

## ***Journal #4059      from sdc      12.29.17***

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### **Fossil from Nevada cave spurs discovery of extinct horse Horse skull found in 1930 turns out to be 13,000 years old (Las Vegas Review-Journal)**

In the early days of the Great Depression, a team of researchers led by famed archaeologist Mark Harrington unearthed a treasure trove of animal fossils and ancient artifacts from a cave in the mountains east of Las Vegas.

Some of the bones found inside Gypsum Cave were so well preserved, they were mistaken for modern specimens and filed away in museum collections, where they went largely overlooked until recently.

Now a horse skull collected from the cave during Harrington's expedition in 1930 and 1931 is helping scientists identify a new type of extinct, stilt-legged horse that died out during the last ice age.

"The skull didn't look particularly old or particularly ancient. It looked like last week's lunch," said paleontologist Eric Scott, who helped track down the mislabeled fossil on a shelf at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. "Someone had even written in pencil across the top of the skull: 'modern sample, wild horse or burro.'"

Instead, it turned out to be 13,000 years old and scientifically significant: the most complete skull ever found of a so-called "New World stilt-legged horse."

"Here's this priceless fossil that's just sitting there being ignored," said Scott, an ice age horse expert with California State University, San Bernardino, who has worked extensively in Southern Nevada.

### **A horse that isn't modern**

Scott was part of the international team of researchers that described the new genus of horse in a study published Nov. 28 in the journal *eLife*.

Their findings are based on analysis of ancient DNA extracted from the Gypsum Cave skull and other well-preserved bones from Natural Trap Cave in Wyoming and the Klondike gold fields of Canada's Yukon Territory.

Before the new study, the lightly built horses with the long, thin leg bones were thought to be related to the modern Asiatic wild ass or simply a separate species within the genus that includes living horses, asses and zebras. The new results reveal that these extinct horses were not closely related to any living population. They were an evolutionary dead end that diverged from the main trunk of the family tree leading to *Equus*, the genus that includes modern horses, some 4 million to 6 million years ago.

"The evolutionary distance between the extinct stilt-legged horses and all living horses took us by surprise, but it presented us with an exciting opportunity to name a new genus of horse," said the study's senior author, Beth Shapiro, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The team chose to call the new genus *Haringtonhippus francisci* after, not Mark Harrington, but Richard Harington, an accomplished paleontologist who spent his career studying the ice age fossils of northern Canada and first described the stilt-legged horses in the early 1970s.

Scott said the ability to extract and analyze DNA from well-preserved specimens like these is forcing researchers to re-evaluate what they thought they knew about some species that died off about 11,000 years ago.

“If the DNA is telling you one thing, and the bones are telling you something else, you go with the DNA,” he said.

### **Where history and prehistory meet**

All told, the exploration of Gypsum Cave almost 90 years ago yielded evidence of the extinct Shasta ground sloth, large camel and llama, as well as the bighorn sheep, mule deer, grey fox and kit fox. There was so much stuff left behind by the sloths — a skull, backbone, claws and even some reddish-brown hair — that Harrington believed the animals must have used the cave as an ice age den. A thick layer of sloth dung on the cave floor provided scientists with a detailed menu of what ground sloths liked to eat and what was growing in the area at the time.

Harrington and company also cataloged tools and weapons made by early Indians and left in the cave over the past 2,000 years.

Gypsum Cave was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.

“It is cool that it’s both a paleontology site and an archaeology site,” Justin DeMaio, a Las Vegas-based Bureau of Land Management archaeologist, said during a recent visit to the cave.

The historic nature of the scientific expedition that unfolded there is icing on the cake, DeMaio said. “Mark Harrington was a huge name in paleontology throughout the West.”

While going through Harrington’s specimens from the cave several years ago, Scott and another researcher also identified bones from 10 individual horses, including some with ligaments, tendons, skin and hooves still present.

Some of the bones showed what appeared to be bite marks, possibly from a wolf, suggesting the animals were dragged into the cave by a predator, Scott said.

He called the rediscovery of the ice age horse skull “a nifty detective story” that demonstrates how persistence and a little luck can lead to scientific breakthroughs.

“There’s a lot of serendipity for all of this to come together at the time and in the way it did,” Scott said.

Contact Henry Brean at [hbrean@reviewjournal.com](mailto:hbrean@reviewjournal.com) or 702-383-0350. Follow [@RefriedBrean](https://twitter.com/RefriedBrean) on Twitter.

