

# Jason Colavito: The Mound Builder Myth



[HEROparanormal.com](http://HEROparanormal.com)

1  
00:00:41,690 --> 00:00:29,360

[Music]

2  
00:00:42,500 --> 00:00:41,700

hello to all you heroes out there this

3  
00:00:44,690 --> 00:00:42,510

is Ryan

4  
00:00:46,900 --> 00:00:44,700

the original outlaw of the airwaves

5  
00:00:50,240 --> 00:00:46,910

bringing you another episode of hero

6  
00:00:53,959 --> 00:00:50,250

paranormal podcast with all that is

7  
00:00:56,299 --> 00:00:53,969

going on with virus frenzy coronavirus

8  
00:00:57,860 --> 00:00:56,309

kovat 19 whatever you want to call it

9  
00:01:00,549 --> 00:00:57,870

it's another plague another drama

10  
00:01:03,850 --> 00:01:00,559

another issue in the human experience

11  
00:01:06,980 --> 00:01:03,860

this is very trying for all of us and

12  
00:01:10,160 --> 00:01:06,990

you all have to remember that you are

13  
00:01:13,820 --> 00:01:10,170

the heroes in the story the story being

14

00:01:15,649 --> 00:01:13,830

this life that we're living and I'm very

15

00:01:17,179 --> 00:01:15,659

excited to talk about history too

16

00:01:19,490 --> 00:01:17,189

because this these types of things

17

00:01:23,179 --> 00:01:19,500

happen over and over again we know that

18

00:01:25,630 --> 00:01:23,189

we've dealt with other issues and we're

19

00:01:28,550 --> 00:01:25,640

gonna delve into a little bit of

20

00:01:32,870 --> 00:01:28,560

American history United States history

21

00:01:34,850 --> 00:01:32,880

and how it has been woven into the

22

00:01:38,330 --> 00:01:34,860

fabric of our school system and other

23

00:01:42,590 --> 00:01:38,340

things and how some believe things that

24

00:01:45,560 --> 00:01:42,600

just well probably aren't true and I'm

25

00:01:49,520 --> 00:01:45,570

extremely excited for our guest today he

26

00:01:52,389 --> 00:01:49,530

is a writer an editor he's currently

27

00:01:55,219 --> 00:01:52,399

working on a number of exciting projects

28

00:01:59,359 --> 00:01:55,229

among other things you may know him from

29

00:02:02,480 --> 00:01:59,369

Jason Colavito comm he also manages the

30

00:02:05,810 --> 00:02:02,490

website the lost civilizations dot-com

31

00:02:08,059 --> 00:02:05,820

he is an author editor and skeptical

32

00:02:11,589 --> 00:02:08,069

xeno archaeologist specializing in the

33

00:02:13,559 --> 00:02:11,599

intersection of horror fiction and

34

00:02:16,770 --> 00:02:13,569

science fiction

35

00:02:18,750 --> 00:02:16,780

and also pseudoscience he's an author of

36

00:02:21,869 --> 00:02:18,760

several books including the cult of

37

00:02:26,280 --> 00:02:21,879

alien gods and jason and the argonauts

38

00:02:28,860 --> 00:02:26,290

through the ages he is well very

39  
00:02:30,959 --> 00:02:28,870  
knowledgeable about many many things and

40  
00:02:33,300 --> 00:02:30,969  
I've wanted to talk to him for a very

41  
00:02:36,360 --> 00:02:33,310  
long time so this is a real treat for me

42  
00:02:41,809 --> 00:02:36,370  
we are going to attack an issue that

43  
00:02:45,539 --> 00:02:41,819  
really gets to the core of those who can

44  
00:02:47,220 --> 00:02:45,549  
well sway the masses into believing

45  
00:02:49,649 --> 00:02:47,230  
things they want them to believe now

46  
00:02:51,750 --> 00:02:49,659  
this is not current events however it

47  
00:02:53,729 --> 00:02:51,760  
does have some issues with current

48  
00:02:56,759 --> 00:02:53,739  
events because not much has changed as

49  
00:02:59,839 --> 00:02:56,769  
far as the governed and the governing

50  
00:03:04,289 --> 00:02:59,849  
the governing body is able to insert

51  
00:03:07,349 --> 00:03:04,299  
myth into reality and therefore create a

52  
00:03:10,140 --> 00:03:07,359  
history which truly isn't real we've all

53  
00:03:13,110 --> 00:03:10,150  
heard about fake news and how the media

54  
00:03:16,020 --> 00:03:13,120  
can literally create a crisis out of

55  
00:03:20,369 --> 00:03:16,030  
nothing they can create history out of

56  
00:03:23,939 --> 00:03:20,379  
nothing and basically sway the mindset

57  
00:03:25,619 --> 00:03:23,949  
of the governed or you and I anyway this

58  
00:03:27,809 --> 00:03:25,629  
is going to be a great podcast I just

59  
00:03:30,240 --> 00:03:27,819  
know it Jason Colavito is knowledgeable

60  
00:03:33,270 --> 00:03:30,250  
in this aspect more than just about

61  
00:03:35,999 --> 00:03:33,280  
anyone I know his book is truly amazing

62  
00:03:38,309 --> 00:03:36,009  
it's a work that has to be read what

63  
00:03:41,759 --> 00:03:38,319

we're going to delve into is the mound

64

00:03:43,469 --> 00:03:41,769

builders and the mound builder myth it's

65

00:03:46,140 --> 00:03:43,479

a book I highly recommend you can go to

66

00:03:49,679 --> 00:03:46,150

Amazon and find it just look up Jason

67

00:03:53,789 --> 00:03:49,689

Colavito the mound builder myth history

68

00:03:55,530 --> 00:03:53,799

and the hunt for a lost white race I'm

69

00:03:58,319 --> 00:03:55,540

gonna read a little bit about what we're

70

00:04:01,170 --> 00:03:58,329

going to get into let's say this is

71

00:04:03,990 --> 00:04:01,180

about the book and let's say you found

72

00:04:07,080 --> 00:04:04,000

that a few dozen people operating at the

73

00:04:09,449 --> 00:04:07,090

highest levels of society conspired to

74

00:04:11,159 --> 00:04:09,459

create a false ancient history of the

75

00:04:14,219 --> 00:04:11,169

American continent to promote a

76

00:04:17,039 --> 00:04:14,229

religious white supremacist agenda in

77

00:04:20,009 --> 00:04:17,049

the service of supposedly patriotic

78

00:04:22,560 --> 00:04:20,019

ideals would you call it fake news in

79

00:04:27,360 --> 00:04:22,570

nineteenth-century America this was in

80

00:04:29,790 --> 00:04:27,370

fact our filtration the mound bill

81

00:04:32,730 --> 00:04:29,800

myth is the first book to chronicle the

82

00:04:35,310 --> 00:04:32,740

attempt to recast the Native American

83

00:04:38,450 --> 00:04:35,320

burial mounds as the work of a lost

84

00:04:40,560 --> 00:04:38,460

white race of true Native Americans

85

00:04:42,689 --> 00:04:40,570

Thomas Jefferson's pioneering

86

00:04:44,879 --> 00:04:42,699

archaeology concluded that the earthen

87

00:04:48,360 --> 00:04:44,889

mounds were the work of Native Americans

88

00:04:51,570 --> 00:04:48,370

in the 1894 report of the Bureau of

89

00:04:53,640 --> 00:04:51,580

American ethnology Cyrus Thomas

90

00:04:55,770 --> 00:04:53,650

concurrent drawing on two decades of

91

00:04:58,469 --> 00:04:55,780

research but in the century in between

92

00:05:00,990 --> 00:04:58,479

the light took hold with presidents

93

00:05:03,420 --> 00:05:01,000

Andrew Jackson William Henry Harrison

94

00:05:05,700 --> 00:05:03,430

and Abraham Lincoln adding their

95

00:05:08,250 --> 00:05:05,710

approval and the Mormon Church among

96

00:05:10,950 --> 00:05:08,260

those benefiting Jason Colavito traces

97

00:05:13,140 --> 00:05:10,960

this monumental deception from the

98

00:05:15,540 --> 00:05:13,150

farthest reaches of the frontier to the

99

00:05:18,960 --> 00:05:15,550

halls of Congress mapping a century long

100

00:05:22,560 --> 00:05:18,970

conspiracy to fabricate and promote a

101  
00:05:24,330 --> 00:05:22,570  
false ancient history and enumerated its

102  
00:05:26,909 --> 00:05:24,340  
devastating consequences for the

103  
00:05:28,860 --> 00:05:26,919  
contemporary Native people built upon

104  
00:05:30,779 --> 00:05:28,870  
