

**Journal #6146**

**from sdc**

**12.30.25**

*White tail eagles*

*Books*

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*A couple of White-tailed eagles fight while hunting at the Bosfor Vostochny channel in Vladivostok, Russia, Feb. 10, 2025. (AP Photo/Anton Balashov, File)*

From the Smithsonian's "Best Books of 2025 List"

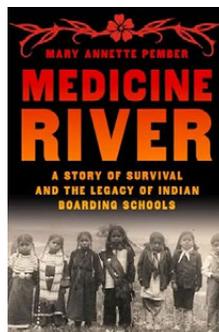
## ***Medicine River: A Story of Survival and the Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools*** by Mary Annette Pember

Between 1819 and 1969, [at least 973](#) Native American children died while attending [Indian boarding schools](#) in the U.S., where [hundreds of thousands](#) of youths were forced to live apart from their families and assimilate into white society. The true number of fatalities caused by these institutions' repressive—and [often abusive](#)—conditions is likely significantly higher.

In the introduction to [Medicine River](#), an account of the [generational toll](#) inflicted by these institutions, [Mary Annette Pember](#) deftly summarizes the schools' legacy: "Because it was framed as a humane alternative to outright extermination, little thought was given to the generational fallout and trauma ignited by these policies," the Ojibwe journalist writes. "Quite simply: Boarding schools were intended to destroy Indian families in order to destroy tribes to free up land for white settlement and exploitation."

Pember's incisive, heart-wrenching book is grounded in the experiences of her mother, [Bernice Rabideaux](#), who was 5 years old when she and her siblings were separated from their parents and sent to a Catholic school on Wisconsin's Bad River Reservation. The nuns instilled a message in Rabideaux's mind: that Native Americans were "dirty, savage, backward, uncivilized," according to *Medicine River*. This sentiment "took root in her behaviors, too," leading her to fill her children's days "with constant cleaning and scrubbing." As Pember recalls, "Creating our family was part of her master plan to reinvent herself, to become worthy of respect. To become white. In many ways, she achieved her goal, but at the same time, the scheme choked her."

It was only after Rabideaux's death in 2011 that Pember decided to investigate her mother's past in depth, connecting anecdotes to written records and other archival materials. The initial discoveries the journalist made pushed her to begin a project whose scope went far beyond her own family. *Medicine River* "is, I suppose, above all, a quest," she writes. "To understand myself, our family's collective disease, Indian people's unparalleled ability to survive and the history of Indian boarding schools."



### [\*\*Medicine River: A Story of Survival and the Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools\*\*](#)

A sweeping and deeply personal account of Native American boarding schools in the United States, and the legacy of abuse wrought by them in an attempt to destroy Native culture and life

And from “The Best History Books of 2023”:

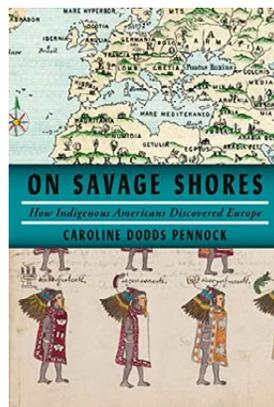
***On Savage Shores: How Indigenous Americans Discovered Europe***  
by **Caroline Dodds Pennock**

Books about the [Age of Exploration](#) tend to focus on the Europeans who journeyed to the Americas in the 15th and 16th centuries. Historian [Caroline Dodds Pennock](#) opted for a different approach, reversing focus to discuss the tens of thousands of Indigenous Americans who traveled to Europe between 1492, when [Christopher Columbus](#) supposedly “discovered” the New World, and 1607, when the colony of [Jamestown](#) was founded.

“These overlooked multitudes of Indigenous travelers—nobles, diplomats, servants, translators, families, entertainers, enslaved people—overturn our understandings of early modern exploration and empire,” writes Pennock in [On Savage Shores](#). “And the vast network of global connections they inhabited ... sowed the seeds of our cosmopolitan modern world more than a century before” the *Mayflower* landed in Massachusetts in 1620.

Pennock’s book draws on archival records to tell the stories of a diverse group of Indigenous people, including [Martín Cortés](#), the mixed-race son of conquistador Hernán Cortés, who “lived the life of a young Spanish nobleman, essentially,” as Pennock told [Smithsonian](#) earlier this year; Guaibimpará (Catherine du Brasil), a Brazilian woman who settled in France with her husband, a shipwrecked Portuguese sailor, in 1528; and Diego de Torres y Moyachoque, a *cacique*, or tribal chief, who traveled to Spain on a diplomatic mission in 1575.

