



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



November 2018 Archeology E-Gram

NPS NEWS

Archeologist Branch Chief at Grand Teton National Park

Kate Birmingham is the new branch chief of cultural resources at Grand Teton NP. Birmingham has worked for the NPS since 2010 and was most recently the cultural resources program manager at National Capital Parks-East (NACE). Prior to NACE she served as an archeologist at Monocacy NB. She has held detail positions at Grand Teton NP, Rock Creek Park, and the Cultural Resource Office of Outreach and Education and the Archeology Program, Washington Office.



Birmingham is a 2015 graduate of the NPS GOAL Academy. She holds a MA in museum studies from George Washington University and a BA in anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to working for the NPS, she was an archeological laboratory director for several cultural resource management firms. During graduate school, Birmingham interned at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History and the NPS National Capital Region Museum Resource Center.

Her professional and academic research has focused on the archeology of minority populations, including Native Americans, women, and African Americans.

Climate Change Archeologist Resigns from National Park Service

The archeologist in charge of studying climate change's effects on cultural resources for the National Park Service (NPS) has resigned, citing the administration's unequal attention to natural resources. Marcy Rockman, the first person to hold the position of Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator for Cultural Resources at NPS, resigned in early November after seven years in the position.

Her job was part of NPS's Climate Change Response Program, which was created to study how to better understand the effects of climate change on NPS-owned sites and resources. In her role, Rockman studied the effects of climate change on archeological sites, cultural landscapes and historic buildings and looked to past cultures for guidance on how to address future climate change.

Rockman claimed she routinely saw the agency struggle to offer resources to her area commensurate with its emphasis on natural resources. "Despite the needs and potentials of cultural resources with respect to climate change across the national park system, and the leadership role the NPS holds in providing cultural resources guidance to federal, state, tribal, and local partners, over the course of my position I've seen the NPS repeatedly struggle to support cultural resources at levels commensurate with natural resources."



She is leaving to join the UN'S International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) to improve representation of cultural and natural heritage in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The panel in October released a report that warned that the effects of climate change could soon be irreversible if not addressed.

From story in The Hill

Find at Arlington House Connects to George Washington

Excavations at Arlington House in Arlington National Cemetery have turned up rare fragments of the “States china,” a set of dishware commissioned in China for Martha Washington over 200 years ago by a Dutch admirer of the United States. NPS archeologist Michael Roller said it was the first time that remnants of the dishware had been unearthed at Arlington House since the 1950s. Only 21 pieces of the custom-decorated 45-piece set are known to exist and some of them are damaged. Mount Vernon has eight. The White House has three. The rest are scattered among other institutions.



The survey also turned up part of the foundation of the vanished “Temple of Fame,” which stood in the garden outside Arlington House from 1884 to 1967, when it was demolished. The temple, with stone columns and a tin dome, bore the names of George Washington and Civil War heroes including Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant.

Native Americans had occupied the site long before George Washington Parke Custis, biological grandson of Martha Washington and adoptive son of George Washington, leveled a hill on the site to build Arlington House. The mansion, with its eight columns and grand portico, was built mostly by enslaved African Americans between 1802 and 1818.

Custis idolized George Washington and had Arlington built in part as a memorial to the nation’s first president. At Arlington House, he gathered Washington memorabilia and artifacts. They included his grandmother’s bequest of her “set of tea china that was given me by Mr. Van Braam every piece having MW on it,” as Martha Washington put it in her will.

The excavation, and an archeological survey at the site, are part of a \$12.35 million renovation project at the property funded by philanthropist David M. Rubenstein.

From story by Michael E. Ruane, Washington Post

Former National Park Service Chief Archeologist on National NAGPRA Review Committee

The National NAGPRA Review Committee met in Washington, D.C. on October 17-19, 2018, at Department of Interior headquarters. At the meeting, it was announced that Dr. Frank McManamon had been appointed to serve a four year term on the panel. Dr. McManamon was nominated by SAA and other national museum and scientific organizations.

By David Lindsay, Manager, Government Affairs, Society for American Archaeology

Teaching with Archeology

The Archeology Program has created ten new lesson plans about archeology on the NPS Education Portal. Six of the lesson plans focus on historical studies: “Crashing the Gates” about three early female archeologists in national parks; “Frederick Douglass, the Educator of Anacostia;” “Nickels to Dollars: Maggie L. Walker’s Quest for African American Empowerment;” and “Neither Cold Nor A Harbor: A Civil War Soldier’s Experience at the Battle of Cold Harbor.” All but the Crashing the Gates series feature 3D-scanned artifacts. Four additional lesson plans focus on technological tools that archeologists utilize, including faunal studies, magnetometry, pollen analysis, and x-ray fluorescence.