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/science-and-technology/fossil-from-nevada-cave-spurs-discovery-of-extinct-horse/>

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[\*\*Migratory Birds Lose Protection Against Industry in Latest Trump Action\*\*](#)

## **Against Environmental Regulations**

*David Leestma, EcoWatch*

**Leestma writes: "Energy companies and other businesses are no longer liable for accidentally killing migratory birds, the Trump administration announced Friday in a decision hailed by industry insiders." [READ MORE](#)**

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## **Curtis, Hoover's VP, Touted Mixed-Race Heritage : NPR**

**<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92301413>**

Jul 7, 2008 - Only one mixed-race candidate has won on a presidential ticket: *Herbert Hoover's* vice president, Charles Curtis. Curtis was half-Native ... He was canny and resourceful thanks to his white ancestry, and in touch with the eternal rhythms of nature or whatever, thanks to the *Indians*. Political historian Allan ...

## **Herbert Hoover's vice president, Charles Curtis, was American Indian ...**

**<https://www.washingtonpost.com/.../herbert-hoovers-vice-president-charles-curtis-was...>**

Jan 29, 2015 - I did not know that. His mother was apparently 1/4 (or somewhat more) American *Indian* (Kaw, Osage, and Pottawatomie); his father was white. Curtis was a member of the Kaw Nation, and was raised partly on the Kaw reservation by his maternal grandparents and later in Topeka, Kan., by his paternal ...

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## **Business Forum Charts the Year Ahead in Humboldt Co. Economy Panels and Networking with Industry Leaders and Decision Makers Jan. 18, 2018 at Boys and Girls Club of Winnemucca**

Explore the ideas, programs and products that are defining Humboldt County's economy and business future at Winnemucca Futures 2018, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018 at the Boys and Girls Club of Winnemucca.

Hosted by the Humboldt Development Authority and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, Winnemucca Futures 2018 is a fast-paced series of panels featuring topics and speakers that will help you connect your business with:

- Local Government
- Mining & Industry
- Tourism
- Education & Youth
- Business & Local Developments
- Economic Development Organizations & Initiatives

"Winnemucca Futures 2018 is the venue for your business or organization to network with and hear from key industry leaders and decision makers," said Patrick Gray, Chairman of the **Humboldt Development Authority Board**. "Winnemucca Futures encourages community

growth, shares business intelligence, and fosters sustainable development through communications and collaboration.”

Registration is free. Visit the Winnemucca Futures tab at [www.hdanv.org](http://www.hdanv.org) for a registration link. Details on the program and speakers will also be posted. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required so that the food and facilities will accommodate all.

The event kicks off with a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m., the program at 8 a.m. and wraps up by noon.

Exhibit space is available for companies and organizations free of charge. All businesses that set up displays will also be listed in the program and on the website. There is no charge for this, but you must contact Jan Morrison at NNRDA by Jan. 5, 2018 to be included in the program and media material. There will be space for 15 exhibitors. Displays will be available from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The event will also feature the new *Humboldt County video*. The 5-minute video was produced by NNRDA and will be used to attract new companies to our area. Thumb drives containing the video will be distributed free to all attendees.

Winnemucca Futures has become the gold standard for Humboldt County economic information. The Humboldt Development Authority is an economic development agency formed by a cooperative agreement between the City of Winnemucca and the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners. It works with the Governor’s Office on Economic Development through the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA).

NNRDA represents a five-county region and is the third largest regional development authority in Nevada.

For more information contact: Jan Morrison, Economic Development Officer

Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority; [jan@nnrda.com](mailto:jan@nnrda.com) or (775) 217-0602

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### ['Super beans' raise hopes in hunger-prone parts of Africa](#)

NWOYA, Uganda (AP) - Richard Opio dipped a dirt-stained hand into the pinkish beans, marveling at the dramatic changes they've made for his family. They used to harvest two sacks of normal beans; now they take in six. The so-called "super bean," a fast-maturing, high-yield variety, is being promoted by Uganda's government and agriculture experts amid efforts to feed hunger-prone parts of Africa. It's also a step toward the next goal: the &quo...

