



NCRI Report

The Adventures of Jacqueline and Eric: Roving NCRI Archaeologists

by Jacqueline Cheung and Eric Gleason

Last year we had the opportunity to work in five areas administered by the National Park Service, experiencing a variety of geographic zones, from the rough lava plains to the subalpine Cascades—excavating, surveying, and recording archaeological sites.

We started out the year at Fort Vancouver NHS, our home base, digging a 1x1 meter test unit west of the Indian Trade Shop along the proposed route for a new sewer line. The installation of this line will make it possible to put an accessible bathroom and kitchen into the Indian Trade Shop.

We found an undisturbed buried ground surface not too far below the modern ground surface with a high concentration of Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) era artifacts, mostly iron scrap waste from blacksmithing, but also a few pieces of transferprint ceramics and bottle glass.

Our findings meant that, to avoid these significant deposits, the sewer route would have to be changed. Further excavations will also be required.

Next we moved on to Ebey's Landing NHR, once again working on a proposed sewage line; this time it was for the installation of a septic tank and drain field at the Jacob Ebey House, built in 1855.

We worked with Dave Conca, Archaeologist at Olympic NP, digging a number of 1x1 meter test units within the proposed construction project.

We recovered quite a bit of



Jacqueline Cheung holding a projectile point at Lava Beds NM (left), Eric Gleason sorts artifacts at Ebey's Landing NHR

historical debris, spanning multiple house occupations. Artifacts associated with the Ebey Family include transferprint ceramics in at least ten different patterns.

Chinese ceramics and artifacts were associated with a later occupation, suggesting Chinese people occupied the house and/or worked the land from around 1880 to the 1920s, after the Ebeys had left.

In May, July, and August, we worked at Lava Beds NM. We coordinated our efforts with Dave Larson, Chief of Resources Management; and Joe Svinarich, Nelson Siefkin and Mark Estes, Fire Archaeologists from the region. Our primary task at Lava Beds was to assess the condition



Photographs courtesy of Jacqueline Cheung

of recorded sites. There are over 400 recorded archaeological sites at Lava Beds, ranging from occupation sites in lava tubes to house pit villages, lithic scatters, and rock art panels, as well as Modoc War fortifications and Civilian Conservation Corps era campsites. Of these, approximately 80 needed to be reassessed, primarily because they had been difficult to relocate in the field. Quite a few of these sites were recorded between 1930 and the 1960s on one-page site forms, the accepted standard at that time. Site descriptions were brief, and often ambiguous.

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An NPS Giant Reminisces: A Conversation with Director George Hartzog

by Tracy Fortmann, FOVA Superintendent

"I've been waiting for your call, ma'am. My memory is not what it used to be, but I believe my recollection is good enough and I have some distinct recollections concerning your park."

This was how my conversation began with Director George Hartzog a few years ago. I first met Director Hartzog while interviewing him for an article in the late 1980s. He was quite the figure even then, as he spoke—at times through clenched teeth

Historical Fragment

In the summer of 1846, Lt. Neil M. Howison, commanding the US Schooner Shark, used Fort Vancouver as an operational center for his exploration of the jointly-occupied Oregon Country. This excerpt from a private letter written by Howison in February 1847 to George Abernethy, Oregon's provisional governor, demonstrates a keen analysis of the treaty that resolved the international boundary we know today. From the George Abernethy Papers, Oregon Historical Society.

I apprehend the terms [of the treaty] upon which the [Hudson's Bay] Company and all British subjects are treated will not be generally acceptable to the American residents in Oregon; but I am satisfied that the incorporation of so large a number of reputable worthy men, men of enterprise and business habits will ultimately be advantageous to the country. The Company seems to have been ably and successfully represented in London, and for my part, it is more matter of congratulation than regret that they are comfortably provided for, and not left subject to the violent intrusions of rude grasping individuals, too lazy to work for property, but ready to seize upon the produce of others labour; - and these pretensions advanced in virtue of their being Americans; - I cannot sympathise with such compatriots as these in their disappointment.

holding his ivory-colored cigarette holder. He was very charismatic, clear thinking, quick in response, and a keen observer. It was clear to me why and how this man was able to lead the National Park Service for such an extended period of time.