Many of Pennock’s subjects are anonymous, their names unrecorded in European sources that offer limited glimpses of their lives. But the historian deftly navigates these gaps in the archives, interrogating the colonialist bias of the records available to present a fuller portrait of cultural exchange at a pivotal moment in world history. As historian [David Olusoga](#) puts it in a review for the [Guardian](#), *On Savage Shores* is a “work of historical recovery.”



**[On Savage Shores: How Indigenous Americans Discovered Europe](#)**

A landmark work of narrative history that shatters our previous Eurocentric understanding of the Age of Discovery by telling the story of the Indigenous Americans who journeyed across the Atlantic to Europe after 1492.

## **[The Buffalo Hunter Hunter: Jones, Stephen Graham](#)**

**<https://www.amazon.com > Buffalo-Hunter-Stephen-Gr...>**

***An academic discovers her grandfather's 1912 journal, revealing stories of a vampire haunting the Blackfeet reservation and a historical massacre of 217 people ...***

A chilling historical horror set in the American west in 1912 following a Lutheran priest who transcribes the life of a vampire who haunts the fields of the Blackfeet reservation looking for justice. Perfect for fans of *Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil* by V. E. Schwab and *Interview With The Vampire* by Anne Rice. ... [Google Books](#)

Originally published: March 18, 2025

Genres: [Horror fiction](#), [Historical Fiction](#), [Historical fantasy](#)

## **[Is a River Alive? by Robert Macfarlane](#)**

**<https://www.goodreads.com > 218569826-is-a-river-alive>**

May 1, 2025 — *Is a River Alive?* is a joyous exploration into an ancient, urgent idea: that *rivers are living beings* who should be recognized as such in ...

SHORTLISTED FOR BLACKWELL'S BOOK OF THE YEAR 2025  
SHORTLISTED FOR THE WAINWRIGHT PRIZE FOR CONSERVATION WRITING 2025  
From celebrated writer Robert Macfarlane comes this brilliant, perspective-shifting ... [Google Books](#)

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## **Archaeologists Found a Smoking Gun Behind the End of the Maya Kingdom's Reign**

How burned artifacts offer a window into the dismantling of a dynasty.

By [Tim Newcomb](#) Published: Jan 03, 2026 9:41 AM EST

[https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a69907801/maya-kingdom-collapse-burning-event-discovered/?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a69907801/maya-kingdom-collapse-burning-event-discovered/?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

## Ninety-Nine Fascinating Finds Revealed in 2021

The year's most exciting discoveries include a Viking "piggy bank," a lost Native American settlement and a secret passageway hidden behind a bookshelf

Jumping ahead to the 19th century, archaeologists in Alaska recently identified the [fort where Indigenous Tlingit warriors faced off with Russian colonizers](#) in the fall of 1804. The Russians and their Aleut allies targeted the encampment in retaliation for an 1802 Tlingit attack on the Russian outpost of Redoubt Saint Michael. Though the Tlingit managed to defend the fort from an initial assault, they decided to retreat north after a six-day siege—a move that allowed the Russians to gain a foothold in the region and claim Alaska as a colony.

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Experts from Mexico's [National Institute of Anthropology and History](#) (INAH) unveiled a rich array of finds related to Indigenous culture this year. The list includes four [flower bouquets discovered in a tunnel beneath a Teotihuacán pyramid](#), a [600-year-old golden eagle sculpture](#) found at the Aztec [Templo Mayor](#) in Mexico City, an [Aztec altar secretly erected after the Spanish conquest](#), a [human-sized Maya mask](#) sculpted out of stucco, a [well-preserved Maya canoe](#) and [137 handprints left on the wall of a cave](#) in the Yucatán Peninsula by Maya children more than 1,200 years ago.

