



## Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)

OUR 44th YEAR

May 2024 Newsletter

<https://swflarchaeology.org/>

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER *By John F. Furey M.A., RPA, [jffurey@charter.net](mailto:jffurey@charter.net)*



This Month we present the final episode of France in the New World Part VIII: The Caribbean Islands, which documents the widespread early colonization of many Caribbean islands and France's eventual loss of most of them as islands were liberally traded back and forth in post-war treaties. Additionally, an Addenda of Island Histories is included relating the various islands and their back-and-forth possession and the treaties that produced this flip-flopping of sovereignty.

The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), of which SWFAS is a chapter, celebrates its 76th year Annual Meeting hosted by the Pensacola Archaeological Society and FPAN on May 10-12. Founded in 1947 to promote archaeology in Florida, FAS has

followed through with its original mission, and we at SWFAS have been a part of that mission for 44 years. Please register and plan to attend.

In 2006 the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy (AHC), under the direction of Bob Carr, excavated the Margood Site (8CR45) at Goodland, Florida as a part of their investigations in the 10,000 Islands area of South Florida. An article in the local Coastal Breeze newspaper was published about the excavation. I have included it here to provide a bit of history for the Goodland area of Marco Island, the AHC, and SWFAS. See Below.

Something new! Those of you who are planning to visit Rome this Summer or in the future, the Museo della Forma Urbis, located near the Colosseum in the Parco Archeologico del Celio, has a new exhibit. The Forma is a large plan of the ancient city of Rome that was carved in marble in 203-211 AD. Originally made as a wall mounted display 18 X 13 meters, the museum has installed it on the floor under glass, and that allows you to walk the ancient streets of Rome. The map depicts streets, temples, buildings, districts, and shops. If you go, don't miss it. <https://www.turismoroma.it/en/places/museo-della-forma-urbis>.

### OBITUARY: COMMANDER ALAN BAX



The passing of Commander Alan Bax, Royal Navy, retired, aged 93, was recently announced. Bax was a SCUBA diver and is credited with locating the Mary Rose, King Henry VIII flagship that sunk in 1545 as it went to confront the Spanish Armada. After retiring, Bax founded a divers training-school named SNAP and it was the volunteers that he trained to dive that conducted the nautical archaeology on the Mary Rose. Over 2,000 divers were trained, and his archaeological program became a template for nautical archaeological programs all over the world.

### RECENT RESEARCH

#### "RISK GENES" IN NORTHERN EUROPE



Recent research in biological anthropology has focused on extracting DNA from teeth and bones from human burials. A recent study by an international team led by Professor Eske Willerslev at the University of Cambridge and Copenhagen and Professor Rasmus Nielsen at the University of California, Berkeley have delved into questions of the distribution of genetic related diseases and why are people in Northern Europe taller than those in Southern Europe. Additionally, it examined how migrations from the Russian, Ukrainian, and Kazakhstan regions about 5,000

years ago introduced ‘risk genes’ into the populations of Northwestern Europe that produced higher rates of MS and Alzheimer’s disease. It appears that the MS gene was advantageous to farmers at that time as it protected them from catching infectious diseases from their sheep and cattle. They hope that their future research will reveal more about the genetic markers on ADHD, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression. See *Elevated Genetic Risk for Multiple Sclerosis Originated in Steppe Pastoralist Populations*, Nature 2024, at <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06618-z>.

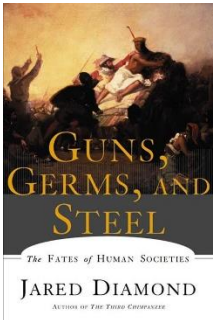
### **HISTORIC SITES IN COLLIER COUNTY**



Many of us in SWFAS are interested in both the archaeology (prehistory) and the history of southwest Florida. Collier County has a long listing of historic sites that the Collier County Historic Preservation Board has put together to make it easy for you to locate and visit. Make it a day trip to visit one or two sites and learn about our local history. Some of them have been written up in the SWFAS Newsletter. We encourage you to read about them and then visit so you have a greater understanding of the site and its historical or archaeological significance. They can be found at:

<https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/government/growth-management/divisions/planning-and-zoning-division/public-hearings-and-hearing-boards/historic-archaeological-preservation-board/historic-sites-of-collier-county>.

### **JARED DIAMOND: GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL**



In 1997 Jared Diamond published *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, which put forth many thought-provoking ideas and insights into cultural evolution that equated cultural ‘luck’ with geographical and ecological ‘luck’ to explain the dominance of European societies in the world. One of his hypotheses was his east-west axis of orientation to explain the spread of agriculture and technology versus a north-south geographical orientation. This hypothesis was recently tested. See below.

### **SWFAS DUES REMINDER 2024**

SWFAS dues for 2024 are due, and your support of archaeology, history, preservation, and education in Southwest Florida is critical. Our sole source of income is your dues and your gifts. SWFAS is a 501(c)(3) registered Florida non-profit organization. Your dues support our presentations and newsletters. Thanks to everyone that has already renewed their 2024 tax deductible membership. If you haven’t done so, we have two ways, you can renew online electronically with a credit card at <https://swflarchaeology.org/>, go to Donate; or send a check to: Charlie Strader SWFAS Treasurer, 27655 Kent Road Bonita Springs, FL 34135. Thank you.

