



# Archeology Program

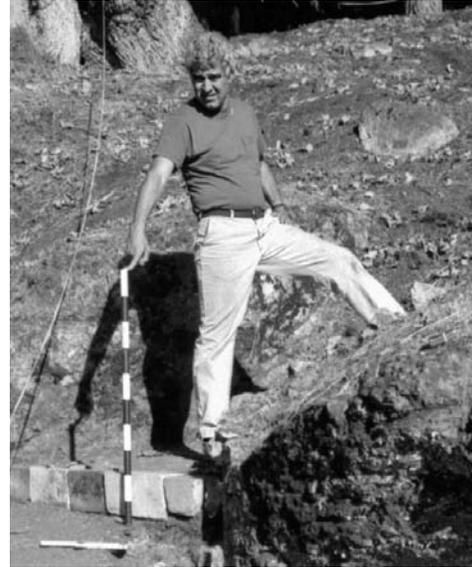
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## August 2012 Archeology E-Gram

### Passing of Former NPS Archeologist Jim Thomson

James William "Jim" Thomson, Jr., former regional archeologist for NPS Pacific West Region, passed away in Seattle, Washington, on July 24, 2012, from leukemia-related complications. Thomson was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on March 27, 1941. Because of his father's career in the United States Air Force, his youth was spent in many different locations, including Morocco. The experience influenced Thomson's cultural awareness, love of adventure, and global perspective. Thomson attended Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina. Enlisting after graduation, he served a tour of duty in Vietnam as an artilleryman in the U.S. Army, was awarded the Bronze Star, and reached the rank of captain before resuming his higher education.



Jim Thomson, NPS Regional Archeologist

Thomson began his NPS career at Fort Moultrie as a laborer assisting in archeological excavations. While completing his MA in anthropology at Florida State University, he worked as a temporary employee for the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC). After graduation, Thomson joined the NPS Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta office. With the beginning of the Alaska pipeline project in 1980, he moved to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's Interagency Archeological Services Alaska office, overseeing projects in Barrow, Alaska. Thomson left Alaska for warmer climes in 1982, and assumed the position of regional archeologist in Pacific Northwest Region in Seattle.

As regional archeologist, Thomson supported survey for evidence of past human use, survey for occupation of higher elevations, and promoting integrating archeological awareness and compliance into the everyday activities in national parks. Thomson was concerned to develop effective responses for eroding archeological sites and was concerned about the accelerating impacts of human use and climate change on cultural resources.

During the merger of the Western and Pacific Northwest Regions, Thomson played a key role in developing a cultural resources organizational structure that brought professionals in both the regional offices and parks together into a collaborative and cooperative functioning team. He also contributed to developing the Systemwide Archeology Inventory Program (SAIP).

Among the important impacts that he had was his effective advocacy for hiring archeologists at parks and including the archeological perspective early in park planning to ensure that preservation effectively merged with park projects. Jim's delightful humor and brilliant story delivery created a relaxed atmosphere that eased collaboration between parks and the region, park management and staff. Intellectually curious, generous, and gracious, Jim will be remembered for his warmth, great humor and inclusive approach to problem solving.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held in Seattle at a future date. Contact Kirstie Haertel (206-220-4136) if you would like to be notified of this event.

*By Gretchen Luxenberg  
Historian, NPS Pacific West Regional Office*

### **Archeological "After Hours" Event at Cowpens National Battlefield**

NPS Southeastern Archeological Center (SEAC) archeologist Michael Seibert updated local scholars on recent research to locate Revolutionary War campsites associated with the Battle of Cowpens during an "After Hours" event at Cowpens NB on July 29, 2012. The Battle of Cowpens was a decisive victory by Continental army forces under Brigadier General Daniel Morgan. It was a turning point in the southern campaign of the Revolutionary War.

For two weeks in May, a team of SEAC archeologists searched likely locations in the park for evidence of bivouacs of the Continental Army force. Discouraged by inconclusive results, Seibert enlisted the assistance of two local volunteer associations and returned in July to carry out additional reconnaissance.

Volunteers from the South Carolina Archaeological Society and the Treasure and Artifact Association of South Carolina (a metal detection group) worked with SEAC archeologists to identify potential campsites. Seibert's volunteer teams recovered more than 40 Revolutionary War period items, mostly buckles and musket balls.