primary sources and first-person

105  
00:05:32,700 --> 00:05:30,789  
accounts the story that the mound

106  
00:05:35,279 --> 00:05:32,710  
builder myth tells is a forgotten

107  
00:05:36,779 --> 00:05:35,289  
chapter of American history but one that

108  
00:05:40,080 --> 00:05:36,789  
reads like The Da Vinci Code

109  
00:05:43,230 --> 00:05:40,090  
as it plays out at the upper reaches of

110  
00:05:45,690 --> 00:05:43,240  
government religion and science and as

111  
00:05:48,270 --> 00:05:45,700  
far-fetched as it now might seem that I

112  
00:05:52,050 --> 00:05:48,280  
lost white race once ruled prehistoric

113  
00:05:54,270 --> 00:05:52,060

America the damage done by this ancient

114

00:05:56,930 --> 00:05:54,280

myth has clear echoes in today's

115

00:05:59,520 --> 00:05:56,940

arguments over white nationalism

116

00:06:01,589 --> 00:05:59,530

multiculturalism alternative facts and

117

00:06:04,700 --> 00:06:01,599

the role of science and the control of

118

00:06:07,890 --> 00:06:04,710

knowledge in public life and with that

119

00:06:11,719 --> 00:06:07,900

Jason Colavito welcome to the hero

120

00:06:15,659 --> 00:06:11,729

paranormal podcast it's great to be here

121

00:06:20,610 --> 00:06:15,669

I'm super excited to talk about these

122

00:06:22,860 --> 00:06:20,620

mounds and how the very few elite it

123

00:06:26,490 --> 00:06:22,870

seems like in the past had an agenda

124

00:06:28,379 --> 00:06:26,500

with what the average American thought

125

00:06:31,890 --> 00:06:28,389

about these mounds and-and-and what

126  
00:06:34,620 --> 00:06:31,900  
started you on this journey Jason well

127  
00:06:36,839 --> 00:06:34,630  
I've been interested in strange ideas

128  
00:06:38,040 --> 00:06:36,849  
about history for a very long time

129  
00:06:39,959 --> 00:06:38,050  
I've written several books on the

130  
00:06:43,919 --> 00:06:39,969  
subject and have written a blog about it

131  
00:06:46,369 --> 00:06:43,929  
for more than 10 years now but the

132  
00:06:48,510 --> 00:06:46,379  
mountain Builder myth in particular was

133  
00:06:53,129 --> 00:06:48,520  
specifically interesting to me because

134  
00:06:53,969 --> 00:06:53,139  
it was a story of odd history and

135  
00:06:56,879 --> 00:06:53,979  
strange idea that was happening

136  
00:06:59,760 --> 00:06:56,889  
practically in my own backyard I grew up

137  
00:07:01,379 --> 00:06:59,770  
in a small town in upstate New York

138  
00:07:04,409 --> 00:07:01,389

and in the center of town was one of

139

00:07:07,260 --> 00:07:04,419

these mountains that had a legend about

140

00:07:08,999 --> 00:07:07,270

an old Indian and a curse and all of

141

00:07:11,759 --> 00:07:09,009

that sort of thing and it was the same

142

00:07:14,850 --> 00:07:11,769

area of upstate New York where the

143

00:07:17,939 --> 00:07:14,860

Mormons originated and where they first

144

00:07:20,189 --> 00:07:17,949

told the story about the mountain that

145

00:07:22,469 --> 00:07:20,199

they believed held the remains of the

146

00:07:26,759 --> 00:07:22,479

lost races that had populated the United

147

00:07:29,639 --> 00:07:26,769

States before the time of Christ so an

148

00:07:31,439 --> 00:07:29,649

after I suppose the timeline is

149

00:07:35,100 --> 00:07:31,449

stretches into the Middle Ages I guess

150

00:07:38,579 --> 00:07:35,110

but it was a story that I've always been

151  
00:07:40,469 --> 00:07:38,589  
aware of and it's always been around me

152  
00:07:43,230 --> 00:07:40,479  
for my whole life and I wanted to

153  
00:07:45,119 --> 00:07:43,240  
explore it in detail and take a deeper

154  
00:07:47,219 --> 00:07:45,129  
look at where those ideas came from how

155  
00:07:49,829 --> 00:07:47,229  
they developed and the consequences that

156  
00:07:52,649 --> 00:07:49,839  
they had for the people who lived in

157  
00:07:54,829 --> 00:07:52,659  
that era of the 19th century when the

158  
00:07:57,119 --> 00:07:54,839  
mound builder myth was at its height

159  
00:07:59,699 --> 00:07:57,129  
today we you know kind of see the

160  
00:08:00,779 --> 00:07:59,709  
mountain builder myth as a weird thing

161  
00:08:03,329 --> 00:08:00,789  
to happen in the past

162  
00:08:04,889 --> 00:08:03,339  
but despite the fact that there are

163  
00:08:07,290 --> 00:08:04,899

still people who believe very strongly

164

00:08:09,949 --> 00:08:07,300

in the idea that the mounds were built

165

00:08:13,790 --> 00:08:09,959

by some kind of lost race of giants or

166

00:08:18,359 --> 00:08:13,800

Europeans or something like that

167

00:08:20,100 --> 00:08:18,369

the real devastating consequences of

168

00:08:21,149 --> 00:08:20,110

that story took place in the 19th

169

00:08:23,730 --> 00:08:21,159

century when the United States

170

00:08:25,980 --> 00:08:23,740

government - actually endorsed some of

171

00:08:29,549 --> 00:08:25,990

those ideas and use them as a

172

00:08:31,199 --> 00:08:29,559

justification for acts of cultural and

173

00:08:32,850 --> 00:08:31,209

even physical genocide against Native

174

00:08:37,589 --> 00:08:32,860

Americans Wow

175

00:08:39,990 --> 00:08:37,599

that is wild and you speak about the

176

00:08:42,749 --> 00:08:40,000

consequences that it had for the people

177

00:08:44,460 --> 00:08:42,759

of the time Jason what what type of it

178

00:08:46,319 --> 00:08:44,470

was it mostly the Native Americans that

179

00:08:50,370 --> 00:08:46,329

felt those consequences or whether other

180

00:08:50,770 --> 00:08:50,380

consequences as well felt well the start

181

00:08:53,110 --> 00:08:50,780

of the

182

00:08:55,810 --> 00:08:53,120

builder myth is really the story of how

183

00:08:59,680 --> 00:08:55,820

the United States tried to create an

184

00:09:03,340 --> 00:08:59,690

imaginary past for itself to rival the

185

00:09:05,860 --> 00:09:03,350

ancient history of Europe and in the

186

00:09:08,470 --> 00:09:05,870

18th and 19th centuries white Americans

187

00:09:10,540 --> 00:09:08,480

were the ruling class at the United

188

00:09:12,820 --> 00:09:10,550

States but there was a profound sense

189

00:09:15,550 --> 00:09:12,830

that because the United States was such

190

00:09:18,630 --> 00:09:15,560

a young country that he didn't have the

191

00:09:21,880 --> 00:09:18,640

roots the connection to the land that

192

00:09:24,730 --> 00:09:21,890

the Europeans had in Europe when the

193

00:09:29,230 --> 00:09:24,740

Europeans could speak of the Roman

194

00:09:32,410 --> 00:09:29,240

Empire and of the Germanic hordes and

195

00:09:35,260 --> 00:09:32,420

all of the great peoples of the past the

196

00:09:37,630 --> 00:09:35,270

United States wanted to separate itself

197

00:09:39,190 --> 00:09:37,640

from that European heritage but also to

198

00:09:42,430 --> 00:09:39,200

have that kind of deep connection to

199

00:09:44,800 --> 00:09:42,440

what happens before so white Americans

200

00:09:46,900 --> 00:09:44,810

sort of created this myth that there had

201  
00:09:48,520 --> 00:09:46,910  
been a white race that inhabited the

202  
00:09:51,820 --> 00:09:48,530  
United States before the Native

203  
00:09:54,280 --> 00:09:51,830  
Americans came and therefore white

204  
00:09:56,829 --> 00:09:54,290  
Americans were simply restoring the

205  
00:09:59,350 --> 00:09:56,839  
United States to his previous ancient

206  
00:10:00,460 --> 00:09:59,360  
greatness and one of the consequences

207  
00:10:05,050 --> 00:10:00,470  
for that

208  
00:10:07,060 --> 00:10:05,060  