Interns Caroline Gardiner and Megan Winnick created the lesson plans to teach students what archeology is and how it relates to concepts that they are already learning in the classroom, such as chemistry, geology, and history. The majority of the lessons use case studies from parks, which allow students to see how the concepts they are learning are applied in the real world.

Find the lesson plans on the NPS Education Portal at <https://www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm>

Contact: Teresa Moyer, teresa_moyer@nps.gov

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and USGS Works on Imagery Analysis Using Drones

The NPS and the USGS are jointly investigating the post-fire impacts of bulldozed fire breaks and other changes at Whiskeytown NRA. Of the park’s 42,000 acres, 38,000 burned during the recent Carr Fire, the sixth most destructive fire in California history. NPS has partnered with the USGS Western Ecological Research Center to conduct high resolution ortho-imagery before and after the winter rainy season to identify changes in topography, cultural sites, and vegetation following the Carr Fire.

The terrain of Whiskeytown is extremely steep with exceptionally erosive soils. Erosion associated with the loss of vegetation, fire intensity, and fire suppression activities may lead to adverse impacts to the park’s natural and cultural resources this winter. USGS will use topographical characteristics and ortho and infrared multispectral imagery to 1) survey areas for potential erosion and debris flows, 2) survey specific cultural resource features at risk from erosion, 3) survey for abandoned mines that are now exposed on the landscape, and 4) assess vegetation health and regrowth.

To do this, the USGS will fly Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS; aka drones) with specialized sensors to make high resolution ortho imagery and digital elevation models. Edge sensor surveys, which provides 5 band multispectral data, will assess vegetation health and regrowth over time. This high-resolution data collection technique using drones has rarely been applied to post-fire assessments and monitoring. Consequently, NPS management can direct resources to areas where cultural and natural resources are experiencing erosion or debris flows to mitigate future impacts on the landscape.

From story by Matthew Switzer

Tooth from Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Linked to Alaska's Early Inhabitants

Research on a 9,000-year-old child's tooth has reshaped our understanding of Alaska's ancient people, their genetic background and their diets. The tooth represents the second known discovery of a population of migrants known as Ancient Beringians. The find indicates that Ancient Beringians remained in Alaska for thousands of years after first migrating across the Bering Land Bridge that connected eastern Asia and Alaska. The research included genetic analysis of 15 diverse bone samples from sites across North and South America, revealing a broad picture of how the Americas were populated by its earliest peoples.

The Alaska tooth had been largely forgotten since it was excavated in 1949 by Danish archeologists from the Trail Creek Caves Site on Alaska's Seward Peninsula. For almost 70 years it remained in storage in Copenhagen, Denmark, until it was found in 2016 by NPS archeologist Jeff Rasic, who was conducting new analyses of this old collection.

"This one small tooth is a treasure trove of information about Alaska's early populations, not only their genetic affinities but also their movements, interactions with other people and diet," said Rasic. Radiocarbon dating determined the tooth, which belonged to a 1½-year-old child, is the oldest human specimen in the North American Arctic — more than twice as old as the next oldest remains. Genomic testing connected the tooth to the Ancient Beringian lineage. The first traces of that population were discovered in 2013 by a team led by University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) professor Ben Potter at a site in Alaska's Interior. When looked at together, those two sites — separated by about 400 miles and 2,500 years — show that Ancient Beringians were present across the vast expanse of Alaska for millennia.



Artifacts from Helge Larsen's 1949-1950 excavations at the Trail Creek Caves Site are housed at the Danish National Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark. *(NPS photo by Jeff Rasic)*

Researchers worked with tribal officials from the Seward Peninsula village of Deering to coordinate efforts to study the tooth. Analysis at UAF's Alaska Stable Isotope Facility also revealed surprising details about the lives of the child and, by proxy, the mother who fed the child.

"The child's food sources were entirely terrestrial, a sharp contrast with other sites that indicate inclusion of anadromous fish and marine resources," said analyst Matthew Wooller, who works at UAF's College

of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. That land-based diet is a surprise — during the time the child lived on the Seward Peninsula, sea levels had risen to nearly modern levels. Those rising waters had cut off the Bering Land Bridge and surrounded most of the peninsula, making marine resources accessible.

Further isotope results and modeling, which were conducted by Rasic, Wooller and Clement Bataille from the University of Ottawa, determined the family resided in the region surrounding the caves, and were not migrants from elsewhere in Alaska or Siberia.

Investigation of the tooth, conducted by researchers at UAF and the NPS in Alaska, was part of a larger paper published November 8, 2018, in the journal *Science*.

From story by Jeff Richardson, University of Alaska News and Information

National Park Service Tribal Historic Preservation Program Announces 25th Anniversary Report

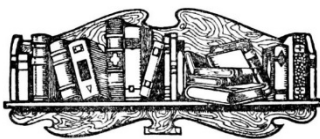
In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, the NPS Tribal Historic Preservation Program has released a new website and a special edition 25th Anniversary report. The website provides enhanced support for prospective Tribal Historic Preservation Officers including links to the THPO application and online training.