Instead of a cold call, I felt it more appropriate to send him a written letter letting him know about my interest in speaking with him about Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. I provided him a number of background materials as well as the latest version of our General Management Plan.

George Hartzog was the Director during the first years of reconstruction here at Fort Vancouver, and worked with Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen, long a tireless booster



Photograph courtesy of National Park Service

George Hartzog,
NPS Director 1964-1972

of the park, to facilitate and fund reconstruction. In our brief conversations, we spoke about his thoughts on reconstructions, his working relationship with Congresswoman Hansen, and my interest in

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NCRI Director's Letter

Greetings! Having just returned from the 73rd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in what we, in Vancouver, Washington, like to call "Canada's Vancouver" (British Columbia), I can say truly that archaeology is not a "dead" science. There is very important work occurring in the field of archaeology, especially as it pertains to museum studies, history, and the care of our precious museum objects and artifacts. Communication of our work to the public is a critical aspect of public archaeology, one of the hallmarks of the NCRI. National conferences, like the meetings of the SAA, are one way to relay what is important and significant about our work. While many of the papers are quite technical, the exploration of sessions and conversations between colleagues permits one to take a "pulse" of the field. These conferences, whether they are in history, historical architecture and landscapes, preservation, or museum studies, are very important steps in translating what is important about our research and work to the general public, our students, and fellow researchers.

Digital access to collections, and other aspects of archaeological and other cultural resources information, is one of the most exciting new developments of the field. As we increasingly go "digital", our ability to provide wider access to the results of our digs for a variety of end-users is becoming extremely important. We are beginning to see the development of large, integrated databases, like those developed for the Chesapeake region and hosted by Colonial Williamsburg (<http://www.chesapeakearchaeology.org/Index.htm>), which provide access to cultural resources through site descriptions, analyses, illustrations of museum objects, archaeological records, and excavation photos, drawings, and profiles. Such information allows researchers, students, and others, the means to explore, and compare in new ways, the data that we have collected laboriously over many years. Under the able leadership of curator Theresa Langford, the NCRI continues to improve accessibility to the site's nearly two million museum objects (<http://www.museum.nps.gov/fova/page.htm>), and our collection of archaeological reports and publications is one of the most visited pages on our site (<http://www.nps.gov/fova/historyculture/online-publications.htm>). We have a tremendous need to continue this integration of documentary, artifact, and excavation data for the purposes of research, elementary through university education, and for the edification of our public. Please join with us in our efforts to make our work and the work of others collected over the past 61 years live again and serve our many public partners.

Doug Wilson

The Adventures of Jacqueline and Eric

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Plotted site locations were for the most part based on triangulation with distant, but prominent, peaks. This meant that recorded site locations had a quarter-mile margin of error.

We came to consider this challenge "Cold Case Archaeology," and eventually figured out which site locations were based on magnetic north versus true north, how to interpret the jargon of previous recorders—Robert Squier, Gordon Grosscup, Benjamin Swartz and Walter Glaeser—and how to reconcile differences in map plots from the written descriptions. We successfully relocated 15 old sites and recorded over 15 new sites and isolates. In addition, we participated in the metal detector survey of Modoc War sites with Bob Cromwell and Doug Wilson, reported in the December 2007 NCRI report.

Following our work at Lava Beds we moved to Crater Lake NP with the rest of the crew to conduct more site condition assessments. We spent a day with PSU student Meris Mullaley, and successfully relocated the National Creek Site.

After that, we worked at Mt. Rainier from September to October, on two separate projects, with archaeologists Greg Burtchard, Ben Diaz and Kevin Vaughn, as well as Steve Athens, an archaeologist from Hawaii.

Our primary project involved surveying areas affected by the November 2006 floods. This survey area included the Nisqually Entrance area, Kautz Creek area and Longmire Meadows.