Elsewhere in North America, bison recently reintroduced to [Wanuskewin Heritage Park](#) in Canada's Saskatchewan province uncovered [four petroglyphs, or rock carvings, with their hooves](#). As Wahpeton Dakota Elder Cy Standing told *Smithsonian* in November, the find seemingly fulfilled an Indigenous prophecy: "The elders used to tell us when the bison come back, that's when there'll be a good change in our history. We've been down a long time. But it feels like we are starting the way up." Farther south, in Wisconsin, archaeologists recovered the [oldest intact boat ever found in the state](#)—a 1,200-year-old dugout canoe likely built by the [Effigy Moundbuilders](#), a group of Late Woodland people who lived in what is now Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa between 750 and 1200 C.E. Finally, on Florida's Big Talbot Island, researchers identified the probable location of [Sarabay](#), a [long-lost Native American settlement](#) inhabited by the [Mocama](#). Objects found at the site ranged from Spanish pottery to bone artifacts to charred corn cob remains.

Eagles are enduring symbols in Aztec lore. Mirsa  
Islas / INAH



[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/99-fascinating-finds-revealed-in-2021-180979281/?itm\\_source=related-content&itm\\_medium=parsely-a](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/99-fascinating-finds-revealed-in-2021-180979281/?itm_source=related-content&itm_medium=parsely-a)

[Know Your Planet](#)

## **Klamath Indigenous Land Trust purchases 10,000 acres on Klamath River from PacifiCorp**

“As salmon return to the headwaters of the Klamath River for the first time in over a century, the newly formed Klamath Indigenous Land Trust (KILT) and PacifiCorp announced the landmark purchase of 10,000 acres in and around the former reservoir reach of the river, according to a press statement. Representatives of the trust say the transaction represents “one of the largest private land purchases by an Indigenous-led land trust in U.S. history.” “Dam removal allowed the salmon to return home. Returning these lands to Indigenous care ensures that home will be a place where they can flourish and recover,” said Mollie Myers (Karuk), President of the Klamath Indigenous Land Trust Board of Directors. “Our communities spent generations fighting for this moment and we honor our ancestors who carried this vision forward. The healing that’s underway is real, and this acquisition reflects the future we’re building together as people of the Klamath Basin.” ... ” [Read more from the Daily Kos.](#)

## **What’s at stake for Arizona as Colorado River water negotiations drag on**

“Water is vital for just about everything in Arizona, for drinking, farming, and even building. One of the biggest sources of the state’s fresh water is the Colorado River. Just how much of that resource Arizona gets could change in the coming months. “The hard thing right now is the great uncertainty,” said Sarah Porter, the ASU Kyl Center for Water Policy director. Seven states rely on the Colorado River, which is broken up into two groups: the upper basin and the lower basin (which includes Arizona). Over the past year, negotiators from these states have been meeting to develop new regulations and water allotments, but so far they have failed to reach an agreement on a new plan. “This uncertainty that we have right now creates a great deal of hardship for cities, for tribes, for all the water users,” said Porter. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Family](#)

## **Colorado River states likely only have one last chance to cut a deal. Here’s why.**

“A new February deadline for a Colorado River deal is likely the last chance for the seven states involved to decide how to share water from the diminished river. The current agreement expires in one year, but talks have stalled over disagreements over how to reduce the use of the river’s water. Negotiators for the seven states have blown through deadline after deadline – including the annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference earlier this month. The U.S. Department of Interior set another deadline of Feb. 14, saying progress had been made. Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke told ABC15 the states are unlikely to get further extensions. “I do expect this time, the federal government to make a choice and impose something upon us,” he said. ... ” .

## **Shoshone water rights acquisition effort advances**

“A Western Slope effort to acquire major and important Colorado River water rights has experienced some major ups and downs this year, but continues to move ever closer to possible success. The Colorado River District, based in Glenwood Springs, is working to acquire the historic Shoshone hydroelectric power plant water rights in Glenwood Canyon for \$99 million from Xcel Energy. The rights include an early 1900s right to flows of 1,250 cubic feet per second. Because of their seniority, the rights help assure that, in times of lower river flows, water continues to flow downstream through and past the plant to not just provide power but benefit the environment and recreation and be available for other uses. Otherwise, the water could be diverted from the river upstream of the plant by junior water rights holders like Front

**For more than 100,000 years, this place remembered water but never saw it.**

During the Ice Age, Death Valley National Park was home to a vast inland sea known to geologists as Lake Manly. At its peak, it stretched nearly 100 miles long and reached depths of around 600 feet, filling the valley with cold blue water beneath a much cooler climate.

Then the world warmed.

Glaciers retreated. Rainfall patterns shifted. Lake Manly slowly evaporated, leaving behind salt flats, mineral scars, and ancient shorelines etched into the valley walls. For tens of millennia, the basin lived up to its modern name, one of the driest, hottest places on Earth.