Metal Detection Survey at Cowpens NB

Speaking to an audience of 53 attendees, Siebert spoke about the challenges of identifying campsites that have been impacted by two centuries of farming and landscape change. He said, "To recover evidence of Morgan's army on this section of the battlefield, we are sifting through more than 200 years of landscape transformation and looking for less than 24 hours of Revolutionary War history."

Volunteer involvement and public interest were key elements in the success of the 2012 research at Cowpens NB. Over the course of 2 days, 27 volunteers participated in the fieldwork, and 53 people attended the "After Hours" event to learn about the results of the research.

*From a story by Virginia Fowler  
Ranger, Cowpens NB*

### **Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site Celebrates Native American Culture**

Knife River Indian Villages NHS held a "Northern Plains Indian Culture Fest" July 28-29, 2012. The event encompassed a wide range of activities exemplifying lifeways of the Northern Plains tribes that frequented the Knife River area from several thousand years ago to the present. Activities included archeology talks, flint knapping, bead working, porcupine quill work, hide tanning, making metal trade items, Northern Plains dances, Indian flute music, Sahnish and Three Affiliated Tribes cultural demonstrations, and children's activities.

Local television station KFYYR produced a news story on the festival, featuring interviews with NPS ranger Craig Hansen and Midwestern Archeological Center archeologist Jay Sturdevant. The video also included a demonstration of equipment used in the geophysical survey for buried cultural resources being carried out at the park this summer. The survey has located a ditch partially enclosing one of the villages.

To view the news clip, go to [http://www.kfyrvtv.com/Video\\_News.asp?news=58388](http://www.kfyrvtv.com/Video_News.asp?news=58388)

To learn more about Knife River Indian Villages NHS, go to <http://www.nps.gov/knri/index.htm>



Tipis at Culture Fest, Knife River Indian Villages NHS

### **DOI Secretary Salazar and NPS Director Jarvis Announce \$1.66 Million in NAGPRA Grants**

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and NPS Director Jon Jarvis announced that the NPS is awarding over \$1.6 million in grants to assist Native American tribes, Alaska Native villages, and museums with implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which assists in the return of human remains and cultural objects to communities of origin.

The NPS is awarding \$1,559,888 to 21 museums, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to document NAGPRA-related objects (consultation/documentation grants), while the remaining \$103,494 is going to 10 groups for costs associated with the return of human remains and objects to communities of origin (repatriation grants). The funding is in addition to the grants announced in February 2012 for repatriation of over 150 individuals and over 15,000 sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony and funerary objects back to tribes.

NAGPRA requires museums and Federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and certain cultural items in their collections, and to consult with culturally affiliated Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding the return of these objects to descendants or culturally affiliated tribes and other organizations. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in implementing provisions of the Act.

Projects funded by the grant program include consultations to identify and affiliate individuals and cultural items, training for both museum and tribal staff on NAGPRA, digitizing collection records for consultation, consultations regarding culturally significant unaffiliated individuals, as well as the preparation and transport of items back to their native people.

*From press release  
NPS Public Affairs*

### **Urban Archeology Corps at Anacostia Park Holds Community History Day**

The Urban Archeology Corps held a Community History Day on August 21, 2012. The Corps is supported by a partnership between Groundwork Anacostia River DC and the NPS. It is an immersive summer work experience for local youth to learn more about the history of communities and neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River. During their work experience, the Corps members used archeology to learn about the communities surrounding Civil War-era Fort Mahan and the NPS, while practicing environmental and community stewardship.



Urban Archeology Corps participants.

During the Community History Day event, Urban Archeology Corps youth participants presented interpretative materials about Fort Mahan and its surrounding communities. The students also shared information they learned through archival and archeological research about the Civil War defenses of Washington, DC, and the communities east of the Anacostia River. They presented their ideas for improving the parks and the parks' relationships with the community.

The Urban Archeology Corps is supported by a grant from the National Park Foundation which was funded by L.L. Bean, Disney, the Anschutz Foundation, and the Ahmanson Foundation through the America's Best Idea program.

For more information about Groundwork Anacostia River DC, go to [www.groundworkdc.org](http://www.groundworkdc.org). Contact: Teresa Moyer at 202-354-2124.