was to use that idea to justify removing

209  
00:10:09,850 --> 00:10:07,070  
Native Americans from territories that

210  
00:10:11,410 --> 00:10:09,860  
were occupied by white Americans this

211  
00:10:13,930 --> 00:10:11,420  
ultimately resulted in the Trail of

212  
00:10:16,660 --> 00:10:13,940  
Tears now it's not the thing that

213  
00:10:18,010 --> 00:10:16,670

specifically caused this what Americans

214

00:10:21,400 --> 00:10:18,020

wanted to get rid of the Native

215

00:10:24,820 --> 00:10:21,410

Americans anyway but this kind of bad

216

00:10:28,210 --> 00:10:24,830

history that historiography and frankly

217

00:10:30,340 --> 00:10:28,220

racist ideology helped to push those

218

00:10:32,829 --> 00:10:30,350

ideas along and helped to amplify and

219

00:10:35,800 --> 00:10:32,839

justify those actions by appealing to an

220

00:10:38,950 --> 00:10:35,810

imaginary past that never was I see I

221

00:10:40,870 --> 00:10:38,960

see the motivation and I can see how you

222

00:10:44,680 --> 00:10:40,880

know this land isn't theirs it's really

223

00:10:47,650 --> 00:10:44,690

ours would echo in the minds of settlers

224

00:10:50,620 --> 00:10:47,660

in you you mentioned that this this word

225

00:10:54,070 --> 00:10:50,630

got back to Europe and I guess my

226

00:10:57,700 --> 00:10:54,080

question is it's amazing how easily this

227

00:10:59,800 --> 00:10:57,710

was done and how it took root in our

228

00:11:02,570 --> 00:10:59,810

history and people started to believe it

229

00:11:05,329 --> 00:11:02,580

and people actually still do believe it

230

00:11:09,139 --> 00:11:05,339

how did this happen with such ease well

231

00:11:11,960 --> 00:11:09,149

it's not that it was an easy process if

232

00:11:15,050 --> 00:11:11,970

you go back to the late 18th century in

233

00:11:17,480 --> 00:11:15,060

the 1780s you have people like Thomas

234

00:11:19,850 --> 00:11:17,490

Jefferson who actively investigated

235

00:11:21,530 --> 00:11:19,860

mountains and correctly concluded that

236

00:11:23,840 --> 00:11:21,540

they were the work of Native Americans

237

00:11:26,690 --> 00:11:23,850

and in fact right up until around that

238

00:11:29,449 --> 00:11:26,700

time that was the widespread and

239

00:11:30,769 --> 00:11:29,459

accurate belief people knew and

240

00:11:33,519 --> 00:11:30,779

understood where the mountains came

241

00:11:36,019 --> 00:11:33,529

problem how they had been built and

242

00:11:38,660 --> 00:11:36,029

educated people around the world at I

243

00:11:42,319 --> 00:11:38,670

had no problem attributing them to

244

00:11:44,720 --> 00:11:42,329

Native Americans it was really the

245

00:11:47,660 --> 00:11:44,730

motivation sort of motivated reasoning

246

00:11:50,180 --> 00:11:47,670

led from the highest parts of the United

247

00:11:53,840 --> 00:11:50,190

States government and from elite

248

00:11:55,699 --> 00:11:53,850

academic institutions you see it in the

249

00:11:59,600 --> 00:11:55,709

works of several presidents Andrew

250

00:12:01,069 --> 00:11:59,610

Jackson among them and Harrison you see

251

00:12:04,400 --> 00:12:01,079

it also coming from the Smithsonian

252

00:12:09,250 --> 00:12:04,410

Institution it's that sort of elite

253

00:12:12,110 --> 00:12:09,260

acceptance of the fake idea and the

254

00:12:15,530 --> 00:12:12,120

gradual accumulation of arguments in

255

00:12:18,829 --> 00:12:15,540

favor of white mound builders or giant

256

00:12:21,380 --> 00:12:18,839

mound builders or they also attributed

257

00:12:24,230 --> 00:12:21,390

them to toll tax Vikings all sorts of

258

00:12:27,620 --> 00:12:24,240

other people but it's this motivated

259

00:12:30,170 --> 00:12:27,630

reasoning that when we proposed this

260

00:12:33,350 --> 00:12:30,180

idea then it has good consequences for

261

00:12:35,210 --> 00:12:33,360

us so let's accept it let you see it's a

262

00:12:36,920 --> 00:12:35,220

gradual process that begins to snowball

263

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:36,930

and eventually it reaches a critical

264

00:12:44,720 --> 00:12:41,010

mass so while at first it was just a

265

00:12:47,750 --> 00:12:44,730

couple of important people advocating

266

00:12:50,630 --> 00:12:47,760

for this idea more and more of them

267

00:12:52,840 --> 00:12:50,640

begin to accept it as 1790s turn into

268

00:12:55,819 --> 00:12:52,850

the 1800s in the 1810s

269

00:12:58,670 --> 00:12:55,829

until finally it reaches a point where

270

00:13:01,430 --> 00:12:58,680

not accepting it puts you in the

271

00:13:04,340 --> 00:13:01,440

minority and at that point it's sort of

272

00:13:07,100 --> 00:13:04,350

spirals and becomes a self-fulfilling

273

00:13:09,410 --> 00:13:07,110

prophecy that people believed because

274

00:13:10,790 --> 00:13:09,420

other people were believing and if you

275

00:13:12,410 --> 00:13:10,800

found evidence that went against that

276

00:13:14,120 --> 00:13:12,420

well you didn't want to tell anybody

277

00:13:15,310 --> 00:13:14,130

because it would start to jeopardize

278

00:13:18,340 --> 00:13:15,320

your position

279

00:13:19,629 --> 00:13:18,350

in elite society because if you were

280

00:13:20,829 --> 00:13:19,639

saying well Native Americans built the

281

00:13:22,569 --> 00:13:20,839

mountains well who are you are you

282

00:13:24,400 --> 00:13:22,579

against white people use some kind of

283

00:13:26,740 --> 00:13:24,410

person who's in favor of Native

284

00:13:30,129 --> 00:13:26,750

Americans and nobody wanted that back

285

00:13:31,990 --> 00:13:30,139

then so what you see is there that

286

00:13:34,569 --> 00:13:32,000

social pressure develops to believe in

287

00:13:37,809 --> 00:13:34,579

an idea that only a few decades earlier

288

00:13:40,180 --> 00:13:37,819

everyone knew wasn't true and that kind

289

00:13:42,910 --> 00:13:40,190

of elite social pressure coming from the

290

00:13:45,910 --> 00:13:42,920

very top levels of academia from

291

00:13:50,620 --> 00:13:45,920

governments from society trickles down

292

00:13:53,350 --> 00:13:50,630

and reinforces the the notion that the

293

00:13:57,069 --> 00:13:53,360

mound builders are somehow different

294

00:14:00,189 --> 00:13:57,079

other not Native American in order to

295

00:14:03,069 --> 00:14:00,199

justify the political and social

296

00:14:05,829 --> 00:14:03,079

policies that were advocating against

297

00:14:09,069 --> 00:14:05,839

Native American interests it is

298

00:14:11,699 --> 00:14:09,079

absolutely fascinating Jason there there

299

00:14:14,110 --> 00:14:11,709

is a mention that this not only

300

00:14:16,780 --> 00:14:14,120

benefited but may have included the

301  
00:14:22,079 --> 00:14:16,790  
Mormon Church at the time how did that

302  
00:14:27,040 --> 00:14:22,089  
take place well the early history of

303  
00:14:29,139 --> 00:14:27,050  
Mormonism is of course somewhat disputed

304  
00:14:32,280 --> 00:14:29,149  
because there's the official version

305  
00:14:36,490 --> 00:14:32,290  
given out by the Latter day Saints and

306  
00:14:40,319 --> 00:14:36,500  
there's also the less credulous version

307  
00:14:43,629 --> 00:14:40,329  
that mainstream historians might prefer

308  
00:14:47,170 --> 00:14:43,639  
if you are a believer you would believe

309  
00:14:50,259 --> 00:14:47,180  
that the story that the Mormons told is

310  
00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:50,269  
that an angel came down and showed

