



Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)

OUR 43rd YEAR

November 2023 Newsletter

<https://swflarchaeology.org/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER By *John F. Furey M.A., RPA*, jffurey@charter.net

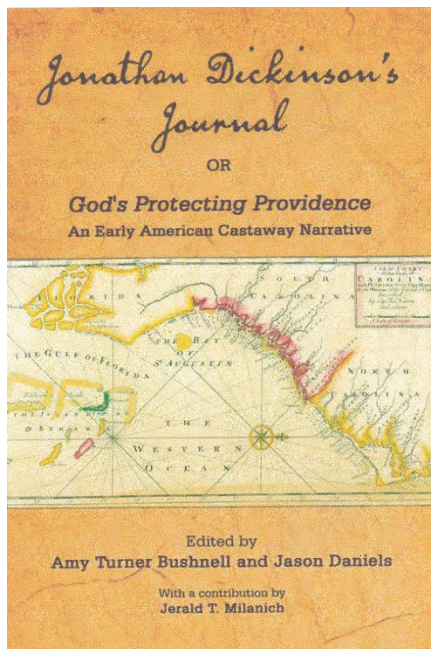


This month we offer France in the New World: Part III in the series: the story of Jean Ribault, Fort Caroline and the French attempt at establishing a Florida colony. Future articles will feature French Canada, the Acadians and the Cajuns, French Colonies in Brazil and Guiana, and the French Presence in the Caribbean Islands and Mexico. Taken together these should tell the complete story of France in the New World and each chapter, documents their interaction with the indigenous people they encountered.

47 Years ago, Governor Reubin Askew officially honored Dr. Craighead as the "Scholar of the Everglades" and joined the Collier County Commission to declare

November 16, 1976 Dr. Frank C. Craighead, Sr., Day. The SWFAS Archaeological Laboratory at the Collier County Museum was named in his memory and dedicated by his wife.

JUST PUBLISHED



Jonathan Dickenson's Journal from 1699 has been updated with new data and a fresh perspective. Written by co-editor Amy Turner Bushnell and Jason Daniels with an introduction by Jerald T. Milanich.

First published in 1699, "Jonathan Dickinson's Journal" is a firsthand account of the 1696 wreck of the ship Reformation, the castaway's journey up the east coast of Florida, and their encounters with the Indigenous peoples living there. The narrative has become a valuable resource for historians, archaeologists, ethnographers, and literary scholars. Edited with a fresh perspective, this book also includes previously unpublished and recently discovered material from 1696 that predates the familiar version of this important work.

For more information, go to

<https://myfloridahistory.org/fhspress/publication/jonathan-dickinsons-journal>.

LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS – WE NEED YOU!

Each December SWFAS must develop a Board and Officers for the next year to present at our January meeting. If you are interested in joining us in education and preservation of archaeological and historical sites in Southwest Florida, we welcome you to join us at SWFAS as a member of our management team. If interested, please contact John Furey at jffurey@charter.net.

THE SECRET TO ROMAN CONCRETE

I've been to Rome many times and either visiting or driving past the Colosseum that was built in AD 70-72, 1,955 years ago, one can't help wondering how Roman buildings have withstood the test of time. All the holes that one sees in the sides represents the scavenging and removal of small 'H' shaped cast iron bars that tied the

outer blocks of stone together. Despite their removal, the majority of the building still stands. A recent publication in the Journal of Science Advances by Seymour et al. 2023 (9): 1-13 explains the real reason for this durability. See below.

NEW STUDY OF EUROPEAN BOG BODIES

The northern European bog burial tradition began about 9,000 BC and most of these bodies were found in Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. A recent study of 1,000 bog bodies at 266 sites yielded much new information on this practice. See below.

RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT GIRSU, A MESOPOTAMIAN PALACE AND TEMPLE

Recent excavations by the British Museum at the site of Girsu, a major city in the ancient kingdom of Sumer, has found a palace and temple that date back over 4,000 years. See below.

HUNDREDS OF SPANISH SHIPWRECKS: WAS THE CAUSE WEATHER, PIRATES, OR WAR?

After the discovery of the New World, Spain's fleet of ships over four centuries, grew by the hundreds and hundreds were lost, many in Florida waters. What was the cause? Recent analysis provides answers to this question. See below.

FORT CAROLINE, WHERE IS IT? WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND IT?

FRANCE IN THE NEW WORLD PART III

In September 1565, 460 years ago, Fort Caroline, a colony of French Huguenots in Florida, was attacked and destroyed by Pedro Menendez de Aviles and most of the captured French colonists and soldiers were executed. Menendez was the new adelantado of Florida, or governor, appointed by King Philip II of Spain. We know much of what happened but where was Fort Caroline actually located? Archeologists are still looking for it, but what is the whole story behind the French trying to establish Fort Caroline? See below.

COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM PRESENTATION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 – 2 PM

COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM AT GOVERNMENT CENTER, NAPLES

THE CALUSA AND THE RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER

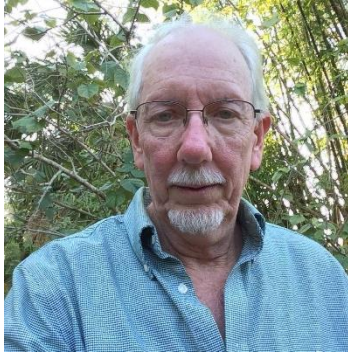


The Collier County Museum is presenting a special lecture for Native American Heritage Month. They will be hosting Annisa Karim, Operations Manager of the Randall Research Center, who will be discussing the history of their site and their efforts to recover from Hurricane Ian. Situated on the scenic western shore of historic Pine Island, the center encompasses 67 acres at the heart of the Pineland archaeological site, a massive Calusa shell mound site. The center was heavily impacted by Hurricane Ian, and the staff have been working hard on restoration and recovery efforts. For more information, go to <https://colliermuseums.com/event/the-calusa-and-the-randell-research-center>.

SWFAS NOVEMBER PRESENTATION: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 - 7 PM
COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM AT GOVERNMENT CENTER, NAPLES

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA

By Charlie Strader



Avocational archaeologist and historian Charlie Strader will discuss the prehistory of Bonita Springs. His powerpoint presentation will cover back to the earliest evidence of man in our area and sites documenting over 6,000 of Native American life in the area. He will highlight the Calusa's culture, technologies, and built environment including their capital at Mound Key in Estero Bay, contact with Spanish starting in 1513, and their demise. Bonita Springs has a rich archaeology including some of the Florida's first mound building and earliest mortuary sites. Time will be available for questions and answers.

Mr. Strader has a 45 year residency in Bonita Springs, FL, including over a decade living on a Native American archaeological site located on the Imperial River. He received a B.A. Degree in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida. He is current Treasurer of the Southwest Florida Archaeology Society and former 3 term president. He was involved in the recording of over a hundred local archaeology sites in the Florida Master Site File, active in numerous excavations and events, and visited or worked with various archaeologists on many South Florida sites.

He is also twice former President of the Bonita Springs Historical Society and past Chairperson of the City of Bonita Springs' Historic Preservation Board. He is also a member of various local plant and environmental organizations. His international travels have often focused on cultures in the New World, such as the Olmec, Maya, Aztec, Inca and Moche. He is founder and President of Explorations, Inc., a specialty travel company offering cultural and natural history tours to Central and South America.



TO GO TO THE COLLIER MUSEUM AT GOVERNMENT CENTER:



Take the I-75 toward Naples, then exit at County Hwy-886 exit, EXIT 105, toward Naples. Go about 1 mile and turn left onto Livingston Rd/County Hwy-881. Go 1.4 miles and turn right onto Radio Rd/ County Hwy-856. Then go 1 mile and turn left onto Airport-Pulling Rd S/County Hwy-31. Go about .5 miles and turn left onto Tamiami Trl E/US-41 N. 3331 TAMIAMI TRL E is on the left. It is the large government center complex. Follow the signs for the museum to the rear of the complex.

SWFAS FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

SWFAS Newsletters

NOVEMBER 15, 2023, 7:00 PM, NAPLES, COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM AT GOVERNMENT CENTER

Charlie Strader, Avocational Archaeologist and Historian, will speak about The Archaeology of Bonita Springs and SW Florida.

DECEMBER 9, 2024 - FIELD TRIP – EVERGLADES MUSEUM



SWFAS members and guests will meet at the Museum of the Everglades at 105 West Broadway Avenue, Everglades City, FL 34139 at 11:00 am for a tour of the museum. At 1:00 pm after the tour, the group will meet at the Everglades Rod and Gun Club for lunch at Everglades Rod & Gun Club 200 W Broadway, Everglades City, Florida 34139-0190. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Susan Harrington at susansdh@gmail.com so we know how many places to reserve for lunch.