### **The E-Gram is Illustrated!**

Our readers who receive the NPS Archeology E-Gram delivered to their electronic doorstep probably don't know that, since January 2012, e-gram stories are illustrated! To accommodate small mailboxes, we strip the header and any photos or drawings from the text before delivery. If, however, you go to <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/new.htm>, and click either on "download the current e-gram," or "go to the e-gram archives," illustrated versions of e-gram issues are displayed. Illustrations include photos of people in the news, projects, and other images that help us to bring the excitement of archeology to you and to the public.

### **Top Scientists Examine Resource Stewardship in National Parks**

In 1963, an advisory board of scientists chaired by Starker Leopold, son of pioneer ecologist Aldo Leopold, submitted a report on park stewardship to the NPS. Nearly 50 years later, Director Jon Jarvis has called for a second such report. "Revisiting Leopold: Resource Stewardship in the National Parks" is the work of an 11-member committee of scientists that includes a Nobel Laureate and two Presidential Medal of Science recipients. The committee chair is the former Director of the National Science Foundation Rita Colwell.

Director Jarvis asked committee members to answer three questions: What should be the goals of resource management in the national park system? What policies are necessary to reach those goals? What actions are necessary to implement those policies?

The report strives to provide general and conceptual answers to the questions posed. General principles and guidance are emphasized rather than specific solutions to technical problems. One of the committee's key recommendations is that the NPS should steward its resources for continuous change to preserve ecological integrity and cultural and historical authenticity; provide visitors with transformative experiences and form the core of a national conservation land- and seascape.

The new report considers cultural resource stewardship as fully as natural resource stewardship. It also addresses issues unheard of 50 years ago, such as climate change and cultural diversity within the NPS workforce. Notably, the report urges the NPS to "materially invest in scientific capacity by building a new and diverse cohort of scientists, adequately supporting their research, and applying the results." The report further notes that "NPS scientists (and the agency) would greatly benefit from strengthened and supportive supervision, increased opportunities to interact with the scientific community, including professional associations, and specific responsibility and opportunity for publishing their work in the scientific literature."

Over the next several months, the NPS will hold a series of discussions on the report's recommendations with its employees, members of the scientific and parks communities and managers of protected areas in other nations. The implications of the report and the comments offered will be thoroughly reviewed before the NPS makes decisions about how to move forward.

To read the full report, go to [http://www.nps.gov/calltoaction/PDF/LeopoldReport\\_2012.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/calltoaction/PDF/LeopoldReport_2012.pdf)

### **Elwha Tribe Wants Uncovered Legendary Creation Site**

What will become of the lands that used to be under the Elwha Dam and Lake Aldwell, including sacred lands of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe? Slowly emerging from lowering water are some 1,100 acres of land with an uncertain future. When Congress authorized removal of the dam located southwest of Port Angeles, Washington, in 1992, the inundated lands were to be set aside either for use as a state park, a national park, a national wildlife refuge, or be transferred to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. So far, the tribe is the only eligible party that has a plan and a desire for the land.

That desire became even more intense last month, with the discovery of the tribe's creation site. The site is where, by tribal teaching, the Creator bathed and blessed the Klallam people. The site was covered by the waters behind Elwha Dam, built between 1910 and 1913. Many tribal members feared it had been destroyed by blasting during dam construction.

Frances Charles, chairwoman of the Klallam Tribe, said she and other tribal members visited the site last month after receiving a call from NPS cultural resources staff, who believed they had found the site. "A group of us walked to the site and actually stood on the rock known to us as the creation site," Charles said this week. "It was eerie in some ways. We were walking on the soil that had been underwater for 100 years, and witnessing the old cedars. It was emotional, with joy and happiness. We sang a prayer song and an honor song, and had the opportunity to stand there and really praise our ancestors and the elders for telling the stories." To see that those stories actually were true was overwhelming, Charles said.

The recovery of the Klallam cultural sites is a deeper dimension of the Elwha restoration, affirming the truth of the tribe's presence here for so long. "The land continues to show us, it speaks," Charles said. "To be able to go down there and feel the power of the water and the land, and look at a landmark that has been covered for so many years, now being able to breathe."

For now, the NPS, which already manages 85 percent of the Elwha watershed, is managing the lands. Park rangers are providing law enforcement and offering interpretive walks on some of the project lands, excluding the cultural sites, which are confidential and protected. The NPS will follow a public process to decide the long-term disposition of the land, but at the moment has no funding to pay for a NEPA Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, noted Todd Suess, acting superintendent for Olympic NP. The agency is aware the tribe wants the land, but can't just turn it over.