### **POTHUNTERS ARRESTED IN HERNANDO COUNTY**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announced the arrest of Zane Golas and Amanda Hahn for digging in the Lizzie Hart Sink, an archaeological site located in the Withlacoochee State Forest. They were caught with 224 artifacts that they illegally dug up and had cut palm fronds (another violation) and stuck them in the ground to hide what they were doing. Officers arrested them on February 15, 2024, charged them, and they were taken to the county jail and the artifacts were seized as evidence. Source: FWC news release.

## 2024 SWFAS NEWSLETTER AND SPEAKER SCHEDULE

MAY 2024

Newsletter  
FAS Annual Meeting - Hosted by the Pensacola Archaeological Society  
and FPAN

JUNE-AUGUST 2024

No Newsletters/Presentations/Summer Sabbatical

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2024 Newsletters

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

**Sarah Ayres Rigby**, FPAN Archaeologist  
Topic TBA

DECEMBER

TBA Field Trip

### APRIL PRESENTATION by Theresa Schober *GIVING BACK - A REPATRIATION STORY*



The April Presentation at the Collier County Museum by Theresa Schober was an excellent explanation of the 1990 NAGPRA law regarding the treatment and repatriation of Native American ancestral burials and religious/ceremonial artifacts in museums. She explained what the law meant, its effects on the museum displays, and how some institutions tried to circumvent the law. Recent revisions to the law added a completion date of January 10, 2029 and civil and criminal penalties for noncompliance. Theresa provided several examples of repatriation including all cultural belongings housed at the Nisga'a Nation's museum in British Columbia, Canada, which also recently accepted the return of a totem pole from

Scotland that was well-publicized in international news. She advocates the involvement of Native Americans in museum displays as they can add actual context of their meaning and relationship to the artifacts.

## ARTICLES

### ***WHAT ROLE DID THE CARIBBEAN PLAY IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR?***

By: *Kedon Willis*

September 10, 2023

From History at <https://www.history.com/news/american-revolution-caribbean>



The American Revolution (1775-1783), which pitted the powerful British empire against 13 upstart colonies, wasn't just fought on the North American continent. The "shot heard round the world" in Concord, Massachusetts, also fired the political ambitions of other European colonial empires, drawing them into the struggle. Many of those ambitions played out in the Caribbean islands—which, far from floating offstage from the American conflict, served as an integral theater of the Revolutionary War.

Ever since Columbus arrived in the Caribbean in 1492, the cluster of islands south of America's eastern coast had attracted European colonizers—Spanish, British, French and Dutch—eager to cultivate the valuable commodity of cane sugar. In 1776, Britain had several colonies in the Caribbean: Jamaica, Barbados, the Leeward Islands, Grenada and Tobago, St. Vincent and Dominica. The war offered Europe's global powers the opportunity to potentially redraw their colonial maps by scooping up prized Caribbean territories, while knocking the British empire down a peg or two. The region also gave them a base from which to covertly influence the direction of the revolution, with the French and Dutch supplying money, artillery and gunpowder to the Americans by way of their Caribbean territories.

American rebels themselves also conducted war from the Caribbean. Colonial spies flitted from island to island, spreading propaganda and stoking disputes between Britain and its European enemies. By sea, American privateers wreaked havoc on British supply ships, diverting the empire's military fleet away from the mainland. In fact, these sugar-producing islands became so economically and strategically important that, according to University of Virginia historian Andrew O'Shaughnessy, author of *An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean*, the British considered withdrawing from the North American conflict altogether to shore up the defenses of its island territories.

#### *The Caribbean Becomes A Nest for Illicit Trade and Espionage*

Early on, the French Caribbean territories of Martinique and Saint-Domingue (present-day Haiti) became crucial to the American war effort. Because Britain banned imports of artillery and powder to the colonies in 1774, the Continental Army was desperate for money and supplies during the war's first year. The colonies' only working gunpowder mill could barely sustain the rebels' firepower needs. In May 1776, sensing an opportunity to profit, French Foreign Minister Charles Gravier, comte de Vergenne, authorized the covert financing and supplying of American rebels with arms, money and even clothing. Prior to France's official entrance into the war in 1778, it funneled these goods to American ports via merchant ships from Saint-Domingue and Martinique. It's estimated the French provided 1.3 billion livres in credit and goods to American rebels.

Martinique also became a base of operations for American spies. One of the most famous, Philadelphia native William Bingham, worked there to cement friendly relations with the French, procure aid (often drawing on French credit arranged for by Benjamin Franklin) and support privateering activity against British ships. The Continental Congress had commissioned more than 2,000 of these freelance ship owners to divert British naval resources away from the mainland. Their strategy: target precious cargo-bearing ships from Britain's island territories, causing them to need the British fleet's protection. Thanks to Bingham, harbors in Martinique provided shelter for the booty acquired through privateering activity. And Bingham's friendly ties with the French governor garnered valuable French maritime protection of goods and arms being ferried to American ports. The tiny Dutch island of St. Eustatius, which measures only about 12 square miles, also played an outsized role in keeping the American militia armed. Though officially neutral in the conflict, the Dutch saw in the American Revolution an irresistible opportunity to fatten its coffers. In the early 1770s, roughly 2,000 American ships sailed to St. Eustatius annually to trade for sugar. In 1779, however, more than 3,500 American ships, many commissioned on behalf of the rebel government's Committee of Secret Correspondence, made the journey to the tiny spit of land for stores of ammunition, arms and gunpowder cannily diverted from routes to Africa because of British blockades on European ports.