Our work at Longmire Meadow involved compiling historical maps and photographs to identify the location of the Longmire Springs Hotel (constructed ca. 1885 and burned down in 1920), and other structures associated with the Longmire Resort and concessionaire developments. We pinpointed the location of the hotel and a bath house, and recorded



Photographs courtesy of Jacqueline Cheung

Jacqueline and Eric near Dutton Ridge, Crater Lake NP, in the middle of a long day of pedestrian survey



Eric and Greg Burtchard (in hole) excavating at Buck Lake, Mount Rainier NP



Eric excavating outside the Jacob Ebey House at Ebey's Landing NHR

and identified the remains of the 1911 powerhouse.

Within the Nisqually Entrance area we recorded a section of wagon road constructed by James Longmire in 1893 to provide access to the resort he established at Longmire Springs. Most of the wagon road was later improved and used as the main park road in the early 1900s, but our particular section was abandoned in favor of a lower elevation route with gentler gradients.

We then participated in a project at Buck Lake, located at about 5400 ft on the northeast flank of Mt. Rainier. Burtchard, Diaz, and Athens have been conducting ongoing excavations at a site with a well-defined volcanic tephra sequence. In 2006 they recovered a dart point on an occupation surface below Mt. St. Helens Y tephra, (ca. 3500 Radiocarbon years before present [BP]) and in 2007 a flaked tool was found below intact Mazama tephra deposits, (ca. 6800 Radiocarbon years BP). Plans are in the works to return to Buck Lake this upcoming summer to get a larger sample of the pre-Mazama tephra deposits.

Field School Update

by Beth Horton

In 2007 our excavations focused on the early 19th century U.S. Army occupation (officers, enlisted men, and laundresses) at Vancouver Barracks. We encountered wooden foundations associated with an early soldiers' kitchen with a large amount of charred wood, likely representative of wall and/or roof fall during demolition or destruction of the building. Vessel glass, ceramics (including Chinese, English and French decorations), eating utensils (knife blade and fork, copper spoon), and other domestic items were recovered near the back door of the kitchen. In the vicinity of the early soldiers' barracks artifacts consisted of small items capable of falling through floorboards: vessel glass, ceramics, a U.S. Army General Service button (ca. 1820-1865),



Photographs courtesy of Beth Horton

Field school students screening in the main dig area

and a possible gaming piece. On Officer's Row we located the remains of a log-timbered officers' quarters and possibly the brick foundation of its kitchen. Highly decorated ceramics, a Rockingham ware doorknob, and many other domestic artifacts were recovered in both areas. In 2008 we plan to expand our excavations in these areas during the Public Archaeology Field School.



An example of ceramics recovered from the laundresses quarters

Analyses of the non-architectural artifacts from intact cultural deposits of the soldiers' barracks and laundresses quarters are part of a larger research project exploring how artifacts recovered from yard midden deposits reflect Victorian gender roles in a mid to late 19th century military context—a rigid social climate with firm expectations and rules of behavior. Men stived for Victorian masculine ideals of virility, toughness, and self-control, and fulfilled their roles as the

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National Park Service
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The Vancouver National Historic Reserve is a partnership of the National Park Service, the City of Vancouver, the State of Washington, and the U.S. Army. It includes Fort Vancouver and its village, Vancouver Barracks and Officer's Row, Pearson Field and Air Museum, portions of the Columbia River waterfront, the Water Resources Education Center, and the McLoughlin House unit in Oregon City, Oregon.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Under the Microscope:

Cori Willis and Juliet Amos-McGraw: WSUV Interns

Cori Willis is interning with Fort Vancouver during her last semester at Washington State University Vancouver. In May, she will graduate Magna Cum Laude with a BA in Humanities, majoring in English with a double minor in Anthropology and History, along with a Professional Writing Certificate. Cori has been interested in Archaeology since childhood and has focused her anthropology minor towards that area. She is enjoying her time at Fort Vancouver and will be presenting her findings from this internship at the Northwest Anthropology Conference in Victoria, British Columbia this April.