The Elwha River runs free.

The Lower Elwha Klallam tribe, if it comes to steward the lands, would like to use some portions of the property outside the cultural sites and river corridor for housing or economic development, according to Robert Elofson, director of river restoration for the tribe. Transfer of the property would help the tribe realize a long unmet need for an adequate land base, Elofson said.

When the U.S. government purchased land for the Lower Elwha Klallam reservation in the late 1930s, the superintendent of the, then, Office of Indian Affairs stated that tribe, which was far smaller then, needed six sections of land, almost 4,500 acres along the Elwha River. The government acquired only 300 acres for the tribe and took another three decades to convey the land for the tribe's reservation in 1968, in part because of opposition by sport fishermen. The tribe has continued to buy land ever since on its own, and today has about 1,000 acres along the Elwha River.

No matter who ends up owning the land, more than 700 acres of it along the river and in its flood plain will remain in its natural state in perpetuity, with public access maintained. That is according to the requirements of the Elwha Act, passed by Congress in 1992.

*From story by Lynda V. Mapes,  
Seattle Times staff reporter*

### **Archeological Resources in NPS HABS/HAER/HALS**

When you conduct background research for an archeological project, do you include the NPS HABS/HAER/HALS collections at the Library of Congress (LOC)? You may be surprised at the breadth of information about archeological resources in these online collections. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) collections are among the largest and most heavily used in the LOC Prints and Photographs Division. The collections document achievements in architecture, engineering, and design in the United States and its territories.

HABS was established in 1933 to document America's architectural heritage. Creation of the program was motivated by a desire to document rapidly vanishing architectural resources. The program received legislative mandate through the Historic Sites Act of 1935. The buildings in the HABS collection range in type and style from the monumental and architect-designed to the utilitarian and vernacular, including

Native American pueblos and pueblitos, as demonstrated by the photographs and measured drawings for the Shafthouse Pueblito, in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

HAER was established in 1969 by the NPS, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the LOC to document historic sites and structures related to engineering and industry. It developed out of a close working alliance between HABS and the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of History and Technology. From its inception, HAER focused less on the building fabric and more on the machinery and processes within the buildings. HAER has documented individual sites and objects, such as bridges, ships, and steel works; and larger systems like railroads, canals, parkways, and roads. A number of the projects have included data and photographs from associated archeological investigations, such as excavations in the interior of the 1840s Matthew Mappin house, in Monroe County, Missouri.

The American Society of Landscape Architects Historic Preservation Professional Interest Group worked with the NPS to establish a national landscape documentation program. In October 2000, the NPS established the HALS program for the systematic documentation of historic American landscapes. Historic landscapes vary in size from small gardens to several thousand-acre national parks. In character they range from designed to vernacular, rural to urban, and agricultural to industrial spaces. Vegetable patches, estate gardens, cemeteries, farms, quarries, nuclear test sites, suburbs, and abandoned settlements all may be considered historic landscapes.

Administered through cooperative agreements among the NPS, LOC, and the private sector, HABS/HAER/HALS projects have recorded America's built environment in multi-format surveys comprising more than 556,900 measured drawings, large-format photographs, and written histories for more than 38,600 historic structures and sites dating from Pre-Columbian times to the twentieth century. The online collections include digitized images of measured drawings, black-and-white photographs, color transparencies, photo captions, data pages that include written histories, and supplemental materials.

Archeological resources may be identified by using a geographical search, or through subject searches. For example, search terms such as "archeology/archaeology" (210 surveys), "Indians" (534 surveys), and "ruins" (393 surveys) will identify projects with archeological and/or Native American components.

To learn more about HABS/HAER/HALS, go to <http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/>

To use the HABS/HAER/HALS collections online, go to <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>

### **Projects in Parks: Is taking a break.**

*Projects in Parks* is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. The full reports are available on the *Research in the Parks* web page [www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm) or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram*. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* web page on InsideNPS.

*Archeology E-Gram*, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the NPS and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the

*News and Links* page [www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program web site.

**Contact:** Karen Mudar at [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for *Projects in Parks*, submit citations and a brief abstract for your peer-reviewed publications, and to subscribe.