The illicit gunpowder trade not only amassed enormous profits for Dutch merchants—"in excess of 120 percent," according to historian Victor Enthoven. Its success at helping keep the American infantry supplied with weapons caused the famous British admiral George Rodney to lament that tiny St. Eustatius "had done England more harm than all the arms of her most potent enemies and alone supported the infamous American rebellion." After finally intercepting evidence on the illicit trade in 1780, the British officially declared war on the Dutch Republic that year, eventually seizing St. Eustatius.

### *The Caribbean Becomes a Naval Battleground*

The French viewed the American war as an opportunity to regain some of its trade and maritime stature diminished by its stinging losses to the British during the Seven Years' War (1756-1763). When France officially entered the American Revolution in 1778, it put greater strategic importance on consolidating its Caribbean holdings and picking off British territories than on engaging in conflict on the North American mainland, according to James Pritchard, former professor of history at Queens University, Ontario, in his article "French Strategy and the American Revolution: A Reappraisal." And the French weren't alone. In 1779, they lassoed Spain into the war by promising to support Spanish designs on valuable British territories such as Jamaica.

Having to defend its Caribbean possessions dealt a heavy blow to Britain's plan to concentrate its forces on blockading the North American coast and countering the American insurgency. In December 1778, for instance, the British government siphoned 5,000 troops from New York to help capture the island of St. Lucia, a necessary venture for monitoring enemy activity in that crucial Caribbean rim.

Despite that win, the French, led by admirals such as Charles D'Estaing and François Joseph Paul, comte de Grasse, racked up a string of successes against the British navy. The French menaced British territories like St. Kitts and Barbados and ended up conquering islands such as Dominica (1778), St. Vincent (1799), Grenada (1799) and Tobago (1781).

### *The French Enable Victory at Yorktown*

After the siege on Tobago, with the British playing defense and the added benefit of Spanish forces protecting French territories, Admiral de Grasse sailed unimpeded to find safe harbor in Saint-Domingue. From there, with a fresh injection of 3,000 troops and more than 1.2 million livres in additional funding from Cuban merchants, De Grasse set sail from Saint-Domingue north to the Chesapeake Bay on August 5.

A month later, de Grasse's victory at Chesapeake Bay blocked delivery of British troop reinforcements desperately needed by Lord Charles Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, Virginia. The result: the outmanned Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington on October 17, ending the last major conflict in the war, and securing American independence.

From the outbreak of hostilities in 1775 to the final battles in 1783, the Caribbean became the crucial funnel through which European powers pushed funds and ammunition to American insurgents while jockeying for supremacy. The battling European colonial interests in the so-called New World meant that the economic, political and even cultural fates of mainland and island territories were deeply intertwined. Indeed, America's struggle for independence would reverberate and catch fire in multiple territories, igniting the political careers of revolutionaries such as Toussaint Louverture (Haiti) and Francisco de Miranda (Venezuela), and sparking debates on the true measure of democracy that smolders in world politics to this day.

## ***DIGGING UP THE PAST AT MARGOOD***

*By: Natalie Strom*

*April, 06, 2012*

*From Coastal Breeze News at [https://www.coastalbreezenews.com/news/digging-up-the-past-at-margood/article\\_c5684424-a6a0-5f13-bbe1-fb18aad5e933.html](https://www.coastalbreezenews.com/news/digging-up-the-past-at-margood/article_c5684424-a6a0-5f13-bbe1-fb18aad5e933.html)*



A recent archaeological dig at MarGood Park in Goodland salvaged more than 1,000 pieces of ancient artifacts. The dig, which took place only a week prior to the official opening of the park, went by rather unnoticed for four days. A group of four archaeologists and archaeological technicians chose a very small section of the park for a very specific reason. This is not the first dig that has taken place at MarGood Park (also known as Goodland Point), let alone, Southwest Florida. According to research by the Archaeological and

Historical Conservancy, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Davie, Florida, Southwest Florida has been a focus of archaeological investigations since the 1880's. Many of these digs took place to find "museum type" artifacts, such as the "Key Marco Cat." This 6-inch tall, wooden carving with features of both man and cat was found during an 1895 dig by Frank Hamilton Cushing on Key Marco. The "Key Marco Cat" is now a part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

Believed to be a finding from the Calusa Indian tribe who once inhabited areas of Florida, archaeologists say it is not that cut and dry. As Matt Fenno, archaeological technician for The Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, explains, "we don't refer to the Calusa specifically because we don't really know when or where (the Calusas) lived." With only artifacts to refer to in regards to how the ancient Native Americans of Southwest Florida lived, it has become more appropriate to consider any findings in the area as belonging to "Calusa ancestors." There are some consistencies in findings, however, that do give archaeologists room to make some definitives. "I think there's more of a consensus in our eyes that we are closer to what the truth is in terms of how these prehistoric populations were living," explains Robert Carr, Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. Carr, who recently co-authored "Images of America: The Everglades" with Timothy A. Harrington, has been digging in, and researching, the Ten Thousand Islands since the 1970's. Along with archaeologist, John Beriault, the two have been researching Southwest Florida's ancient times longer than any other archaeologist in the history of the complex island chain.