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### [FOCUS | Daniel Ellsberg: Americans Have Escaped Self-Annihilation by Luck](#)

PBS NewsHour

Excerpt: "The military analyst turned whistleblower who leaked the Pentagon Papers looks at the existential threat of America’s nuclear capacities in his new memoir, 'The Doomsday Machine.'"

[READ MORE](#)

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## **2017: The Most Important Events and Stories for Water in the West**

**Tara Lohan, News Deeply – Water Deeply**

Here's a look back at some of the key moments in 2017 as well as Water Deeply's most read stories and the top reads from around the media picked by experts.

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### **Weed Wages Water War**

**Staff, Eugene Weekly**

The pure waters of Beaughan Spring have poured through the taps of the small town of Weed, California, for more than 100 years.

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### **Nudging progress on funding safe drinking water**

**Jay Lund, California Water Blog**

This year's Nobel Prize in Economics went to Richard Thaler, who pioneered "nudging" to help people volunteer to make more personally and socially beneficial decisions.

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### **USDA to invest \$30m in water quality projects**

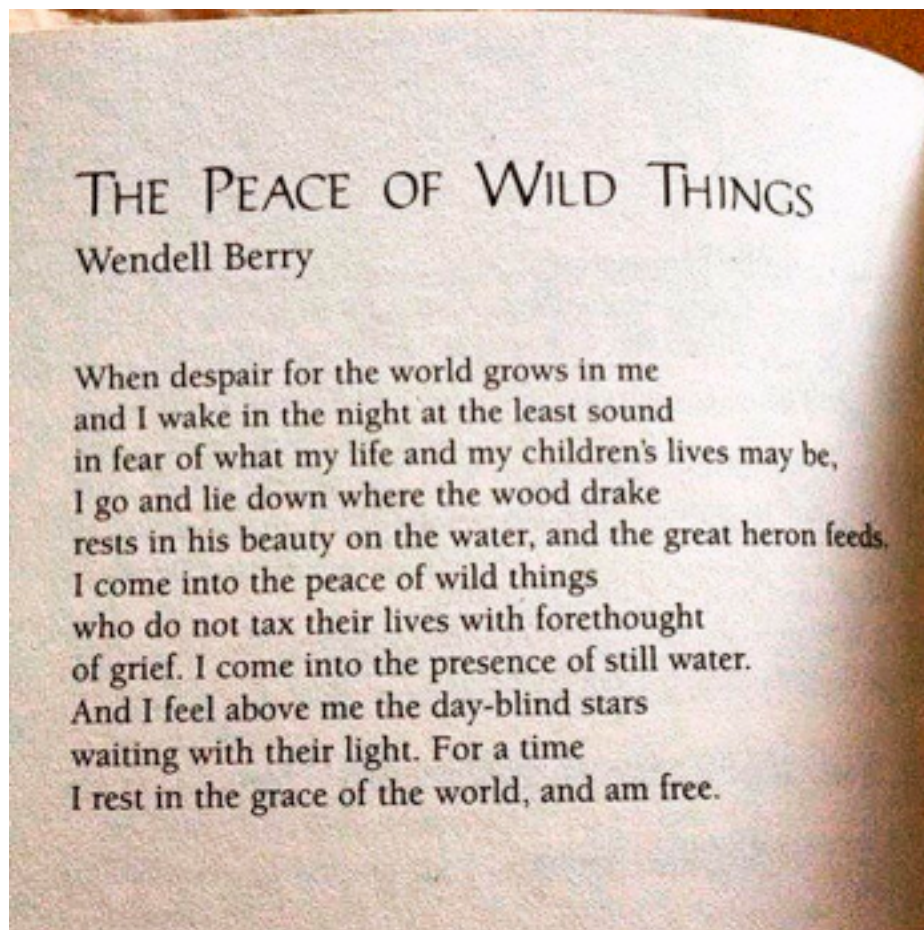
**Staff Feedstuffs**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will add 30 new watersheds in 2018 to its premiere water quality initiative, which helps landowners improve water quality while strengthening agricultural operations. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will invest more than \$30 million this year in 201 high-priority watersheds across the country.

