia”
with John E. Terrell, Ph.D.

European and American colonizers carried with them a myth that “race” (genetically similar populations), language, and “culture” (the product of social history) could be identified with each other. By the mid-20th Century anthropologists, working with colonized peoples and their heritage knowledge, had debunked this myth, finding these to be distinct aspects of human life, and often not aligned.

Still, myths die hard. This one was revived by researchers in “archaeological genetics,” who insist their technological wizardry provides a “new science of the human past.” It plays a part in the “express train” model of Polynesian migration. But archaeologists find the real history of Polynesia is much more complex and interesting than the myth allows. Acceptance of these facts and their implications contributes in turn to decolonizing our understanding of ‘deep time’ in the Pacific.

John Edward Terrell, Ph.D., is Regenstein Curator of Pacific Anthropology at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History. He is widely known both for his anthropological research and advocacy of shared governance of collections as being central to the mission of contemporary museums. His most recent books include *A Talent for Friendship: Rediscovery of a Remarkable Trait* (2014), *Understanding the Human Mind: Why You Shouldn’t Trust What Your Brain is Telling You* (with Gabriel Stowe Terrell, 2020), and *Modeling the Past: Archaeology, History, and Dynamic Relational Analysis* (with Mark Golitko, Helen Dawson, and Marc Kissel).



NOTE: Dr. Terrell will be appearing in person at the Irwin Center. Please join us for light refreshments before the program! For those who wish to view this presentation remotely via Zoom, see our insert page.



Search: “South Suburban Archaeological Society” or

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

SSAS on Tumblr: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>

South Suburban Chapter on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>



SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort and financial support.

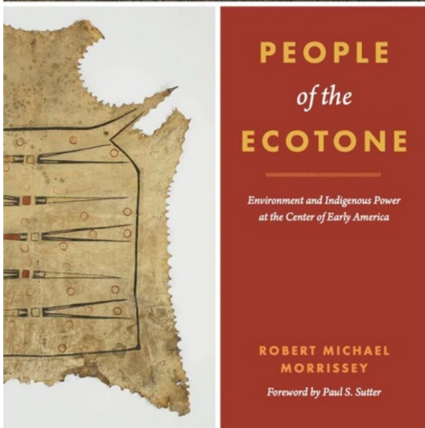
NEW BOOKS

“People of the Ecotone: Environment and Indigenous Power at the Center of Early America”

By Robert Michael Morrissey

Foreword by Paul S. Sutter

(University of Washington Press/Weyerhaeuser Environmental
Books, November 2022)



In *People of the Ecotone*, Robert Morrissey weaves together a history of Native peoples with a history of an ecotone to tell a new story about the roots of the Fox Wars, among the most transformative and misunderstood events of early American history. To do this, he also offers the first comprehensive environmental history of some of North America’s most radically transformed landscapes—the former tallgrass prairies—in the period before they became the monocultural “corn belt” we know today.

Morrissey situates the complex rise and fall of the Illinois, Meskwaki, and Myaamia peoples from roughly the collapse of Cahokia (thirteenth to

fourteenth century CE) to the mid-eighteenth century in the context of millennia-long environmental shifts, as changes to the climate shifted bison geographies and tribes adapted their cultures to become pedestrian bison hunters. Tracing dynamic chains of causation from microscopic viruses to massive forces of climate, from the deep time of evolution to the specific events of human lifetimes, from local Illinois village economies to market forces an ocean away, *People of the Ecotone* offers new insight on Indigenous power and Indigenous logics. For additional information, visit:

<https://ecotonehistory.web.illinois.edu>

How to Remotely View our January 19 Program:

Interested in participating through Zoom?

Send a request to the email link shown below.
Please submit your request as soon as possible. Those who are not SSAS members are also welcome to use Zoom, but should include enough information in the email to verify their identity.



1-2 days before the event, the host will respond with an invitation to attend through Zoom.

southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com



Business Notes

*SSAS officers for 2023 were elected on November 17, 2022. They are: Will Kelley (President), Warren Hastings (VP & Treasurer), Barbara McDonough (Corresponding Secretary), Susan Saric (Recording Secretary), Sue Skowronek, Dave Swanson, Lisa Nicholson (Trustees), Milan Saric (Membership Chair). A heartfelt “Thank you!” goes out to all of these dedicated volunteers.

***Please remember to renew your SSAS membership for 2023! An application form is included in the newsletter of any member whose renewal has not yet been received.**



Officers’ Meeting

Our next business meeting will take place on **Monday, January 30 – 6:00 PM at Panera Bread (820 175th St., Homewood).**

IN THE NEWS

“Once-in-a-Lifetime” Medieval Grave (England)

In 2022, the Vistry Group, a housing developer, commissioned an archaeological evaluation of the land it planned to build on in Northamptonshire, England. No one had high expectations for this plot of land, which wasn't near any ruins, churches or old landmarks.



But archaeologists unearthed the remains of human teeth and soon realized that they had discovered an early medieval grave. While most of the skeleton had decomposed, an ornate 30-piece gold necklace remained. Dating to 630-670 C.E., the necklace was composed of Roman coins, gold, garnets, painted glass and semiprecious stones, with a large cross pendant at the center. Other findings included decorated pots, a copper dish and a decorated cross with depictions of human faces cast in silver.

The combination of grave finds suggested that the burial was that of a very devout high-status woman such as an abbess, royalty, or perhaps both.

Simon Mortimer, RPS Archaeology Consultant, said: "This find is truly a once-in-a-lifetime discovery - the sort of thing you read about in textbooks and not something you expect to see coming out of the ground in front of you. It shows the fundamental value of developer-funded archaeology. Had they not funded this work, this remarkable burial may never have been found." For additional reading, visit the websites below:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-63860132>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/>

Search “Medieval grave Northamptonshire”

EVENTS & LECTURES

The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago

Travel back to 1893, the year the Newberry building opened to the public! On guided “in-person” tours of the library, you can learn about its iconic architecture and extensive history. You’ll also get to see the Newberry in action in the present. Tours are about an hour long, are FREE and are offered on multiple dates. No advance registration is required. Simply meet in the Newberry lobby and begin the tour from there. For information on January tour dates and times, visit the library website’s Calendar of Events, or call 1(312)943-9090.

January 11, 6:00-7:30 PM (EST)

Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) Hybrid Lecture ***“World Heritage in South Africa’s Cradle of Humankind”***

South Africa’s Cradle of Humankind has long been a hotbed of discovery for human ancestor fossils. Just 45 minutes north of Johannesburg, this protected region must balance multiple interests in research, development, and human rights. This talk will discuss on-going research and the efforts to continue to educate and engage the public, while emphasizing the need for continued protection. For registration information, visit: <https://www.archaeological.org> On the AIA Home page, scroll down to Upcoming Events, January 11.

Thursday, January 26, 6:30-8:00 PM

Palos Heights Public Library, 12501 S. 71st Ave., Palos Heights ***“Lost Restaurants of Chicago” Hybrid Program***

Savor the stories of Chicago’s favorite eateries that over almost two centuries have been inspired by two world’s fairs, built by waves of immigrants, dreamt up by creative entrepreneurs, opened by world-class chefs, and enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. Registration required. Visit the library website’s Calendar or call 1(708)448-1473.