311  
00:14:53,980 --> 00:14:52,010  
Joseph Smith where to find ancient

312  
00:14:57,970 --> 00:14:53,990  
records of the Lost Mountain builders

313  
00:15:01,179 --> 00:14:57,980

and that in so doing learned that they

314

00:15:04,030 --> 00:15:01,189

were the Lost Tribes of Israel who had

315

00:15:09,220 --> 00:15:04,040

colonized the future United States a

316

00:15:11,889 --> 00:15:09,230

long time ago if you are not a believer

317

00:15:17,499 --> 00:15:11,899

and don't subscribe to the angel theory

318

00:15:21,490 --> 00:15:17,509

it is more likely that what you see in

319

00:15:24,220 --> 00:15:21,500

the story of Mormonism is an effort to

320

00:15:27,040 --> 00:15:24,230

reflect the larger trends in society and

321

00:15:28,610 --> 00:15:27,050

create a religion for the United States

322

00:15:30,830 --> 00:15:28,620

based on the

323

00:15:33,500 --> 00:15:30,840

merging new history that was being

324

00:15:36,380 --> 00:15:33,510

created for the ancient land that would

325

00:15:39,740 --> 00:15:36,390

become the United States so in the Book

326

00:15:40,910 --> 00:15:39,750

of Mormon you see references now he

327

00:15:42,950 --> 00:15:40,920

doesn't specifically talk about

328

00:15:47,990 --> 00:15:42,960

mountains in the Book of Mormon but he

329

00:15:50,750 --> 00:15:48,000

refers to the Lost Tribes and to other

330

00:15:53,840 --> 00:15:50,760

elements of the mountain building that

331

00:15:56,240 --> 00:15:53,850

are widespread in the literature of the

332

00:15:57,560 --> 00:15:56,250

era other books that were published in

333

00:16:00,340 --> 00:15:57,570

the years leading up to the Book of

334

00:16:02,810 --> 00:16:00,350

Mormon talk about mountain builders and

335

00:16:04,700 --> 00:16:02,820

their connection to the Lost Tribes of

336

00:16:07,580 --> 00:16:04,710

Israel how the mountains might have been

337

00:16:09,560 --> 00:16:07,590

the work of ancient Jews and so on so

338

00:16:12,320 --> 00:16:09,570

what Joseph Smith does is he takes these

339

00:16:16,640 --> 00:16:12,330

ideas and he recast them in religious

340

00:16:17,960 --> 00:16:16,650

terms not only is the United States the

341

00:16:20,360 --> 00:16:17,970

place where the Lost Tribes of Israel

342

00:16:23,900 --> 00:16:20,370

hung out a claim that went back in the

343

00:16:27,520 --> 00:16:23,910

1600s but the United States is now a

344

00:16:32,990 --> 00:16:27,530

holy land that is sanctified by this

345

00:16:35,420 --> 00:16:33,000

translation of the Valastro to the

346

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:35,430

United States by the arrival of Jesus in

347

00:16:40,580 --> 00:16:38,010

the United States and so on so what you

348

00:16:45,790 --> 00:16:40,590

see is the mound builder myth becoming

349

00:16:49,550 --> 00:16:45,800

part of a foundation to help take and

350

00:16:53,870 --> 00:16:49,560

old-world religious ideas and recast

351

00:16:56,480 --> 00:16:53,880

them in a new world context yeah I

352

00:16:59,990 --> 00:16:56,490

totally see how that could merge and

353

00:17:03,350 --> 00:17:00,000

work very very smoothly in that time

354

00:17:06,970 --> 00:17:03,360

period controversy over how much of

355

00:17:09,880 --> 00:17:06,980

Joseph Smith's Book of Mormon is

356

00:17:13,550 --> 00:17:09,890

original to him and how much has been

357

00:17:16,190 --> 00:17:13,560

shall we say repurposed from earlier

358

00:17:19,390 --> 00:17:16,200

books that were written in the decade or

359

00:17:21,560 --> 00:17:19,400

so leading up to the Book of Mormon and

360

00:17:23,110 --> 00:17:21,570

we don't where we want to get into all

361

00:17:25,970 --> 00:17:23,120

of the details of that because that's

362

00:17:30,070 --> 00:17:25,980

incredibly complicated textual question

363

00:17:32,810 --> 00:17:30,080

and also these people really upset but

364

00:17:34,730 --> 00:17:32,820

there is definitely a similarity and at

365

00:17:38,870 --> 00:17:34,740

the very least you can see that there

366

00:17:40,060 --> 00:17:38,880

was a widespread set of ideas about Lost

367

00:17:43,870 --> 00:17:40,070

Tribes and mound builder

368

00:17:47,710 --> 00:17:43,880

that were present and popular in that

369

00:17:50,350 --> 00:17:47,720

time period yes and there's you know

370

00:17:52,840 --> 00:17:50,360

there was some significance if other

371

00:17:55,240 --> 00:17:52,850

cultures as well I noticed that uh you

372

00:17:58,330 --> 00:17:55,250

know you hear about we Dakota and you

373

00:18:00,520 --> 00:17:58,340

hear in Peru and throughout Central

374

00:18:03,640 --> 00:18:00,530

America their culture has its own

375

00:18:06,310 --> 00:18:03,650

version of a tale and it seems like at

376

00:18:09,100 --> 00:18:06,320

that time period about the cross and the

377

00:18:10,450 --> 00:18:09,110

mound in 1540 that if you could tell our

378

00:18:13,660 --> 00:18:10,460

listeners a little bit about that I

379

00:18:16,870 --> 00:18:13,670

think it's fascinating i beginni of my

380

00:18:20,560 --> 00:18:16,880

book I tell the story of her nun de Soto

381

00:18:23,590 --> 00:18:20,570

and his journey across the southern

382

00:18:27,510 --> 00:18:23,600

United States and the mountains that he

383

00:18:33,610 --> 00:18:27,520

encountered on the way de Soto

384

00:18:35,470 --> 00:18:33,620

ran across a mound and what he did was

385

00:18:39,460 --> 00:18:35,480

he put a cross on top of it and cleaned

386

00:18:43,230 --> 00:18:39,470

it for Christianity and it was a sort of

387

00:18:47,980 --> 00:18:43,240

symbolic of the European effort to claim

388

00:18:50,530 --> 00:18:47,990

mountains in favor of Christianity and

389

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:50,540

European culture it's a process that

390

00:18:54,130 --> 00:18:52,010

would be repeated across the United

391

00:18:56,970 --> 00:18:54,140

States for centuries become where

392

00:19:00,520 --> 00:18:56,980

mountains were repurposed as places for

393

00:19:03,760 --> 00:19:00,530

Europeans as I mentioned at the

394

00:19:05,350 --> 00:19:03,770

beginning of the podcast in my home town

395

00:19:07,690 --> 00:19:05,360

there was a mound in the center of town

396

00:19:11,290 --> 00:19:07,700

and it's located the inside a cemetery

397

00:19:15,370 --> 00:19:11,300

and that's one of the most popular you

398

00:19:18,010 --> 00:19:15,380

reuses for mounds in the early colonial

399

00:19:20,350 --> 00:19:18,020

era because they were believed to be

400

00:19:22,510 --> 00:19:20,360

burial mounds for Native Americans they

401  
00:19:25,120 --> 00:19:22,520  
were repurposed as centerpieces for

402  
00:19:27,730 --> 00:19:25,130  
early cemeteries and Europeans and

403  
00:19:32,010 --> 00:19:27,740  
European Americans would bury their dead

404  
00:19:35,260 --> 00:19:32,020  
in and around it and a way to sort of

405  
00:19:39,550 --> 00:19:35,270  
symbolically claim the territory for

406  
00:19:42,580 --> 00:19:39,560  
themselves so it's really a case of

407  
00:19:44,470 --> 00:19:42,590  
people claiming things that weren't

408  
00:19:46,930 --> 00:19:44,480  
theirs as their own this has happened

409  
00:19:49,710 --> 00:19:46,940  
over and over again there were

410  
00:19:53,230 --> 00:19:49,720  
individuals at the time who were

411  
00:19:53,769 --> 00:19:53,240  
believing in this quite fervently but

412  
00:19:55,570 --> 00:19:53,779  
there are

413  
00:19:57,190 --> 00:19:55,580

still at this time period people who

414

00:20:02,019 --> 00:19:57,200

believe this to this day could we go

415

00:20:05,229 --> 00:20:02,029

into that a little bit sure there is a

416

00:20:07,330 --> 00:20:05,239

concerted effort among a small minority

417

00:20:11,859 --> 00:20:07,340

of people to continue to push Mountain

418

00:20:15,700 --> 00:20:11,869

Builder myth and many of those are what

419

00:20:18,099 --> 00:20:15,710

I would call fringe history types or

420

00:20:21,479 --> 00:20:18,109

pseudo history types other people who

421

00:20:23,709 --> 00:20:21,489

are interested in ancient mysteries

422

00:20:26,560 --> 00:20:23,719

basically if you could see it on the

423

00:20:29,589 --> 00:20:26,570

History Channel it's probably I said

424

00:20:32,079 --> 00:20:29,599

something like that when you see shows

425

00:20:35,459 --> 00:20:32,089

like ancient aliens or search for the

426

00:20:37,959 --> 00:20:35,469

lost Giants or those sorts of on

427

00:20:39,549 --> 00:20:37,969

programs that make really wild and

428

00:20:41,709 --> 00:20:39,559

extreme claims about history they're

429

00:20:44,289 --> 00:20:41,719

reflecting that particular subcultures

430

00:20:45,940 --> 00:20:44,299

believes there are people who continue to

431

00:20:48,129 --> 00:20:45,950

push the mound builder myth even though

432

00:20:50,019 --> 00:20:48,139

the idea that the mounds were built by

433

00:20:53,019 --> 00:20:50,029

giants or Europeans or what-have-you

434

00:20:56,649 --> 00:20:53,029

was almost conclusively debunked in the

435

00:20:59,229 --> 00:20:56,659

1890s now more than a century later we

436

00:21:01,989 --> 00:20:59,239

see that those the older ideas from

437

00:21:06,339 --> 00:21:01,999

before that time keep getting recycled

438

00:21:10,139 --> 00:21:06,349

in somewhat popular books about ancient

439

00:21:16,619 --> 00:21:10,149

mysteries and odd claims for example

440

00:21:20,369 --> 00:21:16,629

there is a Christian blogger podcaster

441

00:21:23,709 --> 00:21:20,379

YouTube star etc named la Marzulli who

442

00:21:26,889 --> 00:21:23,719

promotes an evangelical Christian agenda

443

00:21:29,379 --> 00:21:26,899

and part of that is the search for what

444

00:21:32,499 --> 00:21:29,389

he called the Nephilim who are the

445

00:21:35,019 --> 00:21:32,509

Giants from the book of Genesis and he

446

00:21:37,930 --> 00:21:35,029

uses old ideas from the mountain builder

447

00:21:39,609 --> 00:21:37,940

to claim that the mounds are not the

448

00:21:42,969 --> 00:21:39,619

work of Native Americans but were part

449

00:21:45,070 --> 00:21:42,979

of the Nephilim culture and therefore

450

00:21:50,169 --> 00:21:45,080

the United States is part of this

451

00:21:52,869 --> 00:21:50,179

worldwide Nephilim society that was

452

00:21:55,810 --> 00:21:52,879

wiped out by the Great Flood the idea of

453

00:21:59,200 --> 00:21:55,820

course is to connect the land back to

454

00:22:02,109 --> 00:21:59,210

the Bible and therefore sort of in this

455

00:22:03,579 --> 00:22:02,119

sort of inverted way demonically so to

456

00:22:06,460 --> 00:22:03,589

speak

457

00:22:07,420 --> 00:22:06,470

cast United States as part of the

458

00:22:09,880 --> 00:22:07,430

biblical salvation

459

00:22:11,940 --> 00:22:09,890

history if the Nephilim were here then

460

00:22:14,950 --> 00:22:11,950

the United States must be part of the

461

00:22:16,150 --> 00:22:14,960

great story being told in the Bible even

462

00:22:17,680 --> 00:22:16,160

though it's not you know specifically

463

00:22:19,300 --> 00:22:17,690

mentioned anywhere in the Bible

464

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:19,310

on account of not being known at the

465

00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:24,010

time so that's one area where modern

466

00:22:29,800 --> 00:22:27,200

types are pursuing mountain builders

467

00:22:32,170 --> 00:22:29,810

stories but another area where that

468

00:22:35,590 --> 00:22:32,180

happens or the so called gigant ologists

469

00:22:38,890 --> 00:22:35,600

who are looking for giants somewhere

470

00:22:41,470 --> 00:22:38,900

anywhere in history their motivations

471

00:22:44,020 --> 00:22:41,480

tend to be mixed some of them are

472

00:22:46,720 --> 00:22:44,030

interested in pursuing a Christian

473

00:22:50,050 --> 00:22:46,730

agenda at the Nephilim theorists some of

474

00:22:52,420 --> 00:22:50,060

them are simply looking for unusual and

475

00:22:56,890 --> 00:22:52,430

oddball ideas and more than a few of

476  
00:22:59,920 --> 00:22:56,900  
them pursue Giants out of a distrust of

477  
00:23:02,890 --> 00:22:59,930  
academia and a fear that social elites

478  
00:23:05,500 --> 00:23:02,900  
are trying to impose an agenda that they

479  
00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:05,510  
disagree with so there are a lot of