Juliet Amos-McGraw will also graduate this year from Washington State University Vancouver with a BA in Anthropology. After graduation she intends to pursue her MA in Archaeology, focusing on Mesoamerican studies. She is excited to be an intern at Fort Vancouver. After working at Pearson Air Museum a few years ago she developed an appreciation for the rich history of the Historic Reserve. She hopes that learning how to care for artifacts will enable her to be a better archaeologist in the field. She will spend this summer at the Program for Belize Archaeology Project in Orange Walk, Belize.



NPS Giant: George Hartzog

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developing a site bulletin or other informational materials at some point to share with the public about the early years of this park—from the late 1940s through the 1960s. Although we have not yet developed a site bulletin, I would like to share a few of Director Hartzog’s impressions of that time with you.

On Reconstructions

In our conversation, I noted how there was an impression that the National Park Service had been directed, or to be more blunt, forced, to reconstruct at Fort Vancouver. While National Park Service policy since 1937 has included reconstruction as a viable educational technique for parks, it is sometimes hotly debated within the organization (see Jameson 2004, *The Reconstructed Past: Reconstructions in the Public Interpretation of Archaeology and History*).

In response to the suggestion that reconstruction was forced on the National Park Service at Fort Vancouver, Hartzog countered, “That is not my recollection. I was a major supporter of living farm operations and living history at the time and thought such an operation would make sense at Fort Vancouver. The decision to build there made sense then and makes sense today. Ma’am, unless my memory fails me, it would have been my direction, and as I recollect, it was my direction.”

On Partnerships

We also spoke at length about partnerships and how key they are. I asked what his relationship was with Congresswoman Hansen

and he stated that he “worked closely with her,” and that he thought she was “a wonderful, strong, purposeful lady and a delight to work with.” He also stated that “she had [an] obvious strong interest in supporting Fort Vancouver. You understand, of course, she had interest there, [and I worked with her] to determine the ways in which to support that park. As I recall she was open to the methods and ways in which we would take action at that site.” He also stated that he felt they “worked as a team” with “a lot of give and take.” We concluded that his relationship with the Congresswoman reflected the concept of partnership for that time and that this partnership was an essential one for the National Park Service.

On Challenges and Opportunities

Hartzog also reminisced more generally about his tenure as Director of the National Park Service. The National Park Service was facing many opportunities but also many challenges as it grew.

Unquestionably, under Director Hartzog’s leadership, the National Park Service witnessed extraordinary growth. Reconstruction and its associated planning, including archaeology, at Fort Vancouver began during his tenure. George Hartzog’s legacy of directing an active and professional reconstruction program at Fort Vancouver continues today.

Ultimately, much of what the System is today, and we as an organization are, is rooted in George Hartzog’s leadership and direction. He clearly was the man to lead at that time.

Field School

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vanguards of civilization. In opposition, women were seen as delicate and docile creatures, provided a civilizing influence on the men of their household.

Distinct patterns emerged in the distribution of artifacts (Figure 1). All munitions and buttons, and over 90% of the tobacco pipe fragments, were recovered from the soldiers’ barracks area. However, over 96% of ceramics came from the laundresses’ quarters. The lack of ceramics from the soldiers’ barracks suggests that they consumed meals either outside the barracks or at a mess hall, whereas the quantity and variety of ceramics may indicate the laundresses took meals at their residence.

Artifacts traditionally associated with women, such as teeth from a decorative hair comb, were unexpectedly recovered from the soldiers’ barracks, along with ‘masculine’ items, such as military insignia, tobacco pipes, and munitions. The lack of feminine personal items from the laundresses’ area does not negate their usage, but may be reflective of refuse behavior (maintaining a clean yard) or the careful curation of the few items of femininity in a masculine world.