Before or after the tour and lunch, it is recommended that you might self-tour Chokoloskee Island. It is one of the few large archaeological sites you can drive through. SWFAS did an excavation on one of the mounds many years ago. For more information, see <https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/chokoloskee-florida.html>

SWFAS 2024 PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTERS

JANUARY-MAY and SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

SWFAS Newsletters

JANUARY 17, 2024, 7:00 PM, FT. MYERS, IMAG MUSEUM

Michelle Calhoun, WMS/LSSAS Archaeological Society, will speak about Archaic Sites in Florida

FEBRUARY 21, 2024, 7:00 PM, FT. MYERS, IMAG MUSEUM

Dr. Brandon T. Jett, FSU, will speak about Selma Daniels and other local Black historical figures in honor of Black History Month

MARCH 20, 2024, 7:00 PM, FT. MYERS, IMAG MUSEUM

Theresa Schober, Archaeologist, will speak about International Repatriation of Cultural Belongings

APRIL 17, 2024, 7:00 PM, NAPLES, COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM AT GOVERNMENT CENTER

FPAN Archaeologist to speak, Topic TBA

NOVEMBER 20, 2024, 7:00 PM, NAPLES, COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM AT GOVERNMENT CENTER

FPAN Archaeologist to speak, Topic TBA

ARTICLES

SECRET TO DURABILITY OF ROMAN CONCRETE THAT HAS STOOD TEST OF TIME FOR OVER 2,000 YEARS FINALLY UNEARTHED

by Stephen Beech

From MSN.com at <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/technology/secret-to-durability-of-roman-concrete-that-has-stood-test-of-time-for-over-2-000-years-finally-unearthed/ar-AA162vgG#:~:text=Now%20an%20international%20team%20has%20discovered%20ancient%20concrete-manufacturing,area%20of%20Pozzuoli%2C%20on%20the%20Bay%20of%20Naples>.



The Colosseum in Rome. PA Photo/Alamy

The secret to the durability of Roman concrete that has stood the test of time for more than 2,000 years has finally been unearthed. And they have isolated the ingredient that allows Roman concrete to self-heal, making it stronger than its modern equivalent. Scientists say their "back to the future" findings could help reduce the environmental impact of cement production.

The ancient Romans were early masters of engineering – building huge networks of roads, aqueducts, ports and temples whose remains have survived for two millennia. Many of the structures were built with

concrete including Rome's Pantheon, which has the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome and is still intact despite being dedicated in the year 128 AD. Some ancient Roman aqueducts still deliver water to the Eternal City today, while many modern concrete structures crumble after just a few decades. Scientists have spent decades trying to figure out the secret of the "ultradurable" construction material, particularly in structures that endured especially harsh conditions, such as docks, sewers, and seawalls. Now an international team has discovered ancient concrete-manufacturing techniques that incorporated several key "self-healing" properties.

For many years, researchers have assumed the key to the ancient concrete's durability was based on one ingredient – pozzolanic material such as volcanic ash from the area of Pozzuoli, on the Bay of Naples. That specific kind of ash was even shipped all across the vast Roman empire to be used in construction, and was described as a key ingredient for concrete in accounts by architects and historians at the time. Under closer examination, these ancient samples also contain small, distinctive, millimetre-scale bright white mineral features, which have been long recognised as a ubiquitous component of Roman concretes. The white chunks – often referred to as "lime clasts" – originate from lime, another key component of the ancient concrete mix.

Study leader Admir Masic, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said: "Ever since I first began working with ancient Roman concrete, I've always been fascinated by these features. These are not found in modern concrete formulations, so why are they present in these ancient materials?" Previously disregarded as merely evidence of sloppy mixing practices, or poor-quality raw materials, the new study suggests the tiny lime clasts gave the concrete a previously unrecognised self-healing capability. Prof Masic said: "The idea that the presence of these lime clasts was simply attributed to low-quality control always bothered me. If the Romans put so much effort into making an outstanding construction material, following all of the detailed recipes that had been optimised over the course of many centuries, why would they put so little effort into ensuring the production of a well-mixed final product? There has to be more to this story."

Using high-resolution multiscale imaging and chemical mapping techniques pioneered in Prof Masic's lab, the researchers gained new insights into the lime clasts. Historically, it had been assumed that when lime was incorporated into Roman concrete, it was first combined with water to form a highly reactive paste-like material, in a process known as slaking. But Prof Masic said the process alone could not account for the presence of the lime clasts. He wondered if it was possible the Romans might have actually directly used lime in its more reactive form, known as quicklime.

Studying samples of the ancient concrete, he and his team determined the white inclusions were made out of various forms of calcium carbonate. Further analysis provided clues they had been formed at extreme temperatures, as would be expected from the exothermic reaction produced by using quicklime instead of, or in addition to, the slaked lime in the mixture. The research team has now concluded that "hot mixing" was actually the key to the concrete's super-durable nature. Prof Masic said: "The benefits of hot mixing are two-fold. First, when the overall concrete is heated to high temperatures, it allows chemistries that are not possible if you only used slaked lime, producing high-temperature-associated compounds that would not otherwise form. "Second, this increased temperature significantly reduces curing and setting times since all the reactions are accelerated, allowing for much faster construction." He said that, during the hot mixing process, the lime clasts develop a characteristically brittle nanoparticulate architecture, creating an easily fractured and reactive calcium source, which, as the team proposed, could provide a "critical" self-healing functionality.