480  
00:23:10,990 --> 00:23:07,010  
reasons the people are hunting for

481  
00:23:13,180 --> 00:23:11,000  
Giants but many of them decide that

482  
00:23:14,410 --> 00:23:13,190  
because 19th century people believed

483  
00:23:14,980 --> 00:23:14,420  
that the mountains were the work of

484  
00:23:18,040 --> 00:23:14,990  
giants

485  
00:23:20,320 --> 00:23:18,050  
therefore 20th and 21st century elites

486  
00:23:22,390 --> 00:23:20,330  
are hiding that truth and that the

487  
00:23:27,480 --> 00:23:22,400  
Giants story must be true on account of

488  
00:23:30,190 --> 00:23:27,490

it being old so there is a large

489

00:23:33,130 --> 00:23:30,200

contingent of people who especially

490

00:23:36,700 --> 00:23:33,140

online put up YouTube videos and write

491

00:23:39,130 --> 00:23:36,710

blog posts and online articles

492

00:23:41,320 --> 00:23:39,140

advocating for this but when you look

493

00:23:43,990 --> 00:23:41,330

into their research it's almost always

494

00:23:46,420 --> 00:23:44,000

reliant on these old 19th century ideas

495

00:23:51,610 --> 00:23:46,430

that originally grew out of 19th century

496

00:23:54,750 --> 00:23:51,620

racism it is so true that some of these

497

00:23:56,710 --> 00:23:54,760

ideas are still held by really elite

498

00:23:59,890 --> 00:23:56,720

circles and I don't want to go into

499

00:24:02,440 --> 00:23:59,900

names but it seems like some very

500

00:24:06,820 --> 00:24:02,450

powerful individuals still believe a lot

501  
00:24:09,670 --> 00:24:06,830  
of this stuff why is it so pervasive

502  
00:24:11,260 --> 00:24:09,680  
among these higher circles well that

503  
00:24:13,120 --> 00:24:11,270  
depends on what you're defining it the

504  
00:24:15,160 --> 00:24:13,130  
elite if you're talking about people on

505  
00:24:18,340 --> 00:24:15,170  
the History Channel is being elite then

506  
00:24:21,090 --> 00:24:18,350  
I suppose that might be the case but I'm

507  
00:24:24,090 --> 00:24:21,100  
not aware of any actual academic

508  
00:24:28,380 --> 00:24:24,100  
or political elites who believe in mound

509  
00:24:31,640 --> 00:24:28,390  
builder that's today yeah it's more it's

510  
00:24:34,830 --> 00:24:31,650  
more archeological organizations and

511  
00:24:36,180 --> 00:24:34,840  
wealthy members within those that that

512  
00:24:38,940 --> 00:24:36,190  
comes to mind but you're absolutely

513  
00:24:42,710 --> 00:24:38,950

right there's but it seems that in

514

00:24:47,490 --> 00:24:42,720

certain circles these strange ideas are

515

00:24:49,890 --> 00:24:47,500

considered reality there are certainly

516

00:24:55,049 --> 00:24:49,900

some wealthy people who have very odd

517

00:24:56,700 --> 00:24:55,059

ideas and there are individuals who have

518

00:24:59,029 --> 00:24:56,710

put a lot of time and effort and money

519

00:25:01,380 --> 00:24:59,039

into trying to prove them true I

520

00:25:05,539 --> 00:25:01,390

wouldn't say that there is any sort of

521

00:25:08,850 --> 00:25:05,549

elite organization hunting giants but um

522

00:25:11,220 --> 00:25:08,860

and certainly mainstream archeologists

523

00:25:13,350 --> 00:25:11,230

have no interest in pursuing this

524

00:25:17,460 --> 00:25:13,360

particular line on account of it you

525

00:25:18,960 --> 00:25:17,470

know not being true but that hasn't

526

00:25:23,820 --> 00:25:18,970

stopped some of the people who are

527

00:25:26,610 --> 00:25:23,830

behind the books that become bestsellers

528

00:25:29,279 --> 00:25:26,620

and the TV shows that promote these

529

00:25:32,370 --> 00:25:29,289

ideas from embracing some of the other

530

00:25:34,580 --> 00:25:32,380

ideas of history and it's an open

531

00:25:38,430 --> 00:25:34,590

question why anyone would particularly

532

00:25:42,690 --> 00:25:38,440

fall victim to these extreme ideas I

533

00:25:44,310 --> 00:25:42,700

mean it's often they're often

534

00:25:46,230 --> 00:25:44,320

accusations hurled that people who

535

00:25:48,480 --> 00:25:46,240

believe in this must be racist and

536

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:48,490

they're trying to oppose Native

537

00:25:53,039 --> 00:25:51,010

Americans I don't think that it's the

538

00:25:54,930 --> 00:25:53,049

case that most people are explicit who

539

00:25:57,330 --> 00:25:54,940

believe in this are explicitly being

540

00:26:00,480 --> 00:25:57,340

racist so much as the they're not aware

541

00:26:03,210 --> 00:26:00,490

of where the ideas came from or how they

542

00:26:06,450 --> 00:26:03,220

were used in the past or the lack of

543

00:26:09,419 --> 00:26:06,460

actual evidence that supported them at

544

00:26:13,830 --> 00:26:09,429

the time that they were proposed so my

545

00:26:16,669 --> 00:26:13,840

sense is that the racist ideas you see

546

00:26:19,620 --> 00:26:16,679

in it tends to be more structural

547

00:26:22,549 --> 00:26:19,630

because of when and how these ideas were

548

00:26:25,350 --> 00:26:22,559

created they bring with them certain

549

00:26:28,830 --> 00:26:25,360

assumptions and certain consequences

550

00:26:33,210 --> 00:26:28,840

that they're modern advocates don't

551  
00:26:38,970 --> 00:26:36,419  
yes and do you do you think that these

552  
00:26:41,940 --> 00:26:38,980  
beliefs in strange things like the

553  
00:26:43,380 --> 00:26:41,950  
giants like and there's there's a lot of

554  
00:26:47,520 --> 00:26:43,390  
other things that go along with that I

555  
00:26:50,039 --> 00:26:47,530  
know that in Utah where I grew up for a

556  
00:26:52,649 --> 00:26:50,049  
lot of my life the Giants are just kind

557  
00:26:55,230 --> 00:26:52,659  
of a thing that was somewhat accepted as

558  
00:26:58,169 --> 00:26:55,240  
oh it's probably true and that they were

559  
00:27:03,419 --> 00:26:58,179  
in caves in Utah and it's very pervasive

560  
00:27:07,850 --> 00:27:03,429  
it certainly the case that old ideas

561  
00:27:11,430 --> 00:27:07,860  
tend to linger on so ideas that were

562  
00:27:14,789 --> 00:27:11,440  
popular among the elites in the 19th

563  
00:27:17,610 --> 00:27:14,799

century trickle down and become part of

564

00:27:20,010 --> 00:27:17,620

the common folklore and we see this not

565

00:27:23,180 --> 00:27:20,020

just in this particular case but across

566

00:27:27,289 --> 00:27:23,190

the spectrum that's what were

567

00:27:29,850 --> 00:27:27,299

cutting-edge ideas 100 or 150 years ago

568

00:27:33,930 --> 00:27:29,860

sort of trickle down and become folk

569

00:27:36,930 --> 00:27:33,940

magic and folk beliefs later on until

570

00:27:44,640 --> 00:27:36,940

finally they reimburse on the Internet

571

00:27:46,560 --> 00:27:44,650

but what we see is that people don't

572

00:27:48,960 --> 00:27:46,570

always have access to the latest and

573

00:27:54,680 --> 00:27:48,970

best information and there's sort of a

574

00:27:56,779 --> 00:27:54,690

lag time culturally between what is the

575

00:28:00,029 --> 00:27:56,789

cutting-edge research going on in

576

00:28:06,770 --> 00:28:00,039

academia and what we see on the street

577

00:28:10,430 --> 00:28:06,780

so when people talk about strange ideas

578

00:28:14,840 --> 00:28:10,440

they have this sense that they were once

579

00:28:18,510 --> 00:28:14,850

accepted and were once prestigious and

580

00:28:22,140 --> 00:28:18,520

so they sort of continue on when you

581

00:28:24,240 --> 00:28:22,150

read popular books about giants and

582

00:28:26,070 --> 00:28:24,250

mountains and that sort of thing you see

583

00:28:28,500 --> 00:28:26,080

this constant appeal to the authority of

584

00:28:32,430 --> 00:28:28,510

19th century scientists because their

585

00:28:34,080 --> 00:28:32,440

reputation sort of follows down the

586

00:28:37,590 --> 00:28:34,090

centuries and even though their ideas

587

00:28:39,750 --> 00:28:37,600

were wrong there long ago reputation as

588

00:28:42,630 --> 00:28:39,760

the great men of science and as the

589

00:28:45,970 --> 00:28:42,640

serious scholars of the day sort of

590

00:28:49,769 --> 00:28:45,980

gives their old outdated ideas this

591

00:28:52,299 --> 00:28:49,779

sanctity and their this air that um

592

00:28:54,850 --> 00:28:52,309

there's something profound to those

593

00:28:57,220 --> 00:28:54,860

ideas even though they were proven wrong

594

00:28:58,810 --> 00:28:57,230

I wanted to ask you a little bit

595

00:29:02,500 --> 00:28:58,820

different line here I wanted to ask you

596

00:29:05,049 --> 00:29:02,510

about the Jefferson Mound and was it

597

00:29:06,850 --> 00:29:05,059

John Bartram could you tell our

598

00:29:09,060 --> 00:29:06,860

listeners a little bit about that and

599

00:29:12,419 --> 00:29:09,070

the ins and outs of how interesting that

600

00:29:15,810 --> 00:29:12,429

situation arose well Thomas Jefferson

601  
00:29:17,740 --> 00:29:15,820  
there was a mountain that he knew of on

602  
00:29:20,980 --> 00:29:17,750  
the property that would eventually

603  
00:29:22,629 --> 00:29:20,990  
become Monticello and he knew about it

604  
00:29:25,509 --> 00:29:22,639  
from the time that he was a kid

605  
00:29:28,240 --> 00:29:25,519  
and eventually he decided that he would

606  
00:29:31,690 --> 00:29:28,250  
want to dig into the mound and see what

607  
00:29:34,210 --> 00:29:31,700  
was inside so Thomas Jefferson actually

608  
00:29:37,570 --> 00:29:34,220  
invented much of what we would recognize

609  
00:29:39,159 --> 00:29:37,580  
today as archaeology as part of his

610  
00:29:41,710 --> 00:29:39,169  
investigation into the mound

611  
00:29:45,419 --> 00:29:41,720  
he conducted one of the first carefully

612  
00:29:48,669 --> 00:29:45,429  
controlled excavations in world history

613  
00:29:50,769 --> 00:29:48,679

by comparison the Europeans were simply

614

00:29:53,169 --> 00:29:50,779

digging holes and trying to extract as

615

00:29:55,419 --> 00:29:53,179

much treasure as possible and Jefferson

616

00:29:57,250 --> 00:29:55,429

was carefully cutting perfectly straight

617

00:29:59,769 --> 00:29:57,260

lines through the mound a study district

618

00:30:02,740 --> 00:29:59,779

tigris II and removing layers very

619

00:30:07,419 --> 00:30:02,750

carefully to try to evaluate each layer

620

00:30:09,549 --> 00:30:07,429

of construction so Thomas Jefferson set

621

00:30:12,250 --> 00:30:09,559

the template for modern archaeology and

622

00:30:15,519 --> 00:30:12,260

investigating amount and he was the one

623

00:30:19,509 --> 00:30:15,529

who was able to determine for the first

624

00:30:22,720 --> 00:30:19,519

time in scientific detail all of the

625

00:30:25,570 --> 00:30:22,730

evidence that shows why the mound had

626  
00:30:26,710 --> 00:30:25,580  
been built by Native Americans and one

627  
00:30:28,629 --> 00:30:26,720  
of the most interesting things about

628  
00:30:30,930 --> 00:30:28,639  
that is that even though Thomas

629  
00:30:33,340 --> 00:30:30,940  
Jefferson laid all of this out in

630  
00:30:36,370 --> 00:30:33,350  
exquisite detail in his notes on the

631  
00:30:38,500 --> 00:30:36,380  
state of Virginia and even though all

632  
00:30:40,060 --> 00:30:38,510  
that information was widely available it

633  
00:30:44,049 --> 00:30:40,070  
had been reprinted in the Encyclopedia

634  
00:30:47,350 --> 00:30:44,059  
Britannica people didn't want to believe

635  
00:30:52,299 --> 00:30:47,360  
it and so they made up stories about it

636  
00:30:54,240 --> 00:30:52,309  
and it took more than 100 years for

637  
00:30:56,049 --> 00:30:54,250  
people begin excavating mounds

638  
00:30:57,850 --> 00:30:56,059

scientifically again and coming to the

639

00:30:59,980 --> 00:30:57,860

exact same conclusions based on the

640

00:31:02,710 --> 00:30:59,990

exact same results

641

00:31:05,890 --> 00:31:02,720

and that testifies to the power of

642

00:31:10,180 --> 00:31:05,900

belief over evidence and the convenient

643

00:31:11,200 --> 00:31:10,190

lie over the inconvenient truth Wow it's

644

00:31:14,169 --> 00:31:11,210

just mind-blowing

645

00:31:17,110 --> 00:31:14,179

and to ask a question about some of

646

00:31:20,169 --> 00:31:17,120

these upper echelon societies of the

647

00:31:22,510 --> 00:31:20,179

time many of which still exist and the

648

00:31:24,640 --> 00:31:22,520

possibility of basically these ideas

649

00:31:26,560 --> 00:31:24,650

being kind of like a kind of like a

650

00:31:29,830 --> 00:31:26,570

secret society in a way I mean Thomas

651  
00:31:31,590 --> 00:31:29,840  
Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were