The 25th Anniversary issue features articles submitted by tribes. They highlight the development of innovative heritage preservation documentation, including a Cultural Atlas developed by the Hualapai Tribe, and 726 archeological surveys conducted on the tribal lands of the Lac du Flambeau Tribe. The 25th Anniversary report checks in with some of the first 12 THPOs, established in 1996.

The NPS, per NHPA, reviews and approves applications from federally recognized tribes to establish Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) partnerships. When tribes establish these partnerships, they choose to accept historic preservation responsibilities on tribal land that would otherwise rest with State Historic Preservation Offices.

To learn more about the Tribal Historic Preservation Program, and read the 25th Anniversary report, go to nps.gov/THPOProgram.

Contacts: Jamie Lee Marks, NPS THPO Program Manager, 202-354-6463; Jennifer Talken-Spaulding, Bureau Cultural Anthropologist, 202-354-2090



The Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf:

Protective Shelters for Archeological Sites

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) has made available a volume available for free download for those working on the protection, conservation, and management of archeological heritage. *Protective Shelters for Archeological Sites* addresses the issue of protective shelters, recording the results of a week-long symposium in 2013 that used the archeological site of Herculaneum as an “open classroom.”

ICCROM's partners in the MOSAIKON initiative, the Getty Foundation, the Getty Conservation Institute and ICCM, worked with the British School at Rome and the Herculaneum Conservation Project to bring together heritage professionals from ten Mediterranean countries with a group of international colleagues with relevant expertise regarding shelters. The participants represented a cross-section of disciplines and a

range of experiences in the conservation and management of sites with mosaics, and each one presented a relevant case studies from their country, which tied the discussion to real sites and challenges.

The publication is divided into four sections:

1. The process of sheltering
2. Approaches to shelters around the Mediterranean
3. Insights into Mediterranean practice
4. Considerations

This publication furthers the discourse regarding protective shelters for archaeological sites and offers heritage practitioners guiding principles when faced with sheltering decisions.

To download a copy of the publication, go to <https://www.iccrom.org/news/protective-shelters-archaeological-sites>

Message From the Archeology E-Gram Staff

For the past 14 years the Archeology E-Gram has provided timely and useful information about training, educational resources, research, and archeological events to archeologists in the NPS, other Federal agencies, and the wider archeological community.

In 2018, we celebrated with Joe Watkins and Jim Bradford their retirements. We mourned the loss of our colleagues Ruthann Knudson and Steve Daron. We said goodbye to Marcy Rockman. We noted archeologists who are accepting new responsibilities in regional offices, park integrated resource programs, and other areas of the NPS. And awards! A number of archeologists received awards this year, including Thadra Stanton, the Urban Archeology Corps, Rolando Garza, Jim Bradford, and Angelyn Bass (University of New Mexico; for work on NPS sites).

The “Federal Archeologist’s Bookshelf” reviewed a number of books and articles this year, including

- ***From Landscapes of Meaning to Landscapes of Significance in the American Southwest*** by Matthew J. Liebmann. *American Antiquity*, Vol. 82 (4) 642-661.
- ***Late Modernity and Community Change in Lattimer No.2: The American Twentieth Century as Seen through the Archaeology of a Pennsylvania Anthracite Town*** by Michael P. Roller *Historical Archeology*, published online 08 February 2018.
- ***Climate change and the deteriorating archaeological and environmental archives of the Arctic*** Jorgen Hollesen, Martin Callanan, Tom Dawson, Rasmus Fenger-Nielsen, T. Max Friksen, Anne M. Jensen, Adam Markham, Vibeke V. Martens, Vladimir V. Pitulko & Marcy Rockman *Antiquity* Vol. 92: 573-586.
- ***Yellowstone Science*** Volume 26-1 (all about archeology!)

We also saw the court decision stand in *Wilderness Watch vs. Creachbaum* appeal, supporting Olympic Wilderness’s decision to protect cultural resources.

We encourage you to submit news items, training announcements, report titles and summaries for “The Federal Archeologist’s Bookshelf,” and suggestions for other features. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone who contributed to the Archeology E-Gram. The production and editorial staff of the Archeology E-Gram wish you and your families all the best for the coming year.

FEDERAL NEWS

Federal judge blocks Keystone XL pipeline

A federal judge temporarily blocked construction of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, ruling that the current administration had failed to justify its decision granting a permit for the 1,200-mile long project designed to connect Canada's oil sands fields with Texas' Gulf Coast refineries. The State Department has primary jurisdiction over the Keystone XL pipeline permit decision, by virtue of its authority to issue "presidential permits" for cross-border infrastructure projects.