Until now.

After an extraordinary sequence of record-breaking storms and rainfall, water once again pooled across the valley floor. Sections of the basin that hadn't held a true lake since deep prehistory filled with reflective, wind-rippled water, mirroring mountains that had not seen themselves reflected in ages.

Scientists are clear: this is temporary. The revived lake will evaporate under desert heat, likely disappearing within months. It does not signal a permanent climate reversal or the return of Ice Age conditions.

But it does matter.

Because for a brief moment, the landscape replayed its own memory.

The event offers researchers a rare opportunity to observe how ancient lakebeds respond to flooding, how sediments move, salts dissolve, and ecosystems briefly awaken. For visitors and photographers, it transformed Death Valley into something almost unrecognizable: quiet water where cracked earth once dominated.

What makes the moment powerful isn't its permanence, it's its reminder.

Earth's surface is not fixed.

It stores past climates like layers in stone.

And under the right conditions, those pasts can resurface.

Lake Manly did not return because the valley changed.

It returned because the valley remembered how.



### **Local ‘water protectors’ sue LADWP: Utility failed to revegetate abandoned pastures, plaintiffs say**

“The three official member organizations of the Eastern Sierra Water Alliance filed a joint lawsuit Wednesday against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, claiming the utility has failed to comply with legally required vegetation mitigation work in the Laws area near Bishop. The plaintiffs are the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, Sierra Club Range of Light Group, and Friends of the Inyo. In a media release issued the same day the lawsuit was filed, the plaintiffs state that, as part of a 2003 project under the California Environmental Quality Act, LADWP committed to revegetate abandoned pastures in the Laws area, in exchange for creating new pastures in other nearby areas, an effort that “would have created a biodiverse upland desert scrub community in the previously abandoned pastures by 2013.” ... ” [Read more from the Mammoth Times](#)

### **Where a Saudi company pumps desert groundwater, Arizona considers imposing limits**

“Lush green fields of alfalfa spread across thousands of acres in a desert valley in western Arizona, where a dairy company from Saudi Arabia grows the thirsty crop by pulling up groundwater from dozens of wells. The company, Fondomonte, is the largest water user in the Ranegras Plain groundwater basin, shipping hay overseas to feed its cows in the Middle East. Like other landowners in the area, it has been allowed to pump unlimited amounts from the aquifer, even as water levels have declined. That soon could change, as Arizona officials are considering a plan to start regulating groundwater pumping in the rural area 100 miles west of Phoenix. ... ” [Read more from the LA Times.](#) | [Read via AOL News.](#)

### **Yavapai-Apache water settlement returns to congress**

“On Friday, December 26, 2025, Arizona Representative Eli Crane introduced H.R. 6931, titled the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act, in the United States House of Representatives. The bill seeks congressional approval of a negotiated settlement resolving the Yavapai-Apache Nation’s water rights claims in Arizona and authorizes construction of a water project tied to those claims. The legislation was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, which oversees tribal water settlements and western water policy. As of December 28, 2025, the full legislative text had not yet been released, a procedural delay that can occur following bill introduction. ... ” [Read more from Western Water.](#)

### **Utah proposes desalination collaboration with California to tackle Colorado River water crisis**

“In the ongoing bout over the Colorado River’s resources, Utah Senate President J. Stuart Adams has pitched an idea that might ease tensions among Western states. According to Scripps News Salt Lake City, Adams suggests Utah could aid California in building more desalination plants. In return, California would let go of some of its Colorado River water allocation, benefiting Utah and other upstream states. While such projects could cost a hefty sum and aren’t quick fixes, they represent potential pieces of a diversified approach to water management. “Those are complicated projects that require a lot of analysis and investment, and new infrastructure to be built. That’s going to be part of the solution, but it’s not going to be the entirety of the solution,” Jessica Neuwerth, executive director of the Colorado River Board of California, told Scripps News Salt Lake City. As the states of the Colorado River basin grapple with unprecedented water

scarcity, there's momentum toward collaborative and multi-state projects. ... ” [Read more from Hoodline](#).