One area of investigation that has become clearer is the spatial location of shell mounds, or large deposits of shells of edible mollusks. According to a 2006 archaeological assessment of MarGood prepared by the Archeological and Historical Conservancy, "it is noted both as an archaeological and ecological fact that the placement or spatial patterning of both large and small prehistoric sites in the Ten Thousand Island does not appear random. The largest sites are evenly spaced from north to south down the coast at three to five mile intervals. They are situated at nearly the same distance away from the open Gulf of Mexico." Each shell mound is now considered to be an area of settlement for these "Calusa ancestors." "There were larger settlements and smaller settlements. (MarGood) was definitely one of the larger ones," adds Carr. This gives credit to the thought that the larger shell mounds, such as Goodland Point, may have been gathering areas. "There's definitely a diversity and a large quantity of materials suggesting that people would be gathering there at different times of the year."

Through their 2006 research, Carr, Beriault and John Crump noted that there was a "midden" located 200 feet to the west of the Community Center Building at MarGood Park. "The definition of a midden is an area of deposition of what most of us today would call garbage. This is the materials that are simply refuse from subsistence; from meals or normal day to day activities. This deposition of materials, particularly when it's concentrated in one area will create a very rich, organic loamy-type soil. It is created as a result of the composition of garbage. A lot of it was fish, shell fish and other natural things that decompose and actually enrich the soil," continues Carr. "The reason it's significant is because it does preserve so much of what the daily life of these indigenous people represented. It gives scientists and scholars an incredible insight into exactly what they were eating and their technology."

This is why the archaeologists zeroed in on a three-foot by three-foot plot located within the MarGood midden. Digging only seven feet down, John Beriault, Matt Fenno, Wes White and Scott Faulkner were able to find some remarkable remains. While their findings are still being washed, sorted, counted and analyzed, the archaeologists have somewhat of an idea as to the dating of the pieces. "Generally, in the 'law of sequencing' the things at the bottom are older than the things on the top. Sometimes that's not true because there's been a disturbance that reversed the sequence. But in most cases, and we think in this case, the shell and artifacts on the bottom are older than those on the top," adds Carr. "The so-called 'midden' here probably dates from around 1200 AD." Within the rich soil, Beriault, Fenno, White and Faulkner found what appears to be the skeletal vertebrae of a shark, myriad fish bones and pieces of broken pottery and shells that were probably used as tools. While it may forever remain a mystery, speculation as to how the "Calusa ancestors" lived involves

subsisting on large amounts of fish, shell fish, and other marine animals such as dolphins and sea turtles. Flat shells found with holes are believed to have been used to anchor nets used for fishing. Larger shells show evidence of being used as tools such as chisels or hammers. Intricate details on pottery shards as well as the apparent design of the shell mounds leaves indication of intelligence and organization.

What was found in the midden at MarGood will eventually be finalized in a report given by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. These reports lend further proof to the ideas stated above, yet the truth remains that the truth may never really be known.

### ***SCIENTISTS PUT JARED DIAMOND'S CONTINENTAL AXIS HYPOTHESIS TO THE TEST — HERE'S WHAT THEY FOUND***

*Chira, et al., Journal of Evolutionary Human Sciences*

From MSN.com at <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/scientists-put-jared-diamond-s-continental-axis-hypothesis-to-the-test-here-s-what-they-found/ar-BB1iUiXr#>



In a groundbreaking study examining one of the most influential theories of cultural evolution and geographic determinism, a team of ecologists and cultural evolutionists from the United States, Germany, and New Zealand has undertaken an extensive examination of Jared Diamond's hypothesis on the axis of orientation. The findings have been published in the journal *Evolutionary Human Sciences*. Their research, drawing upon a vast array of cultural, environmental, and

linguistic databases, challenges the notion that Eurasia's geographic layout inherently facilitated a quicker spread of critical innovations compared to other regions of the world, such as the Americas and Africa.

Jared Diamond, in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, proposed that the differing fates of societies across the globe could largely be attributed to geographical luck. According to Diamond, the east-west axis of Eurasia provided a unique advantage for the spread of agriculture, technology, and innovations due to its relatively uniform climates and day lengths over vast distances. This contrasted sharply with the predominantly north-south orientation of the Americas and Africa, where varying climates and ecological zones posed significant barriers to the spread of crops and domesticated animals. Diamond argued that these geographical and ecological factors played a crucial role in shaping the disparate rates of societal development and eventual dominance of Eurasian civilizations. "I read *Guns, Germs, and Steel* and I was really impressed by its scope," said first author Angela M. Chira, a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck for Evolutionary Anthropology, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution. "Having a background in macroevolution (i.e., working with big questions), I realized I could devise a quantitative test for Diamond's observations and intuitions. Biogeographic big claims about human history are always impressive and attract a lot of attention, but it is important that we also follow up with big data analyses where that is possible."