The judge, Brian Morris of the U.S. District Court in Montana, said the State Department ignored crucial issues in order to allow the pipeline be built. In doing so, the administration ran afoul of the Administrative Procedure Act, which requires "reasoned" explanations for government decisions, particularly when they represent reversals of well-studied actions.

Among the judge's findings:

- The department "acted on incomplete information regarding" the potential damage to cultural resources in Indian territory along the route.
- The department failed to make a fact-based explanation for its course reversal, "let alone a reasoned explanation....'An agency cannot simply disregard contrary or inconvenient factual determinations that it made in the past, any more than it can ignore inconvenient facts" in the present," Morris wrote, quoting judicial precedents.
- The department's analysis that "climate-related impacts" from Keystone "would prove inconsequential" needed a "reasoned explanation." It did not provide one.

From story by Fred Barbash, Allyson Chiu and Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post

GRANTS AND TRAINING

Archaeological Violation Investigation Class

Northland Research, Inc.'s Heritage Protection and Emergency Management team will offer a three-day **Archaeological Violation Investigation Class** in Jamestown, Virginia, Tuesday, March 26 through Thursday, March 28, 2019. The class is being sponsored by Colonial NHP and the NPS Archeology Program. The class will be held at the Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center.

The classes are open to all federal, tribal, state and other government agency law enforcement officers, archeologists, prosecuting attorneys, agency managers and other cultural resource staff members. (**Note:** the investigation class has been determined to meet USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement & Investigations ARPA training requirements.)

Contact: Brent Kober at 480-894-0020, or bkober@northlandresearch.com. The registration deadline for the classes is close of business on Friday, February 22, 2019.

SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: The 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie Goes on Public View

From story by Dennis Zotigh, Smithsonian Magazine

Between April 29 and November 6, 1868, tribal leaders from the northern plains signed a treaty with the U.S. government setting aside lands west of the Missouri River for the Sioux and Arapaho tribes. In this written agreement, negotiated at Fort Laramie in what is now Wyoming, the U.S. guaranteed exclusive

tribal occupation of reservation lands, including the Black Hills, sacred to many Native peoples. Within nine years of the treaty's ratification, Congress seized the Black Hills. By breaking the treaty, the United States initiated a legal battle for ownership of the Black Hills that continues to this day.

On October 26, 2018, five tribal delegations—representatives from the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Yankton Sioux Tribe, and the Northern Arapaho Tribe—traveled to the National Museum of the American Indian to see the treaty their ancestors signed and take part in its installation in the exhibition *Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations*.

The Treaty of Fort Laramie was born of war on the northern plains. Led by Chief Red Cloud, the Sioux and their Cheyenne and Arapaho allies defeated U.S. Army detachments and halted wagon trains moving across the Dakotas into the Wyoming and Montana territories. The U.S. dispatched peace commissioners to reach a settlement. The U.S. agreed to guarantee exclusive tribal occupation of reservation lands encompassing the western half of present-day South Dakota and sections of what are now North Dakota and Nebraska; recognize tribal hunting rights on adjoining un-ceded territories and bar settlers from them; and forbid future cessions of tribal land unless they were approved by Native men affected by them.

Red Cloud and five other Native representatives declined to sign the treaty until the United States made good on a provision requiring the army to abandon military posts on Sioux lands within 90 days of peace. In the end, 156 Sioux and 25 Arapaho men signed, alongside seven U.S. commissioners and more than 30 witnesses and interpreters.

In 1874, gold was discovered in the Black Hills. Thousands of gold seekers invaded the Sioux lands. Less than nine years after the Treaty of Fort Laramie was negotiated, Congress seized the Black Hills without the tribes' consent. The Congressional Act of February 28, 1877, offered compensation but the Sioux lands guaranteed to them by the United States were never for sale.

In 1980, in the *United States v. the Sioux Nation of Indians*, the Supreme Court ruled that Congress had acted in bad faith. The courts set fair compensation for the Black Hills at \$102 million. It is estimated that the settlement's value has appreciated to \$1.3 billion today. The Sioux, however, will not accept this payment. They contend that they do not want the money. What they want is their sacred Black Hills back. In addition, Sioux leaders argue, \$1.3 billion, based on a valuation of the land when it was seized, represents only a fraction of the gold, timber, and other natural resources that have been extracted from it.

The National Archives holds 377 ratified American Indian treaties and is in the process of digitizing all of them so that they can be available online for Native and non-Native Americans to see. The entire treaty can be seen online at the National Archives at <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/299803>

From story by Dennis Zotigh, Smithsonian Magazine

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 at www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the NPS Archeology Program website.

Contact: Karen Mudar at karen_mudar@nps.gov to contribute news items and to subscribe.