652  
00:31:34,990 --> 00:31:31,600  
members of the American Philosophical

653  
00:31:37,900 --> 00:31:35,000  
society and this society continues on to

654  
00:31:40,960 --> 00:31:37,910  
this day there's no conspiracy involved

655  
00:31:44,140 --> 00:31:40,970  
there's no secret society holding mound

656  
00:31:46,870 --> 00:31:44,150  
builder and giant beliefs these ideas

657  
00:31:49,120 --> 00:31:46,880  
weren't secret back then and they are

658  
00:31:51,220 --> 00:31:49,130  
secret now they were widely published in

659  
00:31:54,640 --> 00:31:51,230  
newspapers and magazines and academic

660  
00:31:58,299 --> 00:31:54,650  
journals and books everybody who was

661  
00:32:00,760 --> 00:31:58,309  
anybody in the early 19th century was

662  
00:32:03,220 --> 00:32:00,770  
fully aware of and many were participant

663  
00:32:07,330 --> 00:32:03,230

in the conversation about the mound

664

00:32:09,070 --> 00:32:07,340

builders so it wasn't a secret it was

665

00:32:11,980 --> 00:32:09,080

the very first publication of the

666

00:32:14,950 --> 00:32:11,990

Smithsonian Institution devoted to the

667

00:32:18,460 --> 00:32:14,960

question of who built the mounds amount

668

00:32:20,530 --> 00:32:18,470

exploration the academic journals were

669

00:32:23,320 --> 00:32:20,540

filled with articles about it the

670

00:32:25,150 --> 00:32:23,330

newspapers reported on debates over who

671

00:32:27,790 --> 00:32:25,160

was the real builder of the mounds and

672

00:32:30,330 --> 00:32:27,800

so on and the most popular book in the

673

00:32:36,100 --> 00:32:30,340

United States one of the best-selling

674

00:32:38,650 --> 00:32:36,110

history books of the 1830s was Josiah

675

00:32:41,380 --> 00:32:38,660

priests American antiquities which was

676

00:32:44,220 --> 00:32:41,390

focused largely on the question of which

677

00:32:47,530 --> 00:32:44,230

old world cultures we could ascribe

678

00:32:49,630 --> 00:32:47,540

ancient American wonders to so it wasn't

679

00:32:53,470 --> 00:32:49,640

a secret in any way shape or form it was

680

00:32:57,600 --> 00:32:53,480

the common belief at the time much the

681

00:33:01,840 --> 00:32:57,610

way in the 20th century there were

682

00:33:04,030 --> 00:33:01,850

beliefs we'll imagine say Freudian

683

00:33:05,950 --> 00:33:04,040

psychology which has largely been

684

00:33:07,720 --> 00:33:05,960

replaced but in the 20th century

685

00:33:09,480 --> 00:33:07,730

everybody knew about Freudian

686

00:33:13,650 --> 00:33:09,490

psychoanalysis and

687

00:33:15,840 --> 00:33:13,660

all of the on claims of Sigmund Freud

688

00:33:19,470 --> 00:33:15,850

made that were widely accepted by elites

689

00:33:21,510 --> 00:33:19,480

and laypeople alike and now a half

690

00:33:23,730 --> 00:33:21,520

century after the heyday of Freudian

691

00:33:26,010 --> 00:33:23,740

psychoanalysis we look back and sort of

692

00:33:28,590 --> 00:33:26,020

say well why people really believe that

693

00:33:31,710 --> 00:33:28,600

back then it's kind of the same idea

694

00:33:34,320 --> 00:33:31,720

there was a widespread very popular

695

00:33:36,630 --> 00:33:34,330

belief and it infected society from the

696

00:33:39,480 --> 00:33:36,640

top to the bottom until one day it

697

00:33:41,790 --> 00:33:39,490

didn't I like that that's so true it did

698

00:33:45,090 --> 00:33:41,800

in fact it and that top to the bottom

699

00:33:47,790 --> 00:33:45,100

trickled down these ideas were held true

700

00:33:49,260 --> 00:33:47,800

by lost races of mountain builders or

701

00:33:52,140 --> 00:33:49,270

Giants and that sort of thing

702

00:33:54,330 --> 00:33:52,150

correct and Benjamin Benjamin Franklin

703

00:34:01,140 --> 00:33:54,340

didn't believe it later people thought

704

00:34:03,419 --> 00:34:01,150

he did because a guy forged a document

705

00:34:05,669 --> 00:34:03,429

alleging that Benjamin Franklin had

706

00:34:07,560 --> 00:34:05,679

endorsed the mound builder myth and

707

00:34:09,690 --> 00:34:07,570

thought that a comet had destroyed the

708

00:34:11,700 --> 00:34:09,700

mound builder civilization but that was

709

00:34:13,800 --> 00:34:11,710

all fake people believed this because

710

00:34:15,540 --> 00:34:13,810

they thought the documents were real but

711

00:34:20,609 --> 00:34:15,550

they weren't it was just a plagiarism

712

00:34:24,030 --> 00:34:20,619

that a French expatriate had written in

713

00:34:25,740 --> 00:34:24,040

one of those books okay yeah so it may

714

00:34:27,720 --> 00:34:25,750

have been an issue of history kind of

715

00:34:29,220 --> 00:34:27,730

going back and that makes sense people

716

00:34:31,369 --> 00:34:29,230

trying to change it for their own

717

00:34:33,270 --> 00:34:31,379

benefit and that's you know

718

00:34:36,780 --> 00:34:33,280

fast-forwarding to another you know

719

00:34:38,250 --> 00:34:36,790

somebody who was also a president and a

720

00:34:41,550 --> 00:34:38,260

member of some of the same groups as

721

00:34:45,149 --> 00:34:41,560

Benjamin Franklin who propagated this

722

00:34:48,629 --> 00:34:45,159

was Abraham Lincoln yeah Abraham Lincoln

723

00:34:50,609 --> 00:34:48,639

and one of his notebooks wrote about he

724

00:34:53,849 --> 00:34:50,619

wrote something that somewhat ambiguous

725

00:34:58,560 --> 00:34:53,859

because it's not particularly clear but

726  
00:35:00,330 --> 00:34:58,570  
the most obvious reading of his notes on

727  
00:35:02,849 --> 00:35:00,340  
Niagara Falls is that he was referring

728  
00:35:05,130 --> 00:35:02,859  
to the idea that the American mounds

729  
00:35:07,400 --> 00:35:05,140  
were the repositories of the bones of

730  
00:35:10,740 --> 00:35:07,410  
the lost race of giants the nepheline um

731  
00:35:12,480 --> 00:35:10,750  
I don't think that particular reference

732  
00:35:15,180 --> 00:35:12,490  
is enough to conclude that he was

733  
00:35:17,430 --> 00:35:15,190  
obsessed with giants or believed in the

734  
00:35:20,820 --> 00:35:17,440  
lost race of mound builders per se so

735  
00:35:23,539 --> 00:35:20,830  
much as that he was aware of the broader

736  
00:35:27,720 --> 00:35:23,549  
cultural context that was discussing

737  
00:35:30,210 --> 00:35:27,730  
the ideas at the time and whether

738  
00:35:31,920 --> 00:35:30,220

poetically or not he included that

739

00:35:35,970 --> 00:35:31,930

reference in his discussion of Niagara

740

00:35:37,950 --> 00:35:35,980

Falls and the grandeur that he hopes to

741

00:35:39,779 --> 00:35:37,960

find there but did not he was not

742

00:35:42,180 --> 00:35:39,789

impressed by Niagara Falls and he

743

00:35:45,870 --> 00:35:42,190

thought that things like mountains were

744

00:35:48,359 --> 00:35:45,880

much more interesting it's it's very

745

00:35:50,099 --> 00:35:48,369

interesting that you know the belief I

746

00:35:52,170 --> 00:35:50,109

can see where it comes at a prehistoric

747

00:35:55,319 --> 00:35:52,180

race that built these elaborate

748

00:35:57,569 --> 00:35:55,329

ceremonial rounds we're in Ohio and

749

00:35:59,339 --> 00:35:57,579

Mississippi and I think in the book it

750

00:36:03,450 --> 00:35:59,349

mentions that in Mississippi a kind of

751  
00:36:06,109 --> 00:36:03,460  
reached a grand scale well that was true

752  
00:36:10,910 --> 00:36:06,119  
across the United States at the time it

753  
00:36:15,200 --> 00:36:10,920  
it's not that it was like a panic Hoover

754  
00:36:20,579 --> 00:36:15,210  
true races mound builders it's more

755  
00:36:22,589 --> 00:36:20,589  
along the lines of what people accept is

756  
00:36:25,170 --> 00:36:22,599  
true you have to remember that at the

757  
00:36:27,450 --> 00:36:25,180  
time this is what was being taught in

758  
00:36:29,579 --> 00:36:27,460  
high school textbooks when kids went to

759  
00:36:32,190 --> 00:36:29,589  
school they read that the first

760  
00:36:34,319 --> 00:36:32,200  
Americans were a lost race of mound

761  
00:36:37,470 --> 00:36:34,329  
builders who probably came from Europe

762  
00:36:40,319 --> 00:36:37,480  
were probably white and that they were

763  
00:36:41,819 --> 00:36:40,329

just killed off by angry bloodthirsty

764

00:36:43,920 --> 00:36:41,829

Native Americans who deserve to be

765

00:36:47,609 --> 00:36:43,930

destroyed and that's what they were

766

00:36:51,299 --> 00:36:47,619

talking school so when you talk about

767

00:36:53,819 --> 00:36:51,309

people being mad for the idea that's not

768

00:36:55,170 --> 00:36:53,829

really the case so much as it's what

769

00:36:57,210 --> 00:36:55,180

they believe because that's what their

770

00:36:59,160 --> 00:36:57,220

culture taught them it was in the

771

00:37:00,839 --> 00:36:59,170

textbooks it was in the newspapers it

772

00:37:02,900 --> 00:37:00,849

was in the magazines the president of

773

00:37:05,910 --> 00:37:02,910

the United States Andrew Jackson

774

00:37:07,920 --> 00:37:05,920

referred to it he alluded to it in the

775

00:37:10,710 --> 00:37:07,930

State of the Union address it was just

776

00:37:12,569 --> 00:37:10,720

everywhere and because it was such a

777

00:37:15,569 --> 00:37:12,579