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**8** Number of U.S. states that experienced record warmth in the first 11 months of 2017. Climate scientists predict that heatwaves, droughts, hurricanes, and other natural disasters will be the

'new normal.' [\*The Guardian\*](#)

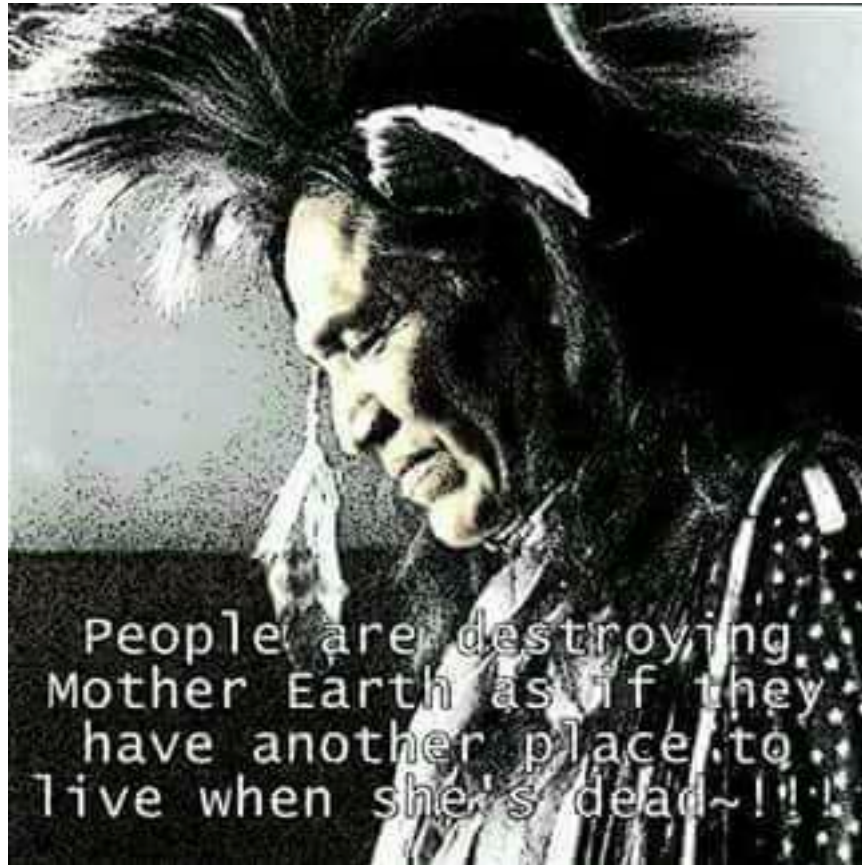


**15** Number of weather events that took place in the United States in 2017 that cost \$1 billion or more, causing economic losses of more than \$210 billion. [\*Bloomberg\*](#)

## Trump administration rescinding rules for oil, gas drilling

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - President Donald Trump's administration is rescinding proposed rules for hydraulic fracturing and other oil- and gas-drilling practices on government lands, government officials announced Thursday. The rules developed under President Barack Obama would have applied mainly in the West, where most federal lands are located. Companies would have had to disclose the chemicals used in fracking, which pumps pressurized water underground to break open hydrocarbon dep...

Dec 28 in **1899** fourteen cases of smallpox were reported at the Stewart Indian School south of Carson City



**ATALM**      **[www.atalm.org/](http://www.atalm.org/)**

**2018 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM2018) ... ATALM 2018 Conference. October 8-11, 2018. Mystic Lake Center 2400 Mystic Lake Boulevard Prior Lake, MN 55372 952-445-9000. Find us on Facebook. ATALM 6308 Harden Drive; Oklahoma City, OK 73118; 405-401-9657**

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### **American Philosophical Society Library & Museum**

From silk cultivation to quantum physics. From Jefferson to Albert Einstein.

The [Constitution](#) and the [Declaration of Independence](#) are two documents created by philosophical minded people — both practical and visionary. It's not surprising that Philadelphia was where these documents were written — it had long fostered philosophic probing. In the Colonial Era, Philadelphia was home to several philosophic organizations but the one that emerged as the most influential was The American Philosophical Society.

The American Philosophical Society was founded as a home for thinkers about nature, machines, industry and governance and is today the oldest surviving learned organization in the country. It was founded in 1743, the outgrowth of an idea fostered by [Benjamin Franklin](#). Its home, the Philosophical Hall, has anchored the west side of Independence Square since 1789.

The name "The American Philosophical Society" is derived from the concept of "natural philosophy" which was the 18th century name for the study of nature and has nothing to do with "philosophy" (political or otherwise) as we understand it today. The early members of APS were what we would call "scientists" and "technologists." If it had been founded 150 years later it would have been called the "American Scientific Society."