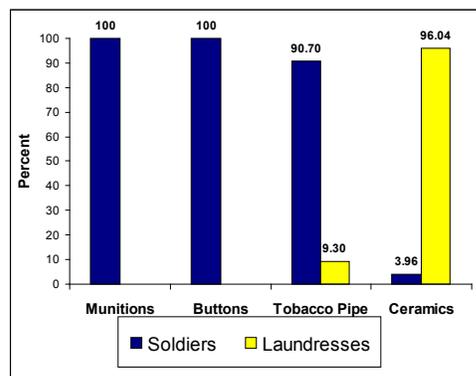


Figure 1. Distribution of material types: soldiers’ versus laundresses’ quarters

Announcements

We are pleased to announce the new **Fort Vancouver Coloring Book**. The coloring book was developed to provide an affordable and fun educational tool. Local artists Jessica and Diana Bonin (mother and daughter) were enlisted to do the illustrations, and our curator Tessa Langford wrote the captions.

The **2008 Public Archaeology Field School** is coming up, with fieldwork starting the week of June 24th. This year's excavations will continue the research started last year by Beth Horton (see article this issue) on soldiers and laundresses at the Vancouver Barracks. Feel free to stop by and visit the excavations on the west end of the parade grounds; part of each student's grade is based on public interpretation.

Martin Adams has been accepted to the Oregon State University's Environmental Science PhD program, with an emphasis in paleoecology. There he will continue exploring the insects of the past (archaeoentomology). He will be working a couple of days a week here at the Fort keeping an eye on our present-day pests.

Current Research

Juliet Amos-McGraw and Cori Willis, WSU Vancouver undergraduates, are reanalyzing artifacts from a house in the Village. Juliet is looking at the nails and Cori is analyzing the flat glass. Their data should help us with further Village reconstructions.

Greg Shine, NCRI Historian, has been researching and writing a Historic Resource Study for the Vancouver Arsenal and assisting a multi-organizational team in helping identify two historic carronades discovered recently on the Oregon Coast.

Trades Guild Study of Industrial Axe Production

by Bill DeBerry, NPS Park Ranger and Historic Programs Coordinator



Photographs courtesy of Bill DeBerry

Researchers looking at axes in the collection room.

Though extensive in scope, the archaeological collection of axes and axe parts at Fort Vancouver has never been compared to counterparts from other sites, nor has a systematic study of manufacturing processes been made. In late February and early March 2008, Colonial Williamsburg blacksmith Shelton Browder and volunteer smiths from the Fort Vancouver Trades Guild spent four days analyzing axes from the collection.



Shelton Browder at the Fort Vancouver forge

Axe preform from the collection (top), newly forged axe and bar stock (below)



Led by Shel Browder, the group spent two full days looking at over 200 artifacts, measuring and examining for tell-tale forging marks. Two more days were spent in the forge at the fort attempting to reproduce, as closely as possible, what had been observed in the collection. The group used the same facilities and materials as would have been used during the historic period (i.e. coal-fired forges, wrought iron and blister steel).

The wonderful thing about the extensive collection of axes and axe parts at Fort Vancouver is that there are examples of every phase of manufacture, from preforms to finished pieces. With these examples the researchers were able to identify each step in the manufacturing process. This knowledge will allow us to closely replicate the finished products represented by the artifacts.