The researchers produced samples of hot-mixed concrete that incorporated both ancient and modern formulations, deliberately cracked them, and then ran water through the cracks. Prof Masic said that within two weeks the cracks had completely healed and the water could no longer flow. He hopes the team's findings, published in the journal *Science Advances*, could help reduce the environmental impact of cement production, which currently accounts for about eight per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

WHO WERE EUROPE'S 'BOG BODIES'? DEEP LOOK UNCOVERS THE SECRETS OF THIS MYSTERIOUS PRACTICE

By Laura Geggel

January 11, 2023

From LiveScience at <https://www.livescience.com/bog-bodies-overview-europe>

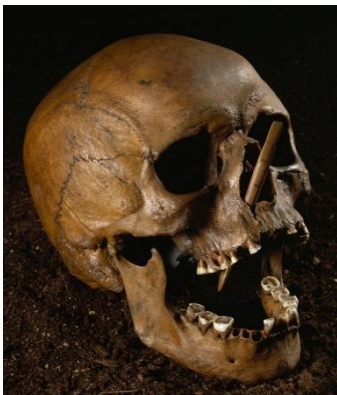


Image credit: Wikimedia

A new look at more than 1,000 "bog bodies" — human remains preserved in low-oxygen places with wet and spongy soils — reveals that the tradition of leaving bodies in European mires spans millennia, from the Stone Age to modern times, and that these individuals often met violent ends. However, all of these bodies didn't end up buried in bogs for the same reason. Some are likely the remains of ritualistic sacrifices, like the exquisitely preserved 2,400-year-old Tollund Man in Denmark; some are probably burials of deviants or executed criminals; and others are likely the result of accidental deaths, such as drownings in these watery environments, according to the study, published Tuesday (Jan. 10) in the journal *Antiquity*.

A few bog bodies, especially preserved mummies with skin and hair, get a lot of attention. But it would be a mistake to overlook human bones or partial human remains preserved in bogs, said study first author Roy van Beek, an archaeologist and associate professor in the Department of Soil Geography and Landscape and the Department of Cultural Geography at Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands. These bog skeletons are "actually pretty much the same as the well-preserved bog bodies that everyone knows, but they just have been preserved in a different way," in part because of the varying chemistry within bogs, van Beek told Live Science. "They provide very interesting evidence of pathology and death causes in some cases."

It's not fully understood why bogs preserve human remains so well, but the low-oxygen environment and the antibiotic properties of sphagnum — a polymer (a substance made out of repeating units) produced by Sphagnum moss that can lower pH and prevent spoilage — appear to play a role. Preservation in bogs also depends on a number of factors, as bodies may fare better if they are immersed in water, experience cold ambient temperatures and escape insects and microorganisms, according to the study.

To investigate bog body and skeleton trends, van Beek and his colleagues created a database of 266 sites across Northern Europe, from Ireland to the Baltic states, dating from between 9000 B.C. and A.D. 1900. Often, bogs

sites held just one deceased person, but some sites were used repeatedly over the years, with the number of preserved individuals ranging from two to about 100 per bog, the researchers said. In one big exception, the site of Alken Enge, in Denmark, is estimated to hold the remains of more than 380 people who had been killed in a violent conflict and left in open water during the early first century A.D.

The places with the most human remains in bogs are Ireland, the U.K., northern Germany, Denmark, southern Norway and southern Sweden, the team found. However, different bog hotspots emerged over time. The practice began in southern Scandinavia about 5,000 years ago during the Neolithic and slowly spread across Northern Europe. The most recent bog bodies — from Ireland, the U.K. and Germany — reveal that this tradition continued through the Middle Ages and into modern times. Of the 57 people whose cause of death could be determined, 45 experienced violent deaths, the researchers found. In rare cases, disease was likely the cause of death, and there were six suicide victims and four accidental deaths (such as drowning) from A.D. 1100 to 1900, the team found.

Human remains found in bogs are "far more numerous than previously assumed," the researchers wrote in the study, noting that bog mummies spiked from 1000 B.C. onward. In Europe, bogs play a unique role in preserving human remains and artifacts, which provide insight into ancient peoples' practices and beliefs. "It's something that you can hardly find anywhere else in European landscapes because the preservation is so extremely good," van Beek said.