widespread belief promoted at every

778

00:37:18,690 --> 00:37:15,579

level of culture it becomes a pervasive

779

00:37:21,900 --> 00:37:18,700

idea that becomes accepted simply

780

00:37:24,420 --> 00:37:21,910

because if you victus and would you say

781

00:37:26,370 --> 00:37:24,430

that Andrew Jackson as far as presidents

782

00:37:29,609 --> 00:37:26,380

is concerned did the most to try to

783

00:37:34,140 --> 00:37:29,619

spread this in a literal sense

784

00:37:36,720 --> 00:37:34,150

no president Harrison did a lot more in

785

00:37:38,430 --> 00:37:36,730

that he wrote an actual book

786

00:37:41,360 --> 00:37:38,440

a lecture he gave that was published as

787

00:37:45,780 --> 00:37:41,370

a book on the subject and was much more

788

00:37:48,960 --> 00:37:45,790

actively engaged in the question of the

789

00:37:52,770 --> 00:37:48,970

true origins of the mounds but Andrew

790

00:37:54,780 --> 00:37:52,780

Jackson unintentionally did more to

791

00:37:56,910 --> 00:37:54,790

spread it than anyone else because of

792

00:37:58,980 --> 00:37:56,920

his use of those ideas as part of a

793

00:38:03,150 --> 00:37:58,990

justification for the Indian Removal Act

794

00:38:07,320 --> 00:38:03,160

and the Trail of Tears the legislation

795

00:38:09,870 --> 00:38:07,330

and enforcement of the removal of Native

796

00:38:12,540 --> 00:38:09,880

Americans from east of the Mississippi

797

00:38:17,340 --> 00:38:12,550

across to the Indian Territory and will

798

00:38:21,090 --> 00:38:17,350

become Oklahoma and that the arguments

799

00:38:23,460 --> 00:38:21,100

over Indian Removal helped to spread

800

00:38:26,070 --> 00:38:23,470

ideas of mound builder nests more than

801  
00:38:29,580 --> 00:38:26,080  
almost anything else because they had

802  
00:38:33,230 --> 00:38:29,590  
such a political utility much the way

803  
00:38:36,300 --> 00:38:33,240  
today's political controversies spawn

804  
00:38:39,290 --> 00:38:36,310  
rapid developments in fake news back

805  
00:38:44,250 --> 00:38:39,300  
then fake history was how you justified

806  
00:38:45,840 --> 00:38:44,260  
the unjustifiable by appealing to a fake

807  
00:38:47,790 --> 00:38:45,850  
historical narrative that Native

808  
00:38:49,530 --> 00:38:47,800  
Americans weren't the original occupants

809  
00:38:51,720 --> 00:38:49,540  
of the land but were in fact usurpers

810  
00:38:54,480 --> 00:38:51,730  
who had killed off the peaceful glorious

811  
00:38:57,870 --> 00:38:54,490  
lost race of mound builders it created

812  
00:39:00,660 --> 00:38:57,880  
it creates the political motivation to

813  
00:39:03,090 --> 00:39:00,670

push through Indian Removal to oppose

814

00:39:05,370 --> 00:39:03,100

Native American rights and to seize

815

00:39:08,430 --> 00:39:05,380

Native American lands you're restoring

816

00:39:13,160 --> 00:39:08,440

it to people who it truly belongs to

817

00:39:16,580 --> 00:39:13,170

white Europeans so while Jackson wasn't

818

00:39:20,880 --> 00:39:16,590

going around like Harrison and actively

819

00:39:22,400 --> 00:39:20,890

advocating for for science to declare

820

00:39:26,990 --> 00:39:22,410

the mountains of work of white Europeans

821

00:39:29,790 --> 00:39:27,000

he spread those ideas through his

822

00:39:32,520 --> 00:39:29,800

allusions to death and especially his

823

00:39:35,750 --> 00:39:32,530

supporters use of the myth to justify

824

00:39:40,380 --> 00:39:35,760

passage of the Indian Removal Act

825

00:39:44,130 --> 00:39:40,390

absolutely and since 1830 we see some of

826

00:39:46,280 --> 00:39:44,140

this today as well since and this can be

827

00:39:48,660 --> 00:39:46,290

seen a little bit with you know

828

00:39:50,550 --> 00:39:48,670

widespread panic due to the current

829

00:39:52,770 --> 00:39:50,560

coronavirus situation but

830

00:39:54,690 --> 00:39:52,780

we see it in other areas as well do you

831

00:39:57,180 --> 00:39:54,700

have any advice just for the general

832

00:39:59,640 --> 00:39:57,190

listener as to how to avoid these

833

00:40:03,060 --> 00:39:59,650

pitfalls if there were a way to combat

834

00:40:05,340 --> 00:40:03,070

fake news fake history and bad ideas I'm

835

00:40:09,930 --> 00:40:05,350

sure somebody would have found it by now

836

00:40:12,450 --> 00:40:09,940

unfortunately when powerful people are

837

00:40:14,370 --> 00:40:12,460

able to save culture to their own ends

838

00:40:16,650 --> 00:40:14,380

it becomes very difficult to distinguish

839

00:40:19,220 --> 00:40:16,660

fact from fiction and when that happens

840

00:40:21,420 --> 00:40:19,230

it has widespread societal consequences

841

00:40:24,360 --> 00:40:21,430

if you can't trust what people are

842

00:40:27,990 --> 00:40:24,370

saying and obvious facts are

843

00:40:32,760 --> 00:40:28,000

contradicted by stories it creates a

844

00:40:37,290 --> 00:40:32,770

trust gap that lingers on and we see

845

00:40:41,040 --> 00:40:37,300

that both today and in the 19th century

846

00:40:44,430 --> 00:40:41,050

context one of the consequences of the

847

00:40:47,130 --> 00:40:44,440

mountain building myth for the public

848

00:40:51,260 --> 00:40:47,140

understanding of science is that a break

849

00:40:54,690 --> 00:40:51,270

between popular belief and academic

850

00:40:56,400 --> 00:40:54,700

understanding of history in the story of

851  
00:40:58,370 --> 00:40:56,410  
the mound builder myth for a long time

852  
00:41:01,320 --> 00:40:58,380  
it was the story of how the public and

853  
00:41:03,870 --> 00:41:01,330  
academics worked together to create

854  
00:41:06,810 --> 00:41:03,880  
support and defend this idea but at the

855  
00:41:12,140 --> 00:41:06,820  
end of the 19th century the Smithsonian

856  
00:41:14,670 --> 00:41:12,150  
Institution breaks that connection by

857  
00:41:17,910 --> 00:41:14,680  
conducting a broad survey of American

858  
00:41:21,770 --> 00:41:17,920  
mounds and determining to the

859  
00:41:25,170 --> 00:41:21,780  
satisfaction of almost everyone who was

860  
00:41:28,200 --> 00:41:25,180  
highly educated and had the credentials

861  
00:41:30,750 --> 00:41:28,210  
and degrees to follow along that the

862  
00:41:32,820 --> 00:41:30,760  
mounted work Native Americans who bought

863  
00:41:35,370 --> 00:41:32,830

the Smithsonian's work was largely

864

00:41:36,750 --> 00:41:35,380

confined to the academic elite they were

865

00:41:38,670 --> 00:41:36,760

the ones who did afford the books and

866

00:41:41,010 --> 00:41:38,680

could read the books and they were

867

00:41:43,230 --> 00:41:41,020

hardly discussed outside of that

868

00:41:46,380 --> 00:41:43,240

academic elite so from the perspective

869

00:41:49,410 --> 00:41:46,390

of the everyday American it looked like

870

00:41:51,750 --> 00:41:49,420

suddenly all of the academics had

871

00:41:53,070 --> 00:41:51,760

completely changed their minds and we're

872

00:41:56,640 --> 00:41:53,080

now telling them that everything they

873

00:41:59,790 --> 00:41:56,650

had been taught in school was wrong so

874

00:42:01,560 --> 00:41:59,800

you see this sort of break between the

875

00:42:04,470 --> 00:42:01,570

popular understanding of American

876

00:42:06,300 --> 00:42:04,480

prehistory who really built the balance

877

00:42:10,170 --> 00:42:06,310

and what the professors and the

878

00:42:12,060 --> 00:42:10,180

scientists now understood and that never

879

00:42:15,170 --> 00:42:12,070

really healed that sort of division

880

00:42:17,700 --> 00:42:15,180

between popular and scientific

881

00:42:18,930 --> 00:42:17,710

understanding and it wasn't just the

882

00:42:21,810 --> 00:42:18,940

story of the mountain that had this

883

00:42:24,150 --> 00:42:21,820

happen Charles Darwin's theory of

884

00:42:26,760 --> 00:42:24,160

evolution created a similar break

885

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:26,770

between popular understanding of what it

886

00:42:32,790 --> 00:42:29,010

meant to be human and the scientific

887

00:42:36,020 --> 00:42:32,800

understanding of human origins but it's

888

00:42:40,650 --> 00:42:36,030

the succession of these breaks between

889

00:42:43,260 --> 00:42:40,660

elite academic ideas and popular

890

00:42:45,480 --> 00:42:43,270

understanding of history they came one

891

00:42:48,170 --> 00:42:45,490

after the next after the next not just

892

00:42:52,010 --> 00:42:48,180

evolution not just the mounds but

893

00:42:54,960 --> 00:42:52,020

geology which replaced Noah's Flood with

894

00:42:58,320 --> 00:42:54,970

uniformitarianism and even with Sigmund

895

00:43:00,570 --> 00:42:58,330

Freud's psychoanalysis which challenged

896

00:43:02,640 --> 00:43:00,580

the understanding of the human mind

897

00:43:03,960 --> 00:43:02,650

all of these breaks come one after the

898

00:43:06,480 --> 00:43:03,970

next after the next at the end of the

899

00:43:10,560 --> 00:43:06,490

19th century and by the end of that time

900

00:43:14,370 --> 00:43:10,570

you see that popular culture has one set

901  
00:43:17,040 --> 00:43:14,380  
of beliefs and elite academic culture at

902  