To test Diamond's hypothesis, the researchers utilized a vast array of data from cultural, environmental, and linguistic databases. The methodology centered around analyzing the relationship between environmental factors — specifically temperature, aridity, and topography — and the transmission of cultural traits among 1,094 traditional societies. This approach allowed the team to assess the ease or difficulty of cultural transmission across different environmental landscapes. "Our first challenge was to translate what Diamond envisioned into numbers," Chira explained. "We used least-cost path algorithms to find the paths that minimized differences in temperature and aridity regimes between societies. The length and cost of these paths give us the magnitude of ecological barriers to cultural transmission between two societies, precisely as Diamond envisioned them."

In line with Diamond's hypothesis, the researchers found that environmental barriers do indeed impact the likelihood of cultural traits being shared between societies. For example, traits related to subsistence strategies, housing types, and social organization showed significant correlations with environmental and travel barriers,

indicating that the ease of cultural transmission for these aspects is closely tied to ecological factors. However, the researchers discovered that these environmental barriers do not consistently favor Eurasia over other continents. This finding directly challenges Diamond's assertion that Eurasia's geographic orientation provided a unique advantage in the spread of agricultural and other critical innovations. Instead, the study indicates that the facilitation of cultural spread by geographical and ecological conditions is a global phenomenon, with no clear bias towards Eurasia. This suggests that while environmental factors do play a role in shaping the transmission of culture, they do not do so in a way that inherently advantages any one continent's societies over another's. "Big claims are important, but they are often the start of the conversation, and not its conclusion," Chira told PsyPost. "Our analyses support the hypothesis that yes, environment likely influences how cultural innovations spread, just like Diamond intuited. However, we did not find evidence that the continents' dominant axis uniformly dictates the potential for cultural spread."

The study underscores the complexity of cultural transmission, revealing that the spread of innovations is influenced by a myriad of factors beyond environmental and geographic barriers. The findings suggest that factors such as the movement of peoples, direct and indirect cultural exchanges, and perhaps even historical contingencies, play significant roles in shaping the distribution of cultural traits. Co-author Russell Gray from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology summarized the results by saying, "Our findings point out that geography, like genetics and ecology, matters, but it is not destiny."

Looking forward, the study opens up new avenues for research, emphasizing the importance of integrating diverse factors—ranging from ecological to social and historical—in understanding the mechanisms of cultural spread. By challenging the axis of orientation hypothesis, the research invites a reevaluation of how we conceptualize the forces shaping human societies, suggesting that geography is but one of many factors influencing the trajectory of human development. "Our study offers one quantitative realization of Diamond's arguments and not a definitive answer," Chira explained. "I hope it invites people to think harder and deeper on certain matters. The questions Diamond is asking are after all very broad in scope, and need to be decomposed in many smaller and manageable hypotheses. I hope to see others follow-up. I see this study as falling under the general umbrella of work that leverages big open-source datasets to shed light on big questions regarding our history."

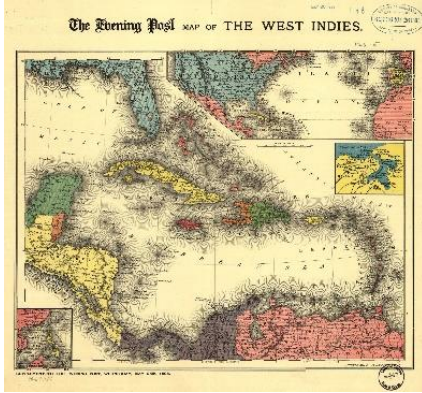
Similarly, senior author of the study, Carlos Botero from the University of Texas at Austin, concluded: "We do not claim, by any means, to have a definitive answer on whether the wheels of history turned at different speeds in different parts of the world. What we aim instead is to provide a new perspective based on quantitative data and thorough analyses, and a blueprint on how the tools and data we already have can be leveraged to test compelling ideas that have strongly shaped the public's understanding of our own past."

The study, "Geography is not destiny: A quantitative test of Diamond's axis of orientation hypothesis," was authored by Angela M. Chira, Russell D. Gray, and Carlos A. Botero.



## **FRANCE IN THE NEW WORLD PART VIII: THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS**

By John F. Furey



### *Introduction*

In addition to colonies and attempted colonies in North and South America, France was very active in claiming and settling many Caribbean islands, and several are still a part of the French Overseas Department. Its first and largest island colony with slaves in the Caribbean was St. Domingue/ Haiti, that was founded in 1627 on the island of Hispaniola and was lost to the slave uprising revolution of 1791-1804. This was the first successful slave revolution and had widespread repercussions in the rest of the New World and the French economy. France colonized and lost several islands to independence but retained a relationship with them. Other islands remain today under French political control and constitute the majority of the entities in the French Overseas Department.

The events in Europe were the catalyst that saw the invasions of many of the islands and their occupations only to be reversed by a treaty at the end of the war. The islands listed below demonstrate this back-and-forth occupation between France and Britain where Britain had the largest navy in the world. Frances' loss of its navy at the Battle of the Nile and finally at the Battle of Trafalgar, sealed it's nautical fate. Both Britain and France recognized the economic importance of the islands for sugar, cotton, and other natural resources unique to certain islands as well as their importance as military bases to control their harbors and fight piracy. All of these islands experienced great turmoil and repeated invasions only to be repatriated by treaties signed in Europe. A listing of the islands and their invasions and subsequent reversals by treaties at the end of this paper demonstrates the rivalry between Britain and France during these turbulent times in the Caribbean.