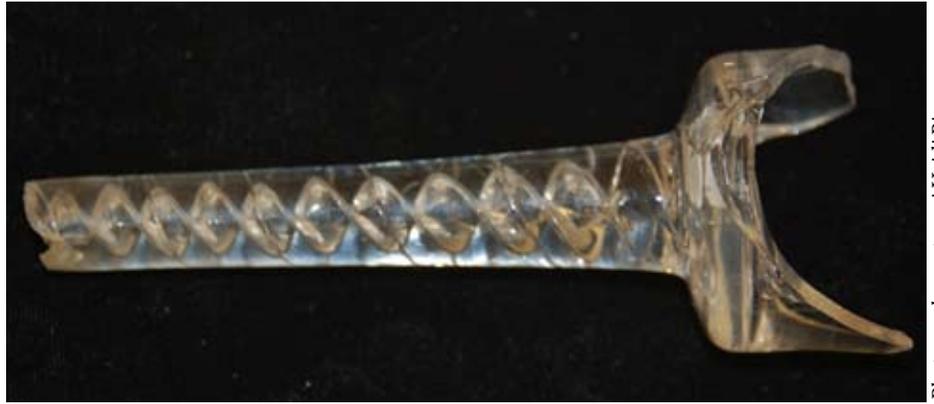
Material Culture Notes: Stemware

by Robert Cromwell, NPS Archaeologist

Among the myriad of shapes and forms that glass can be formed into, some of the most elegant functional forms can be classified as “stemwares.” The term “stemware,” derives from the fact that most glassware vessels in this category have a body sitting upon a stem that attaches to a foot, upon which the vessel stands (although many forms do not have a stem). Stemwares can be loosely categorized as glass usually used on the table and associated with food or drink, although they can also be associated with decorative glassware, such as vases. Common stemware forms from the 19th century in the Fort Vancouver archaeological collection include: carafes, cruets, decanters, dessert glasses, mugs/cups, pitchers, drinking glasses, serving glasses, and tumblers.

The elegance of Hudson’s Bay Company era stemware forms arises from the fact that most were manufactured by glass blowers. Vessels were either free blown or made using limited molds. Most were formed from colorless, high lead content glass (some term it as “crystal”), that gives a distinctive bell-tone ring when the body of the vessel is tapped with a metal object (think of classic Victorian dinner table toasts).

The glass blowers of this age could manufacture stemwares of incredible complexity. Vessels could be formed from one gather of glass, or could incorporate two, three, or four gathers of glass. Each gather required individual skills, and glass blowers worked in a technical dance of unison, constantly turning the molten vessel on the blow pipe to prevent it from col-



Photograph courtesy of Heidi Pierson

Blown glass stemware recovered during Caywood excavations, 1947-1952



Photograph courtesy of Heidi Pierson



*A.L. Lewes' tumbler (above),
molded glass salt cellar (below)*



Photographs courtesy of John Edwards and Theresa Langford

lapsing under its own weight. Many vessels were fire-polished to an incredible sheen, and once cooled, were sent to glass decorators who could engrave patterns with cutting wheels or diamond points; and even acid etch, enamel, or gild individual elements.

These vessels were expensive in their era, and were symbolic representations of the new Victorian ideals for table manners. Among the hundreds of objects listed in the Fort Vancouver 1841 “Articles in Use” inventory for the Chief Factor’s House are many

stemware vessels, including 7 glass salt cellars, 7 flint decanters, 18 wine glasses, and 22 glass tumblers. Their monetary and personal value is demonstrated by a glass tumbler base recovered from a privy behind the Bachelor’s Quarters that was personally engraved “A.L. Lewes,” a clerk at the fort in the 1850s.

Interestingly, although these objects were typically associated with the upper class gentlemen who would have resided within the fort walls, many stemware fragments have also been excavated from households in the Village.



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The Northwest Cultural Resources Institute

is a cooperative partnership based at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, dedicated to fostering cultural resources research, education, and stewardship in the Pacific Northwest. The NCRI brings together National Park Service staff, university professors, and subject matter experts to facilitate research and training, provide expertise, and support other innovative educational endeavors using national parks as laboratories.

Director of the NCRI, Archaeologist

Dr. Douglas Wilson

Archaeologist

Dr. Robert Cromwell

Curator

Theresa Langford, M.A.

Historian

Gregory Shine, M.A.

Museum Technician, Editor of the NCRI Report

Heidi Pierson

Archaeological Technicians

Eric Gleason, Jacqueline Cheung,
and Martin Adams

MYSTERY ARTIFACT

Our mystery object this time is a guest artifact from Lava Beds NM, photographed in the field by Jacqueline Cheung.

The mystery artifact in the last issue was an ivory sewing clamp that belonged to Chief Factor John McLoughlin's wife Marguerite.



Photograph courtesy of Jacqueline Cheung