Bogs are also home to a diverse range of plants and animals, and sequester carbon, which helps in the fight against climate change. Yet the continent's bogs are now disappearing at a high rate due to drainage work and the removal of peat, which can be used for fuel, van Beek said.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS EXCAVATE ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIAN PALACE, TEMPLE

By Sam Halpern

February 21, 2023

From The Jerusalem Post at <https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-732247>



*A stone plaque depicting Enannatum I, ruler or king of Lagash
(photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)*

An archeological site at Girsu, in modern-day south-central Iraq, a major city in the ancient Mesopotamian civilization of Sumer, has been unearthed revealing a palace and a temple that date back over 4000 years. The excavation efforts were conducted by archaeologists who participated in the Girsu Project, according to Heritage Daily.

The Girsu Project was a 2021 joint endeavor on behalf of the British Museum and the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH). The project used remote sensing to detect a large complex of ancient buildings. Now, for the first time, the complex is seeing the light of day, Heritage Daily reports.

History of Girsu and its excavation

Girsu was a city in Sumer, the oldest civilization of ancient Mesopotamia. Numerous archaeological discoveries have been made there since the late 19th century, albeit much of the early excavation conducted there was done improperly and resulted in damage to the site. Additionally, harm has been inflicted on the site by decades of artifact hunters searching for pieces to sell on the black market, Heritage Daily reports.

Nevertheless, over the previous century and a half, many discoveries have been made there. One famous such example is the Stele of the Vultures, a monument comprised of several stone slabs that depict a martial scene. The University of Oxford describes stele as mixing elements of the divine with elements of the military. It features the king of Lagash, Eannatum, engaged in battle and triumphing over the city's main rival, Umma.

The palace and temple

The excavation efforts subsequent to the Girsu project uncovered, as Heritage Daily notes, a mudbrick-built palace as well as what is thought to be the primary abode of Ningirsu, the namesake of the city of Girsu and the city's tutelary deity. The archaeology website goes on to explain that the title of the temple, Eninnu, the White Thunderbird, was one of the most esteemed in ancient Mesopotamia. Additionally, over 200 cuneiform, logo-syllabic script, tablets that keep administrative records, were found.

The excavation project was a long time in coming and required lots of preparation. The Daily Mail reported that the archaeologist who led the excavation efforts, Dr. Sebastien Rey, faced many detractors in the years leading up to the commencement of the project. "I remember when I started in 2016 no one believed me, I went to international conferences and everyone basically told me," the Daily Mail reports Dr. Rey as saying. "Oh no you're making it up, you're wasting your time, you're wasting British museum UK government funding' - that's what they were telling me. I had other supporters and people who believed in this project and so we just persevered."

Thanks to the perseverance of Dr. Rey and the other archaeologists on the project, one of the most significant sites of ancient Girsu is now known.



Statue of ur-ningirsu II (credit: Wikimedia Commons)

SPAIN LOGS HUNDREDS OF SHIPWRECKS THAT TELL STORY OF MARITIME PAST

By Sam Jones

March 1, 2019

From The Guardian at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/mar/01/spain-logs-shipwrecks-maritime-past-weather-pirates>



Caravels of Christopher Columbus setting off for the Indies in 1492, by Rafael Monleon y Torres. Photograph: Gianni Dagli Orti/Rex

The treacherous waters of the Americas had their first taste of Spanish timber on Christmas Day 1492, when Christopher Columbus' flagship, the Santa María, sank off the coast of what is now Haiti. Over the following four centuries, as Spain's maritime empire swelled, peaked and collapsed, the waves on which it was built devoured hundreds of ships and thousands of people, swallowing gold, silver and emeralds and scattering spices, mercury and cochineal to the currents.

Today, three researchers working for the Spanish culture ministry have finished the initial phase of a project to catalogue the wrecks of the ships that forged and maintained the empire. Led by an archaeologist, Carlos León, the team

has logged 681 shipwrecks off Cuba, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the US Atlantic coast. Its inventory runs from the sinking of the Santa María to July 1898, when the Spanish destroyer Plutón was hit by a US boat off Cuba, heralding the end of the Spanish-American war and the twilight of Spain's imperial age.

After spending five years scouring archives in Seville and Madrid, León, his fellow archaeologist Beatriz Domingo and the naval historian Genoveva Enríquez have put together a list aimed at safeguarding the future and shedding light on the past. "We had two fundamental objectives," says León. "One was to come up with a tool that can be used for identifying and protecting wreck sites – especially in areas where there's a high concentration of sunken ships. The other was to recover a bit of history that's been very much forgotten. The most famous ships have been investigated, but there's a huge number about which we know absolutely nothing.

We don't know how they sank, or how deep." The information gathered would help the team to find out what navigation was like at the time, he said.

The team's research will thrill historians and cartographers, but is unlikely to delight those who harbour romantic notions about doubloons, parrots and Jolly Rogers. It found that 91.2% of ships were sunk by severe weather – mainly tropical storms and hurricanes – 4.3% ran on to reefs or had other navigational problems, and 1.4% were lost to naval engagements with British, Dutch or US ships. A mere 0.8% were sunk in pirate attacks.