### *ISLANDS LOST BY THE FRENCH*

#### *Saint Kitts and Nevis*

Discovered in 1493 by Christopher Columbus, he named them San Jorge and San Martin but did not establish a colony on the island. Sir Francis Drake visited the island of St. Kitts in 1585, and like Columbus, no colony was established. In 1620 Ralph Merrifield and Sir Thomas Warner received a British Royal Patent to colonize the island. When they arrived in February 1624, there were three Frenchmen, possibly Huguenots, living on the island alongside the natives in their section. French Captain Pierre Belain d'Esnambuc had established the French colony on the other side of the island and split the island into quarters with the British in the center of the island with two-quarters, and the French with one-quarter on each end of the island. These two colonies were the first European colonies in the Caribbean and are considered the mother colonies for the expansion in the Caribbean for both countries. In 1626 both the British and French joined forces to massacre the native Kalingos.

In 1629 the Spanish invaded the island trying to reassert their original Christopher Columbus claim to the islands and deported both the British and French settlers back to their respective countries. One year later they allowed some to return. In the 1670 Treaty of Madrid, Spain recognized the British claim to the islands but it was not until 1713 that France renounced its claim to these islands. Until the late 1800's Nevis had been the richer of the two but then St. Kitts began to eclipse Nevis economically. The American revolution of 1776 kept the British navy busy and, using this diversion, France took the islands again but in the 1783 Treaty of Paris ceded them back to Britain. Since then both islands have remained firmly British. The islands were granted full autonomy in 1967 and on 19 September 1983 achieved full independence, with the islands voting to remain within the British Commonwealth.

#### *Dominica*

Dominica is located between French Guadeloupe and Marie-Galante and north of Martinique. Originally settled in 1632 by French colonists but, under the 1748 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, France and Britain agreed to treat

the island as neutral. The treaty ended the War of the Austrian Succession. The island was captured by Britain in 1759 and France officially ceded it to Britain in 1763. French troops from Martinique invaded and captured the island in 1778 but in 1783 Britain recaptured the island. France attempted to again capture the island in 1805 but were forced to withdraw. Dominica became independent and self-governing in 1967.

### *Grenada*

Located northwest of Trinidad and Tobago, northeast of Venezuela, and southwest of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada was first sighted and named by the Spanish but they never attempted to colonize the island due to the fierce resistance by the Carib Indians. In 1498 the French established a colony they called La Grenade and fought and conquered the Caribs. For 114 years the French colony thrived but, again due to losses in its European wars, was forced to cede the island to Britain under the Treaty of Paris in 1763. From 1779-1783 France achieved a takeover of the island but the British forced them to withdraw. In 1974 Grenada became independent.

### *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*

Located southeast of the Windward Islands in the Lesser Antilles, St. Vincent and the Grenadines both had a Carib population that became known as the 'Black Caribs' who opposed colonization. In 1719 the French established the town of Barrouvillie on the leeward side of the island. The island had been sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1493. During the 7 Years War Britain took the island and in 1763, it was ceded to Britain under the Treaty of Paris. During the Anglo-French War of 1778-1783, St. Vincent was recaptured by the French only to be ceded to Britain under the Treaty of Paris in 1783. St. Vincent and the Grenadines achieved independence in 1969.

### *Saint Lucia*

St. Lucia is the second largest island in the Windward group of the Lesser Antilles. Located 24 miles (39 km) south of Martinique and 21 miles (34 km) northeast of Saint Vincent. It was discovered around 1500 but not colonized for over 100 years. The first attempt was by the British in 1605 and again in 1638 but hostile Carib Indians kept them at bay. In 1650 the French colonized the island and in 1660 made a treaty with the Caribs. Four years later in 1664 the British invaded and took the island but it was restored to France under the Treaty of Breda (Holland) in 1667. The island was declared neutral in 1722 and, under the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle returned to France in 1763. The 1803 Treaty of Paris saw the island ceded back to Britain and in 1979 St. Lucia gained its independence.

### *Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)*

Located southeast of Mayaguana in the Bahamas and north of Hispaniola, it consists of 8 main islands and 22 smaller ones. The islands were first sighted in 1512 by Spanish slavers who captured the Taino and Lucayan Indians to work their plantations on Hispaniola. By about 1513 the islands had been depopulated by slavers. Britain claimed the island chain but during the Anglo-French War, France occupied the islands from 1778-1783 but returned them to Britain under the 1783 Treaty of Paris. After the Confederate loss of the American Civil War, many southern slaveowners fled to the TCI with their slaves despite slavery being illegal. Several slave ships wrecked on the TCI coast and the slaves were freed and both the slaves and the ships crews were parceled out across the island as apprentices to provide work and increase the population. In 1959 the TCI was made a separate colony and, later, a British Overseas Territory (BOT) in 2002. Today they remain a BOT.

### *Montserrat*

First sighted in 1493 by Christopher Columbus and named for the abbey of Montserrat in Spain. The island is located 27 miles (43 km) southwest of Antigua and 30 miles (50 km) northwest of Guadeloupe. It was first settled by Irish Catholics from the island of St. Kitts in 1632 and claimed by Britain. French forces invaded the island several times: in 1666 and again in 1667 and the island was returned to Britain under the Treaty of Breda. France again invaded the island in 1712 but was again forced to return it to Britain under the treaty of Versailles in 1783. Today Montserrat is a British Overseas Territory and the population wishes to remain close to Britain.