Franklin's original 1743 proposal for the Society sought "the promoting of Useful Knowledge, especially as it respects the Agriculture, Manufacturies, and Natural History of North America." This idea initially attracted business-owners and merchant-scientists, but it took the added membership of 18 members of the Proprietary Party (supporters of the Penn family), and later the entire membership of the American Society — another group that was an outgrowth of Franklin's proposal — for the Society to establish its preeminence in Philadelphia. Their discussions were centered on using new scientific thinking in a practical, mercantile world.

Before the Hall was built, the Society met at various sites, including Carpenters' Hall and the Christ Church School. Building their own home proved no easy task. They and the directors of the Library Company (next site on your tour) both sought to buy the same plots to build on. The plot on Fifth Street where the Hall is located today was feuded over until the Library Company backed out of their petition. Franklin pledged 100 pounds and Samuel Vaughan (a successful Jamaican trader) pledged 50 pounds, to get the building fund off the ground. It took a few years and more assistance from Mr. Franklin for the needed funds to be raised.

What type of activities occurred at the Hall? A July 22, 1843, diary entry of wealthy Philadelphia merchant Thomas Cope allows us a peek. "Last night I met the Philosophical Society. It was election night for new members. Among others, Julien of Paris was in nomination. Doc. Chapman raised objections. Julien had been private secy. to Robespierre & guilty, like master, of the horrid barbarities, among other things, of having seduced a girl of 15 & getting tired of her, he caused her accusation before the revolutionary tribunal and had her guillotined..." Julien, however, was found to be a man of unblemished reputation and ultimately elected to membership.

Another incident came about when Charles Willson Peale, artist and father of sons Raphaelle, Rembrandt, Rubens, and Titian, became hard-pressed in finding an aptly artistic name for his fifth son. His choices displeased Peale's wife (though it's hard to imagine what could be so outrageous after the above quartet) and the naming matter was left to the society to adjudicate. Logically they chose — Franklin.

More typical 19th century meetings were concerned with astronomical research, silk cultivation, and canal development. In our own century, research into computers, quantum physics, and medicine have ruled the agendas. Henry Smythe's 1945 report on heavy water, needed for the atomic bomb, is on permanent display at the Society.



Other permanent holdings of the Society include the original of William Penn's 1701 Charter of Privileges which extended the extraordinary right of creating their own laws to the populace. An armchair used by Thomas Jefferson during his writing of the Declaration of Independence can be found here. The Society also functions as an art museum in miniature. There's an original Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington. Thomas Sully portraits of the 1776 titans Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Rush adorn the walls as well. Sully, esteemed by some as the finest portraitist of his day, rented rooms in the Hall and charged the public 25 cents to see his work.

Another famous artist and tenant of the Society was the aforementioned Charles Willson Peale, who for a time housed his singular museum in the Hall. In addition to being the most celebrated artist of his day, Peale prefigured future impresarios such as P.T. Barnum. Peale was an educator, inventor, and naturalist, in addition to being an artist. On one expedition to upstate New York, Peale unearthed the skeleton of a mastodon which he shipped back to Philadelphia. Overflow crowds paid 50 cents extra to view the phenomenon of the largest extinct North American mammal on display. Peale called his mastodon a "mammoth." *Mammothmania* gripped the country. A Philly baker sold "mammoth bread." Residents of Cheshire, Massachusetts sent Bay State native and President, [John Adams](#), a "mammoth" cheese which weighed over half a ton.

Other less colorful tenants included city and Federal Courts as well as the University of Pennsylvania. A notable episode of the University's tenure was that the students, by special agreement with the Assembly, were called to class by the Liberty Bell.

It was architecturally that the Society made one of its few missteps. In 1890, needing more space to house a burgeoning library, a third floor was added. The floor might be compared to a bad hat on a person who should never be wearing one in the first place. Discordant with its surroundings, not to mention the two floors under it, the floor was eventually removed in 1949 — at about five times the cost that it took to build it. By this time many of the Society's books were being housed in the Drexel Building across the street (which you'll read about at the Library Hall, next stop).

Founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin to "promote useful knowledge."

Oldest learned society in the U.S.

Members have included Benjamin Franklin, Charles Darwin, Madame Curie, Albert Einstein, John James Audubon, over a dozen Presidents, and over 200 Nobel prize winners.