Archaeologists have located the remains of fewer than a quarter of the 681 vessels on the inventory to date. León, Domingo and Enríquez were surprised to come across 12 areas with particularly high concentrations of wrecks in Panama, the Dominican Republic and the Florida Keys. Instead of the expected two or three wrecks per bay, they discovered as many as 18. "Some of these areas, like Damas bay in Panama, are very open," says León. "There were huge annual trade festivals there from the 16th century to the mid-17th and that attracted a massive amount of maritime traffic. It's not a very protected area and so when a storm came in, the ships sank." Or, to put it in more modern terms: "It was like a motorway. It's not very deep there, either. And ships are a bit like aeroplanes. They usually go down on take-off or landing."

Treasure hunters tend to be more interested in ships that came to grief on their way back from the Americas, but León and his colleagues say the ill-fated outward-bound vessels are just as compelling. "The cargo they carried speaks of a massive amount of trade," says the archaeologist. "But it's not just about products and trade. These ships were also carrying ideas. We were surprised to find a lot of boats loaded with religious objects – relics, decorations and even stones to build churches."

Their findings, however, go beyond cutlasses and crucifixes, and help to explain how Spain succeeded in enriching itself for centuries. As well as the "tonnes and tonnes" of mercury sent to the new world to be used in extracting gold and silver from the mines that fed the empire, "we found boats that were carrying clothes for slaves". Others carried weapons to be used in putting down local rebellions.

The researchers now plan to transfer the paper inventory to a database that the Spanish government can share with countries with colonial shipwrecks in their waters. León hopes the information his team has gathered will give those countries what they need to safeguard their maritime heritage against unscrupulous treasure hunters who all too often use salvage permits as a cover for more profitable explorations. "We have to be very careful about the details and positions of some of the ships," he says. "But the ministry works with countries that have ratified the 2001 Unesco convention [on the protection of the underwater cultural heritage], so they should be countries that aren't going to use this information to make deals with treasure-hunting firms." Anyway, he adds, the big treasure-hunting outfits will not be interested in most of the wrecks on the inventory. "It's true that the big treasure-hunting firms have spent years doing what we've been doing, but only when it comes to the ships that carried huge treasure loads. I don't think we'd be helping them out much, to be honest."

The three researchers are now preparing for another deep dive, into the archives and libraries. The Spanish empire was, after all, a very, very large one. "We've still got many more areas to go," says León. "Next year, I'd like to work on Mexico, Colombia, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica so as to kind of finish up the Caribbean area. After that's it's on to the Pacific."

FRANCE IN THE NEW WORLD PART III: JEAN RIBAUT AND FORT CAROLINE

French Huguenot Colonization In Florida:

The Story Of Fort Caroline And Jean Ribault

By John F Furey



Background: France 1540-1685

The religious teachings of John Calvin found a receptive audience in France in the 1540's among artisans, merchants, and the nobility and many Catholics converted to this new form of Protestantism. It was called the Huguenot Movement, and as it spread, it created growing tensions between Protestants and Catholics in the cities and the countryside throughout France as they had gained 1.5 million followers by 1560. These religious disputes sparked a series of Civil Wars that were known as the French Wars of Religion that lasted 36 years (1562-1598). This conflict ended in 1598 when King Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes. This edict formalized religious coexistence with Catholicism in France, and granted Huguenots civil rights and military autonomy.

Under the new monarch King Louis XIV, however, the Edict of Nantes was revoked in 1685, 87 years later. The Huguenots then came under brutal persecution to convert to Catholicism, had many of their rights annulled, and many fled France for Switzerland, Germany, Britain, the American colonies, and the Dutch Republic. New small settlements by the Huguenots in the American colonies were established in the British Colony of Carolina, on the Santee River about 40 miles north of Charlestown, in Oxford Massachusetts (1686-1694), in Hackensack, New Jersey (1677), and in Narragansett, Rhode Island (1697). But what happened to the most famous attempt by the French Huguenots to gain a foothold in Florida in the New World, the establishment of Fort Caroline?

Jean Ribault (1520-1565)



Ribault was born in the town of Dieppe in Normandy, was a Huguenot and became a French naval officer under Admiral Gaspard de Coligny (1519-1572). Admiral de Coligny was a French noble and also a Huguenot who showed great military leadership in the campaigns in Italy that France pursued and was promoted to the high military office of Admiral. In the third civil war de Coligny became the de facto leader of the Huguenots after other leaders died. Accusations were leveled against him by the individual that assassinated Catholic Francis, Duke of Guise and, at the start of the St. Bartholomew's Day Huguenot massacre in 1572, de Coligny was assassinated on the orders of Henri, Duke of Guise.