## *CURRENT FRENCH ISLAND TERRITORIES*

### *Guadeloupe*

Guadeloupe is a large group of islands, islets, and rocks located in the Leeward islands in the northern part of the Lesser Antilles, to the north is Antigua and Barbuda, to the south is Montserrat and Dominica. The main island in the chain is Guadeloupe with Basse-Terre as the name of the lower western part of the main island and Grand-Terre is the northeastern peninsula. In 1493 Christopher Columbus discovered these islands and named them after a shrine in Guadalupe, Extremadura, Spain. The island was called “Karakera” by the Arawak’s meaning Island of Beautiful Waters. While discovered by Spain, all attempts at major colonization were beaten back by the Arawak’s.

In 1626, the French took over the island and expelled the few remaining Spanish inhabitants and in 1635 formally took possession of the archipelago for France by the Compagnie des Iles de Amerique. The company was going bankrupt and in 1640 the island was sold to Charles du Petit Pre who started the plantation system and introduced slaves in 1650. The islands were assumed by the French West India Company in 1656, and as the Seven Years War (1756-1763) began, the British captured the islands. Guadeloupe was returned to France at the Treaty of Paris. These islands were so profitable to France that they gave away their Canadian colonies to Britain at the treaty to keep these islands.

The French Revolution of 1789-1794 created so much chaos that Britain reinvaded and took the islands. Immediately at the end of the Revolution, France sent an army to take back the islands from the British because they were so profitable. With the population of slaves increasing and their conditions so dismal, the slaves staged an unsuccessful rebellion in 1802 encouraged by the revolution in Haiti. Britain coveted the islands so much that in 1810 they reinvaded and captured the islands again. At the Treaty of Stockholm in 1813 the islands were given to Sweden and at the 1815 Treaty of Vienna they reverted back to France for good. The Guadeloupe Island Archipelago is a member of the French Overseas Department. In addition to the major islands listed below, Guadeloupe consists of an additional six named islands: Ile a Cabrit, Grande-Ilet, Le Pate, La Coche, La Redonde, and Les Rochas Percees.

### *Iles de Saintes*

These islands, the Islands of the Saints, were first spotted by Christopher Columbus in 1493 and he named them for All Saints Day. Iles de Saintes consists of two islands, Terre-de-Haut Island (upper) and Terre-de Bas Island (lower). Located 6 miles (10 km) south of Guadeloupe, they were settled by French colonists in 1648 and experienced several skirmishes with British soldiers on the island. A major ship battle between Admiral Rodney for Britain and Admiral de Grasse for France in 1782, led to a 30-year occupation by British troops. The island was returned to France by the 1815 Treaty of Paris. Iles de Saintes is today an Overseas Department of France.

### *Marie-Galante*

The island was spotted by Christopher Columbus on his 1493 voyage and was the second island he encountered on that trip. He even anchored his ships there and named the island after his ship (Galant Marie). In 1648 Jacques de Boisseret claimed the island for himself and for France and colonization was attempted in 1649 and 1653 but all were massacred by the Carib Indians. In 1654 he signed a peace treaty with the Carib Indians that allowed colonization. In 1664 Madam de Boisseret gave up her rights to the island. A Dutch fleet attacked the island in 1676 and either killed or enslaved the entire population and plundered the island. The island was not repopulated for 20 years until 1696. The British captured the island in 1759 and held it until the Treaty of Amiens restored the island to France. Again in 1808 the Royal Navy took the island to prevent privateers from using the harbor. The island reverted back to France in 1815 Treaty of Paris and Marie-Galante remains a part of the Overseas Department of France to this day.

### *La Desirade*

Located at the eastern end of the Guadeloupean archipelago in the Lesser Antilles, it is about 5 miles (8 km) off the coast of Grand-Terre in the French West Indies. It was the first island sighted by Christopher Columbus on his

1493 voyage. Columbus landed and claimed it for Spain. It later became under the dependency of the French island of Dominica and French cotton farmers established themselves in 1568 and the island was known as a hideout for pirates that preyed on Spanish ships. Today La Desirade is a part of the French Overseas Department.

*Saint Martin /Saint Maarten and St. Barthelemy/ St. Barts*

Located in the Lesser Antilles they are the most northerly islands in the Lesser Antilles and 190 miles (300 km) east of Puerto Rico. Christopher Columbus discovered the islands in November 1493. The Dutch had used the island to get salt for many years beginning in 1620 and had to fight the Carib Indians. In 1633 the French were at war with the Dutch and invaded and took the island leaving many Dutch settlers in place. In 1633 both the French and Dutch agreed on 23 March 1633 to divide the island 60% French and 40% Dutch at the Treaty of Concordia. Eight miles (12.9 km) off the coast of St. Martin/St. Maarten is the small island of Saint Barthelemy or better known as St. Barts. This island is aligned with the French half of St. Martin and both are in the Collective of the Republic of France.