### **Tapping indigenous knowledge can help us navigate a changing climate**

“Two years ago, a natural spring in Zuni Pueblo, New Mexico—one of the driest patches of land in the United States—began to disappear. It was a source that many people, including Jim Enote, a Zuni tribal member, used for watering their fields and gardens. Enote had farmed the area for 68 consecutive years, so when his neighbors tried to revive the crucial water supply, he joined them. Despite their best efforts, the spring dried up—a casualty of the worst megadrought experienced in the Southwest for more than a millennium. Still, Enote believed there had to be a way to quench his community's thirst. As a boy, he had learned the traditional names of local places from his grandfather. And he remembered that an area just 100 feet from one of his fields had a Zuni name that referred to water. The spot was covered with dry grass, but Enote decided to start digging. Less than a foot down, he hit standing water. ... ” [Continue reading from the Sierra Club](#).

### **Radio show: Amy Cordalis on her family's fight to save the Klamath River**

“On this edition of Your Call's One Planet Series, Indigenous rights and environmental advocate Amy Bowers Cordalis discusses her new book, *The Water Remembers: My Indigenous Family's Fight to Save a River and a Way of Life*. Cordalis chronicles a multigenerational struggle to protect Indigenous cultural heritage and the Klamath River from environmental damage, which led to the largest river restoration project in history. She writes: “The lessons from Klamath dam removal are critical now because the relationship between humans and nature is out of balance across the planet. Klamath dam removal proves that humans can work with nature to create a thriving future on planet earth. Dam removal is just the beginning. ... ” [Listen at KALW](#).

- MyJobsCorner posted a job opening for **Activities Assistant Jobs: Hiring Immediately! Full Time / Part Time - \$20-\$37/Hr** in Reno. Apply [here](#).

### **Extract from “10 Everyday Phrases You Didn't Know Were Problematic”**

By [Sara Levine](#)

#### **Off the reservation**

This one might not be shocking, since if you know anything about American history, you can probably figure out what type of “reservation” this phrase refers to (clearly, not the kind you make at a restaurant). In fact, Hillary Clinton got in trouble for uttering this expression during her 2016 presidential run, when she told CNN, “I have a lot of experience dealing with men who sometimes get off the reservation in the way they behave and how they speak.” Her team had to quickly walk back the statement, which is rooted in the brutal and violent ways Native Americans were forced off their native land and onto government-sanctioned areas.

### **Grandfathered-in**

This expression doesn't *just* refer to a practice that's allowed to continue because it was enacted before a newer law came along. Describing this phenomenon in terms of being "grandfathered-in" [dates back to the 15th Amendment](#), which outlawed racial discrimination in voting. The Amendment was ratified in 1870, but in fact, Black voters were discriminated against — and even physically attacked at the polls — for nearly another 100 years.

Some states tried to get around the 15th Amendment by requiring practices like literacy tests and poll taxes, designed to keep Black men from voting. The only problem? Such measures would *also* keep poor white men from the polls. So a number of states passed a "grandfather clause" that allowed white men to vote, test-free, if they'd been eligible before African-Americans were given the right, or if they were the descendants of legal voters. These grandfather clauses enfranchised poor white men, but paved the way for discrimination against Black voters.

### **Hip, hip, hooray!**

The good news is that hardly anybody actually says this anymore — at least, not in earnest. The bad news is that this phrase has a murky history at best. Some scholars believe that "hip hip" originated from "[hep hep](#)," an antisemitic rallying cry that rioters in Germany would exclaim while hunting for Jews. And for the record, a pogrom of Jews in 1819 Germany was called the "Hep-Hep riots," so do with that information what you will.

### **Sold down the river**

Much like "off the reservation," it'll probably take you about two seconds of critical thinking to figure out [what could be offensive](#) about this expression. Think about it: What group of people in America were historically brought here for the express purpose of being bought and sold like property? Just say you were betrayed, or even screwed over — or go ahead and make up a new, non-offensive term of your own.

[https://katiecouric.com/lifestyle/common-phrases-that-are-offensive/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=WUC Tuesday Dec30 2025&utm\\_term=all users](https://katiecouric.com/lifestyle/common-phrases-that-are-offensive/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WUC_Tuesday_Dec30_2025&utm_term=all_users)

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In a little email correspondence, I asked: "*Now tell me when the last time there was some outstanding architecture employed in Reno?*"

The response: *A shoshone tent, late 1880s*



Click on pic Sacred Stories: Meeting Nevada's Indigenous

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# The Paiute | We Shall Remain: A Native History of Utah [FULL EPISODE]



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