In 1562 de Coligny selected Ribault to lead the French Huguenot colonization expedition to the new world at a time when open hostilities had broken out between the Catholics and the Protestant Huguenots, people were fleeing the country. De Coligny believed that both religions could live peacefully side by side but hoped that Ribault could find a new colony for Huguenots to emigrate to in the New World. De Coligny felt that a colony in the New World would provide valuable resources that could be shipped back to France, it would reduce religious strife, and it would provide a safe haven for Huguenots outside France. Additionally, it was an ideal location to attack Spanish shipping. De Coligny had earlier attempted to establish a French colony on the coast of Brazil but it failed.

Fort Charlesfort

Ribault left France on 18 February 1562 with a fleet and 150 colonists and two or three ships. Initially he explored the mouth of the St. Johns River in Florida and claimed the area for France. The fleet headed north and Ribault charted the coastline noting several rivers until they reached Port Royal Sound, in present day South Carolina. There, on Paris Island, Ribault established a settlement and erected a fort he named Charlesfort, after

king Charles IX. Ribault enlisted the local Native Americans to help build the fort and had good initial relations with these people. Leaving 27 men to man the fort, Ribault sailed back to France to resupply the new colony.

Upon arriving in Le Harve, another of the French Wars of Religion had broken out and he went to his hometown of Dieppe. When the city fell, as a Huguenot, he was forced to flee and he fled to England. Through his connections with Huguenots in England, Ribault arranged an audience with Queen Elizabeth I to discuss support for a colony in the New World. Despite the initial welcome he received, he was sent to the Tower of London. He was imprisoned there from early June 1563 until the Fall of 1564. While imprisoned in the Tower, it is believed that Ribault wrote the 'Whole and True Discovery of Terra Florida.

Meanwhile, with Ribault in France, Charlesfort collapsed. A triangular fort had been constructed with help from the natives and the colonists scoured the countryside unsuccessfully looking for gold. What they failed to do was to clear land and plant crops. They were totally dependent on the resupply ships. When they failed to arrive, some of the colonists stole the boats, became pirates and attacked Spanish ships. As their chain of command disintegrated, problems arose in the form of hostilities with the local natives that were never defined, despite early good relations. After a mutiny, the survivors built a ship and attempted to sail back to France. Most of them died at sea, there was talk of cannibalism, some were rescued, brought to England, and relayed their story.

Fort Caroline



With the Peace of Amboise in 1563, de Coligny selected Ribault's former lieutenant, Rene Goulaine de Laudonniere to replace Ribault in establishing a North American colony. News of the fate of Charlesfort reached de Coligny and Laudonniere back in France before Laudonniere sailed. Laudonniere sailed on 22 April 1564. Ribault, who was released from the Tower of London in the Fall of 1564, was to follow the following Spring of 1565 with reinforcements, supplies, and it had been decided that the new colony would be established on the St. Johns River that Ribault had previously explored. The new colony would be called Fort Caroline.

On 24 June 1564 the river they called the River May was sighted, the French landed, and began construction of the fort. Again, the French enlisted the local Native Americans to assist in building the fort. Fort Caroline sustained itself for the first year, however, Ribault was unable to sail to resupply the fort due to the outbreak again of religious war in France and it was not until the summer of 1565 that he was able to sail. He brought 800 new settlers and five ships. In his absence Fort Caroline had descended into chaos. The colony experienced food shortages and some of the soldiers mutinied, turned to piracy and attacked Spanish ships in the Caribbean. It was through the capture of some of these pirates that the Spanish became aware of the existence of Fort Caroline. Additionally, the French colonists had had violent clashes with the Utina Indians, a part of the Timucuan tribe. Arriving on 28 August 1565, Ribault immediately relieved Laudonniere of command and assumed command himself.

Spain had claimed Florida in 1513 and did not plan to share Florida with the French. In early August 1565, the newly appointed Spanish governor, Pedro Menendez de Aviles the adelantado of Florida with his fleet, arrived from Cuba off the mouth of the St. Johns River with orders to rid Florida of the French. Ribault's fleet was at anchor at the mouth of the river, and after a brief naval skirmish, the French cut their anchors and fled northward and Menendez and his fleet moved 20 miles south to the next southern inlet. On 7 September he landed and established the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine at an existing Timucuan village. He landed his goods and constructed a temporary fort expecting an imminent attack from Ribault. Menendez sent his largest ship, the San Pelayo south because it was too big to cross the sandbar and enter the protected harbor. Hours later Ribault did attack but the French galleons drew too much water and could not cross the sandbar that protected the harbor. The French fleet unable to enter the harbor chased the San Pelayo south. On 11 September a hurricane struck and drove Ribault's fleet further south and to destruction on the Canaveral coast.