*Saint-Pierre and Miquelon*

There remain two islands off the coast of Newfoundland that are little known and often overlooked as being still owned by France. Most assume that France lost everything in the northern hemisphere when it lost Canada and the Maritime Provinces. The islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon lie 25 km off the coast and had been settled by Basques, Normans, and Bretons early in the 17th century to fish for cod. A little known and noticed provision in the 1814 Treaty of Paris allocated these islands to France for cod fishing and they must not be militarized. The islands became a collective of France in 1985 because of new rules in the European Union and are the only French islands in the western hemisphere not in the Caribbean.

*ISLAND HISTORIES*

The listing below documents the Caribbean Islands and their history of turnover by invasion and loss by various treaties that settled European wars. The list features all of the islands that France originally possessed and their loss and a listing of those islands that France ended up with. Note that all of the islands that France lost went to Britain by invasion or by treaty.

**FRANCE IN THE NEW WORLD**

**ISLAND HISTORIES**

ISLAND NAME	ORIG. Country Settled	DATE	HISTORY	CEDED TO
<b>LOST ISLANDS</b>				
St. Kitts & Nevis	Spain	Unk.	Originally Claimed	Spain
	France	1624	Originally Settled	France
		1670	Treaty of Madrid-Spanish claim	Britain
	France	1783	Treaty of Paris 1	Britain
Dominica	France	1632	Settled by French	France
		1748	Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle Island is Neutral	Both
		1759	British invade	Britain
		1763	French capture island	France
		1783	Britain captures island	Britain
Grenada	France	1498	Settled by French	France
		1763	Treaty of Paris 1- ceded to Britain	Britain
		1779	Invaded by French	France
		1783	Invaded by Britain	Britain
St. Vincent	France	1719	Colonized by France	France
		1763	Invaded by Britain	Britain
		1783	Treaty of Paris 1- ceded to Britain	Britain
St. Lucia	Britain	1605/1638	Colonies attempte-failed	Britain
	France	1650	Colonized Island- made peace with Caribs	France
		1660	Made peace with Caribs	
		1664	Invaded by Britain	Britain
		1667	Treaty of Breda- to France	France
		1722	Treaty of Aix-la-Chappel -to Britain	Britain
		1803	Treaty of Paris 2- ceded to Britain	Britain
Turks and Caicos	Spain	1512	Spanish slavers depopulated the islands	Spain
	France	1778	Occupied by French	France
		1783	Treaty of Paris 1- ceded to Britain	Britain
Montserrat	Britain	1632	Settled by Irish Catholics from St. Kitts	Britain
		1666	Invaded by French	France
		1667	reinvaded by French	France
		1667	Treaty of Breda- to Britain	Britain
		1712	Invaded by French	France
		1783	Treaty of Versailles- ceded to Britain	Britain
<b>CURRENT ISLANDS</b>				
Guadeloupe	Spain	Unk.	Spain colonized island	Spain
	France	1726	French colonized island- expelled Spanish	France
		1756	British invade island	Britain
		1763	Treaty of Paris- ceded to France	France
		1789	Invaded by Britain	Britain
		1794	Invaded by French	France
		1810	Invaded by Britain	Britain
		1813	Treaty of Stockholm- ceded to Sweden	Sweden
		1815	Treaty of Vienna- ceded to France	France
Iles de Saintes	France	1648	Settled by French	France
		1782	Invaded by British	Britain
		1815	Treaty of Paris 2- ceded to France	France
Marie-Galante	France	1649	Colony attempted and failed	France
		1653	Colony successful	France
		1654	Peace treaty with Caribs	France
		1676	Dutch raid depopulates the island	
		1696	French repopulate island	France
		1759	British invade island	Britain
		1802	Treaty of Amiens- ceded to France	France
		1808	British invade island	Britain
	1845	Treaty of Paris 2- ceded to France	France	
La Desiderade	Spain	1493	Claimed by Columbus not settled	Spain
	France	1468	Colonized by French	France
St. Martin/St. Barts	Dutch	1620	Dutch use te island to make salt	Dutch
	France	1633	France invades the island	French
		1633	Both agree to divide the island	Both

## **SWFAS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR**

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**President:** John Furey  
**Treasurer:** Charlie Strader  
**Secretary:** Susan Harrington  
**Editor:** John Furey  
**Craighead Lab Director:**  
Susan Harrington

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Theresa Schober (Chapter Rep.)  
Mary Southall  
**Second of 3-year term:**  
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**Third of 3-year term:**  
Amanda Townsend

*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](http://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) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:

Individual (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Individual (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_ Life (\$500) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Support SWFAS Speakers and Programs \_\_\_\_\_

Skills, training, interests: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to SWFAS and mail to:

Charlie Strader  
SWFAS Treasurer  
27655 Kent Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

REV. 12052017

# FAS Membership Categories

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](http://fasweb.org). *Membership is for one year.* SELECT LEVEL BELOW.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student*	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45		

\*Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment. \*\*Add \$25 for foreign addresses.

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**Please choose how you wish to receive the quarterly journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*.**

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dot Moore/FAS Student Grant Fund      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Florida Archaeology Month Account

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**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Florida Anthropological Society.

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Signature

Date

**Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:**

**Florida Anthropological Society, P O Box 1561 Boynton Beach, FL 33425**

*You can join online or pay Membership dues renewals via PayPal on our website [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org).*

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