

'We died at such a place!'

The Interaction of Battlefield Archaeology and Forensic Science

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Battlefield archaeology has begun to emerge as a recognized discipline within the field of anthropology. Battlefield archaeologists use the methods of archaeology to interpret human behavior on battlefields. Excavated human remains and material culture artifacts (remains of weapons and uniforms) may reveal where fighting took place, where tactical units were deployed and how the soldiers in those units behaved (Did they fight or did they run?). The activities of battlefield archaeologists have been popularized in a number of books and in television shows such as 'Battlefield Detectives' and 'Two Men in a Trench.'

Forensic science can contribute to battlefield archaeology in a number of ways. Forensic pathologists and forensic anthropologists can interpret injuries such as bullet wounds or blunt and sharp force trauma to the skeleton; firearms examiners can analyze firearms-related artifacts such as bullets and cartridges. Archaeologists Douglas Scott and Richard Fox have used firing pin impressions on expended cartridges recovered from the Little Big Horn battlefield to reconstruct Custer's Last Stand. Scott has used firearms examination techniques to study other Indian war battles such as Cienegilla, Sand Creek

and Embrio Canyon. Prof. Rowe is engaged in a similar project involving firearms-related artifacts excavated on the site of the so-called Fetterman Massacre. In 1866 Capt. William Fetterman and his command of eighty men were ambushed and killed by Sioux and Cheyenne warriors a few miles north of Kearney, Wyoming. A large number of fired bullets and expended cartridges have been recovered from the site of the battle.

Prof. Rowe will discuss his work on these artifacts and explain how examination of such artifacts can shed light on the Fetterman battle.

**2 - 4 pm, Saturday
November 12, 2005**

Montgomery County Library
Bethesda Branch
7400 Arlington Road
Bethesda, Maryland
(A short walk from the Bethesda Metro station)



National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

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Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

NOVEMBER 2005

NCAS Board Notes

- On Oct. 18 we held a working meeting on short notice due to board member travel
- We settled on a design for the new NCAS web site, with:
 - Prominent Home Page space for timely NCAS articles with archives
 - Improved access to existing NCAS information and publications
 - Additional links to useful external resources
 - Uniform page and menu style throughout
 - Rehosting from *UMD.edu* to a more capable but affordable service
- The *Skeptical Eye* newsletter is finished and will be mailed out soon
- Planning for the cable TV program project is still preliminary.
- We agreed to sponsor an annual tribute to recently deceased NCAS co-founder Phil Klass. Planning will begin early next year.
- Members will be asked which days of the month are best for attending NCAS lectures and what issues concern them most (as lectures or agendas for NCAS)
- We are looking for members who can help post NCAS general and monthly program announcements in local libraries and on cable TV public bulletins, *etc.*
- We decided to purchase a video projector for use by NCAS speakers, *etc.*
- NCAS speakers will receive gratuities: a book certificate, 1-year subscription to the *Skeptical Eye*, and indefinite subscription to the electronic

Shadow of a Doubt.

- We are looking at alternative venues for the monthly lectures. Suggestions welcome.
- We welcome your comments and help anytime by email to ncas@ncas.org or at 301-587-3817 ☒

Next NCAS Board Meeting

There will be an NCAS board meeting right after the program on Saturday Nov. 12 at 4 pm. All members are invited to attend.

Take Time off from *Free Energy* and other advances that can't be measured to bask in real advances made in the real world using sound scientific principles

Sir Harold Evans will discuss his new book, *They Made America: Two Centuries of Innovators from the Steam Engine to the Search Engine*, at the Library of Congress at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the Pickford Theater on the third floor of the James Madison Building, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington, D.C.

Evans, an internationally recognized journalist and historian, will sign books after his lecture. The event, which is sponsored by the Library's Science, Technology & Business Division, is free and open to the public.

They Made America describes the lives and significance of more than 50 American innovators and inventors, from Robert Fulton, who created steamboat transportation, to Gary Kildall, the true founder of the PC (personal computer) revolution and the father of PC software. Recently, the book was adapted as a four-part PBS television miniseries. ☒



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