Menendez assumed that the majority of the French fighting men were on the ships and that the fort would be lightly defended. On 11 September Menendez ordered his infantrymen to march 20 miles up the coast under cover of the hurricane to attack the fort. On 20 September the lightly defended fort was seized and the 140 defenders were immediately put to death. The French were viewed as pirates for attacking Spanish ships, trespassing on Spanish territory, and were Protestant heretics; all offenses punishable by death. About 60 women and children at the fort were spared. Laudonniere and about forty French soldiers escaped and some eventually made it back to Europe.

Ribault's fleet was destroyed by the hurricane and several hundred soldiers and sailors made it safely to shore. From there they walked north from about present-day Daytona Beach to Matanzas Inlet, about 14 miles south of St. Augustine. The Spanish tracked them down and Ribault, believing that they would be well treated as prisoners of war, surrendered to the Spanish. In groups of ten, the French were bound and were rowed across the inlet. Taken behind the dune on the other side they were asked if they were Catholic or Protestant. All who professed to be Protestant were killed. Only the few Catholics were spared. Days later a smaller group of Frenchmen heading north were encountered and surrendered. A similar massacre took place except some Frenchmen were suspicious and fled into the bush preferring their chances with the Indians. In Total, Ribault and about 350 of his men were murdered and the location, even today, is called Matanzas which is Spanish for slaughter. Nothing was ever heard from those that refused captivity and fled. Three years later in 1568 Dominique de Gourgues, a French nobleman turned pirate, attacked the Spanish held Fort Caroline, secured the surrender of the garrison and to avenge Ribault put all of the French prisoners to death. The French never again attempted settlements in Florida.

Where is Fort Caroline Located?

Over the years there have been a number of attempts to locate Fort Caroline, all have been unsuccessful. The City of Jacksonville has long claimed itself as the true location of Fort Caroline at the mouth of the St. Johns River and has erected monuments and named many streets after Ribault, however, all has been based upon legend. Its location at the mouth of the St. Johns River near present day Jacksonville has not been found according to archaeologists Dr. Keith Ashley and Dr. Robert Thunen. Was the site washed away? Dr. Chester De Prather believes so. So, where was Fort Caroline actually located? A recent article in the Journal of Historical Archaeology and Anthropological Sciences (Volume 7, issue 1 2022) by Dr. Anita Spring and Dr. Fletcher Crowe believe that all the evidence points to Fort Caroline being located on the Florida side of the mouth of the St. Mary's River. The St. Mary's River is the border between Florida and Georgia. Analyses of distances, maps, and historical documents have all led them to that conclusion. The Fort Caroline Archaeological Project (FCAP) plans to use lidar to scan the area at the mouth of the St. Mary's River to locate the fort as their next step in finding the "Lost Fort Caroline".

SWFAS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

The Following Officers and Trustees agreed to continue in their positions for CY 2023:

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Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!

Check out our website at <http://swflarchaeology.org/>

SWFAS AND FAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

We encourage those interested in Florida archaeology to become members of The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS). Annual dues are due in January and membership applications to both organizations are attached. Membership in the FAS provides you with four annual volumes of *The Florida Anthropologist* and occasional newsletters on anthropological events in Florida in addition to the annual statewide meeting. More information on FAS can be found online at: www.fasweb.org. Membership in SWFAS offers you a local series of talks on archaeological and anthropological subjects that you can attend. The SWFAS monthly newsletter keeps you up to date on local events as well as other important archaeological topics. We urge you to support both with your membership. All of the SWFAS Lecture Series are open to the public at no charge.



JOIN US!

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) was founded in 1980 as a not-for profit corporation to provide a meeting place for people interested in the area's past.

Our goals are to:

- Learn more of the area's history
- Create a place for sharing of this information
- Advocate for preservation of cultural resources

Its members include professional and amateur archaeologists and interested members of the general public. Members come from all walks of life and age groups. They share a lively curiosity, a respect for the people who preceded them here, and a feeling of responsibility for the conservation of the places and objects they left behind.

The Society holds monthly meetings between October and April, attracting speakers who are in the forefront of archaeological and historical research. Occasionally members join in trips to historical and archaeological sites.

A monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website keep members abreast of our events and happenings.

The organization is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a statewide organization that publishes quarterly newsletters and a journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and holds an annual conference.

I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret Florida's heritage!

Name (please print) _____

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I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Archaeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents and any property owners cooperating with the society.

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Please make your check out to SWFAS and mail to:

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Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the Florida Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities, which can be found on our website fasweb.org. *Membership is for one year.* SELECT LEVEL BELOW.

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