00:43:19,740 --> 00:43:17,050  
a different understanding and throughout

903  
00:43:24,390 --> 00:43:19,750  
the 20th century these two never really

904  
00:43:27,240 --> 00:43:24,400  
came back together so a lot of what we

905  
00:43:31,230 --> 00:43:27,250  
see at the division between the

906  
00:43:33,840 --> 00:43:31,240  
so-called elites and the masses what's

907  
00:43:36,859 --> 00:43:33,850  
often characterized as American anti

908  
00:43:42,109 --> 00:43:36,869  
intellectualism is really a result of

909  
00:43:46,080 --> 00:43:42,119  
this pretty profound break between

910  
00:43:50,670 --> 00:43:46,090  
science and what people thought they

911  
00:43:54,840 --> 00:43:50,680  
knew before these really profound

912  
00:43:58,290 --> 00:43:54,850  
changes occurred gosh not not a lot has

913  
00:44:00,300 --> 00:43:58,300

changed since the the King lived up on

914

00:44:03,270 --> 00:44:00,310

the castle and the peasants lived down

915

00:44:05,460 --> 00:44:03,280

in the field say it's not the peasant

916

00:44:07,560 --> 00:44:05,470

living in the field and not completely

917

00:44:10,020 --> 00:44:07,570

where there is certainly a communication

918

00:44:13,770 --> 00:44:10,030

issue where information wasn't being

919

00:44:15,180 --> 00:44:13,780

communicated down from the elite

920

00:44:17,930 --> 00:44:15,190

producers of knowledge down to the

921

00:44:20,510 --> 00:44:17,940

consumers of knowledge as cleanly and

922

00:44:22,010 --> 00:44:20,520

well as it could have been and in steps

923

00:44:25,670 --> 00:44:22,020

were taking in the 20th century to try

924

00:44:27,920 --> 00:44:25,680

to fix that but part of the problem is

925

00:44:31,310 --> 00:44:27,930

that the education system didn't keep up

926  
00:44:33,020 --> 00:44:31,320  
with changes and even today when you

927  
00:44:35,180 --> 00:44:33,030  
listen to a lot of the people who

928  
00:44:37,040 --> 00:44:35,190  
advocate for these extreme ideas talk

929  
00:44:38,900 --> 00:44:37,050  
they're constantly talking about the

930  
00:44:40,580 --> 00:44:38,910  
textbooks are wrong the textbooks the

931  
00:44:42,350 --> 00:44:40,590  
textbooks as though the textbooks were

932  
00:44:45,230 --> 00:44:42,360  
somehow frozen when they were kids in

933  
00:44:47,240 --> 00:44:45,240  
the 1960s and that's part of the problem

934  
00:44:49,940 --> 00:44:47,250  
that once you leave school

935  
00:44:52,880 --> 00:44:49,950  
for most Americans about 2f they don't

936  
00:44:55,310 --> 00:44:52,890  
really learn about new ideas and new

937  
00:44:57,950 --> 00:44:55,320  
things so their understanding gets

938  
00:45:00,050 --> 00:44:57,960

frozen in whatever the paradigm whatever

939

00:45:02,180 --> 00:45:00,060

the ideas were at the time that they

940

00:45:03,950 --> 00:45:02,190

were in school and given the fact that

941

00:45:08,630 --> 00:45:03,960

we don't have haven't replaced textbooks

942

00:45:10,460 --> 00:45:08,640

very regularly in America those ideas

943

00:45:12,260 --> 00:45:10,470

might not even have been current in the

944

00:45:13,850 --> 00:45:12,270

time they were in school but for example

945

00:45:15,710 --> 00:45:13,860

when I was in school are still using

946

00:45:18,050 --> 00:45:15,720

textbooks from the 1960 and then I was

947

00:45:22,730 --> 00:45:18,060

in school in the 1990s so you're looking

948

00:45:25,400 --> 00:45:22,740

at you know a huge land time between the

949

00:45:28,070 --> 00:45:25,410

present and where those ideas that

950

00:45:29,599 --> 00:45:28,080

people get come from so it's not the you

951  
00:45:31,400 --> 00:45:29,609  
know a peasant or in the field the

952  
00:45:34,160 --> 00:45:31,410  
elites are just sort of dancing on top

953  
00:45:35,930 --> 00:45:34,170  
of them but rather than there's a there

954  
00:45:38,630 --> 00:45:35,940  
are structural issues that are involved

955  
00:45:40,520 --> 00:45:38,640  
in the breakdown between the production

956  
00:45:44,210 --> 00:45:40,530  
of knowledge and its transference

957  
00:45:46,280 --> 00:45:44,220  
to broader society yeah it's from a from

958  
00:45:48,650 --> 00:45:46,290  
an educational standpoint this is so

959  
00:45:50,510 --> 00:45:48,660  
reminiscent of the power structure that

960  
00:45:52,820 --> 00:45:50,520  
came from like skullenbones and that

961  
00:45:56,150 --> 00:45:52,830  
closely-knit you know elite in their

962  
00:46:00,859 --> 00:45:56,160  
beliefs into the CIA but Jason you have

963  
00:46:02,630 --> 00:46:00,869

a lot of interesting works and I wanted

964

00:46:04,070 --> 00:46:02,640

to ask you what you were currently

965

00:46:07,089 --> 00:46:04,080

working on or if you have any other

966

00:46:09,200 --> 00:46:07,099

exciting projects coming along

967

00:46:11,000 --> 00:46:09,210

well my current book is called

968

00:46:13,730 --> 00:46:11,010

mountain-building Beth from the

969

00:46:15,920 --> 00:46:13,740

University of Oklahoma press and it is a

970

00:46:18,700 --> 00:46:15,930

story about the history of the mountain

971

00:46:23,240 --> 00:46:18,710

wilderness and what we can learn from

972

00:46:26,030 --> 00:46:23,250

the interesting path of the story took

973

00:46:29,420 --> 00:46:26,040

from its origins through the Trail of

974

00:46:30,980 --> 00:46:29,430

Tears down to the incomplete efforts of

975

00:46:31,539 --> 00:46:30,990

the Smithsonian to set the record

976  
00:46:34,549 --> 00:46:31,549  
straight

977  
00:46:36,829 --> 00:46:34,559  
I'm also working on a new book on the

978  
00:46:38,839 --> 00:46:36,839  
legends of the pyramids that will look

979  
00:46:41,299 --> 00:46:38,849  
at the strange stories that people have

980  
00:46:43,700 --> 00:46:41,309  
told about the Giza pyramids over the

981  
00:46:46,130 --> 00:46:43,710  
last couple of thousand years and how

982  
00:46:49,670 --> 00:46:46,140  
many evil ideas about the pyramids have

983  
00:46:51,829 --> 00:46:49,680  
shaped popular understanding of what the

984  
00:46:53,870 --> 00:46:51,839  
Giza pyramids were and what their

985  
00:46:56,990 --> 00:46:53,880  
purpose was ancient astronaut story

986  
00:46:59,870 --> 00:46:57,000  
about how aliens were involved it all

987  
00:47:03,230 --> 00:46:59,880  
originates in a medieval story that was

988  
00:47:05,599 --> 00:47:03,240

invented around 1000 AD it's been an

989

00:47:08,000 --> 00:47:05,609

honor to have you on Jason I appreciate

990

00:47:10,039 --> 00:47:08,010

you coming on the podcast and telling us

991

00:47:13,069 --> 00:47:10,049

more about this and where can people

992

00:47:15,230 --> 00:47:13,079

keep up with you online and support you

993

00:47:18,109 --> 00:47:15,240

well it was great speaking with you too

994

00:47:21,140 --> 00:47:18,119

you can find me at my website jason

995

00:47:23,780 --> 00:47:21,150

Colavito comm and that's where you can

996

00:47:26,089 --> 00:47:23,790

find my blog links to all of my books

997

00:47:28,549 --> 00:47:26,099

and the latest updates on things that

998

00:47:31,609 --> 00:47:28,559

I'm working on there you have it Jason

999

00:47:35,329 --> 00:47:31,619

Colavito the mound builder myth and a

1000

00:47:38,000 --> 00:47:35,339

fake history that's been inserted into

1001  
00:47:40,579 --> 00:47:38,010  
our past well keep up with Jason

1002  
00:47:42,230 --> 00:47:40,589  
Colavito at Jason Colavito comm while

1003  
00:47:45,349 --> 00:47:42,240  
you're at it definitely check out hero

1004  
00:47:48,500 --> 00:47:45,359  
paranormal com in fact currently we have

1005  
00:47:51,890 --> 00:47:48,510  
a giveaway of a space wolf research

1006  
00:47:54,200 --> 00:47:51,900  
hoodie North Face hoodie and you can

1007  
00:47:56,900 --> 00:47:54,210  
enter that by doing exactly that go to

1008  
00:48:00,140 --> 00:47:56,910  
hero paranormal comm or hero paranormal

1009  
00:48:02,960 --> 00:48:00,150  
on Facebook like share go to youtube

1010  
00:48:06,500 --> 00:48:02,970  
hero paranormal like and subscribe and

1011  
00:48:08,660 --> 00:48:06,510  
you are automatically entered last but

1012  
00:48:10,280 --> 00:48:08,670  
not least sometimes youtube is a little

1013  
00:48:12,500 --> 00:48:10,290

bit slow to download because of the

1014

00:48:15,319 --> 00:48:12,510

video aspect for a quick and easy way to

1015

00:48:19,790 --> 00:48:15,329

download hero paranormal anywhere you

1016

00:48:22,760 --> 00:48:19,800

maybe go to hero paranormal pod beam

1017

00:48:25,820 --> 00:48:22,770

we also have patron availability there

1018

00:48:27,860 --> 00:48:25,830

for as little as a dollar and you get it

1019

00:48:28,310 --> 00:48:27,870

all so anyway check us out keep

1020

00:48:31,760 --> 00:48:28,320

listening

1021

00:48:34,520 --> 00:48:31,770

stay safe wash those hands screw

1022

00:48:37,670 --> 00:48:34,530

coronavirus well until next time folks

1023

00:48:40,100 --> 00:48:37,680

keep your eyes to the skies feet on the

1024

00:49:31,660 --> 00:48:40,110

ground don't forget to take a look

1025

00:49:35,150 --> 00:49:31,670

around you can kiss me with a burst

1026

00:49:49,890 --> 00:49:35,160

blast off from the time-machine like