Current members include Toni Morrison, Yo-Yo Ma, I.M. Pei, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Nelson Mandela.

Tenants included University of Pennsylvania whose students were called to class by the ringing of the [Liberty Bell](#).

The American Philosophical Society is home to a library of more than 7 million manuscripts, 250,000 volumes and bound periodicals and thousands of maps and prints.

Society still meets on a regular basis.

*Location:* 104 South 5th Street, behind Old City Hall ([Map](#))

*Built:* 1789

*Motto:* Nullo Discrimine (We are Open to All).

*Architect:* Building supervised by Samuel Vaughan; remodeled 1949 Sydney Martin

Style: Federal

Commissioned by: Philosophical Society on suggestion of Vaughan, Hopkinson, et al.

Tourism information: Thu–Sun 10am–4pm (to Labor Day); Fri–Sun 10am–4pm (Labor Day–December 31); free admission; changing exhibitions; 215-440-3400; fax 215-440-3423

Facilities: Outdoor seating

Official website: [www.amphilsoc.org](http://www.amphilsoc.org)

## **American Philosophical Society: Home**

**<https://www.amphilsoc.org/>**

The APS *Library* offers short and long-term fellowships to support scholarship related to the *Society's* collections. Several new fellowship opportunities are available for research in Native *American* and Indigenous topics as well as in the digital humanities field. Deadlines for applications are in February and March 2018.

The Phillips Fund of the **American Philosophical Society** provides grants for research in Native **American** linguistics, ethnohistory, and the history of studies of **Native Americans**, in the continental United States and Canada.

## **Phillips Fund for Native American Research | American Philosophical ...**

**<https://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/phillips-fund-native-american-research>**

## **The American Indian and the American Philosophical Society - jstor**

by C Wissler - 1942 - Cited by 40 - Related articles

THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. CLARK WISSLER. Curator of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History. (Read February 14, 1942, in Symposium on the Early History of Science and Learning in America). THE American *Indian* presented a challenge to scholars in ...

## **Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society. Vol. 51 - jstor**

**<https://www.jstor.org/stable/984747>**

tion of a new genus, *Sinclairella*, from the White River Oligocene of South Dakota (Jepsen), 74, 287. South, *Indian* in his relation to geographic environment (Fara- bee), 56, 281. *American* Council of Learned *Societies* proposed amendment to Laws ratified, 69, xvii. Representatives to- from Ameri- can *Philosophical Society* ...

## **How to Buy a Continent: The Protocols of Indian ... - ScholarlyCommons**

**[repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1012&context=rs\\_papers](http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1012&context=rs_papers)**

by AFC Wallace - 2015 - Related articles

In 1743, when Benjamin Franklin announced the formation of an *American Philosophical Society* for the. Promotion of Useful Knowledge, it was important for the citizens of Pennsylvania to know more about their. American *Indian* neighbors. Beyond a slice of land around Philadelphia, three quarters of the province were.

**[American Indian Constitutions and their influence on the United States ...](https://asu.pure.elsevier.com/.../american-indian-constitutions-and-their-influence-on-t...)**  
**<https://asu.pure.elsevier.com/.../american-indian-constitutions-and-their-influence-on-t...>** by  
RJ Miller - 2015 - Cited by 2 - Related articles

Language, English (US). Pages, 32-56. Number of pages, 25. Journal, Proceedings of the  
*American Philosophical Society*. Volume, 159. Issue number, 1. State, Published - 2015 ...

**[American Philosophical Society | Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia](https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/american-philosophical-society/)** **<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/american-philosophical-society/>**

Well before the Declaration of Independence, in 1743 Benjamin Franklin (1706-90) and his friend the Quaker botanist John Bartram (1699-1777) established the *American Philosophical Society* in Philadelphia as a declaration of scientific independence from Great Britain's scientific domination. The APS developed from a ...

**[Comparative Studies Of North American Indians: Transactions Of The ...](https://www.amazon.com/Comparative-Studies-North-American-Indians/.../12581776...)**  
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Comparative Studies Of North American *Indians*: Transactions Of The *American Philosophical Society*, V47, Part 2, 1957 [Harold E. Driver, William C. Massey] on Amazon.com. \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Comparative Studies of North American *Indians* Transactions of the *American Philosophical Society* V47 Part ...