



# NCRI Report

## National Park Service Director's Science Advisor Visits Fort Vancouver

by Heidi Pierson, NPS Museum Technician

Dr. Doug Wilson facilitated a whirlwind visit for Dr. Gary Machlis, as he and Special Assistant to the Director Ali Kelley visited the Vancouver area to interface with local national parks and universities. After meeting with park cultural resources staff, Dr. Machlis visited Truman Elementary to speak with three classes of fifth graders about conservation in parks, then went to Washington State University to visit with Dr. Steve Weber and lecture on climate change and society. Dr. Machlis is the first ever Science Advisor to the NPS Director, a new benefit for park and academic scientists who use the vast resources of the National Park System as a living laboratory. Dr. Machlis' experience and vision will lead to increased awareness of the importance of science in the NPS, and foster opportunities for education that reach far beyond the NPS and academia, into classrooms and living rooms around the country. Dr. Machlis has an unrestrained enthusiasm for promoting science.

Discussions at Fort Vancouver centered on the place and potential of cultural resources in scientific inquiry, and innovative partnerships.



Photograph courtesy of Fort Vancouver NHS

*Fort Vancouver Superintendent Tracy Fortmann, PSU Anthropology Professors Virginia Butler, Kenneth Ames, and Jeremy Spoon, NPS Archaeologist Doug Wilson, Special Assistant to the Director Ali Kelley, NPS Archaeologist Robert Cromwell, NPS Curator Tessa Langford, and Science Advisor Gary Machlis.*

Dr. Gary Machlis is a professor of conservation science at the University of Idaho, he received his B.S. and M.S. in forestry at the University of Washington, and his Ph.D. in human ecology at Yale University. Dr. Machlis has also served as the NPS Visiting Chief Social Scientist, and as the National Coordinator of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Network. He has written several books on conservation, and his research has been published in many scientific journals. Dr. Machlis is also a member of the American Association for

the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) National Committee on Opportunities for Women and Minorities in Science, and the Advisory Board to the AAAS Center for Advancing Science and Engineering Capacity.

Ali Kelley recently joined the National Park Service as a Special Assistant to the Director on park issues. She earned her degree from Princeton University. While living in Colorado, Ali worked on special projects for the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs and as a researcher for the Environmental Defense Fund.

## Historical Fragments

*Charles R. Wood, 1st Lieutenant with 9th Infantry MSS 782, Oregon Historical Society*

I arrived at Fort Vancouver about the 25th of January, and remained there, living in a tent, for about six weeks. And I can assure you I was not at all pleased with the weather there, for it either rained or snowed every day.

I think Vancouver is one of the prettiest places I ever saw. And I should have been delighted with it had the weather not been so bad.

There were about 16 Army ladies, besides several other who live in the vicinity, and we had "a perfect love of a time." Danced three or four times a week, and visited four or five times a day, and I must say I was rather taken with Miss Katy Adair, for she was very pretty and had such winning ways about her.

But I soon got over my infatuation, and in about two days and a half fell head over heels in love with Miss Crawford and was perfectly delighted two days after to learn that my company was ordered over to Puget Sound. We left Vancouver on the 11th of March on the steamer Columbia and in three days after arrived at Ft. Steilacoom.

*Alfred Aspler, The Genteel Life of Fort Vancouver. October 1953, The Oregonian.*

Archaeology, you will remember, is, next to the science of outer space, the most glamorous of scholarly pursuits [sic]. ...Right here at home, fascinating remnants of the past lie buried under just a thin crust of soil. Archaeologists felt like going to work in the Pacific Northwest. And they did.

## Under the Microscope: Esther Michels

Esther Michels, a lifelong Northwest native, is a descendant of Esther Short, a well-known Vancouver pioneer. She was born in Cottage Grove Oregon and now lives in Portland.

Esther got involved with volunteering at the Fort when her granddaughter wanted a dress made for participating in living history events. This led to Esther's participation in the costume department as she ultimately ended up making three dresses for her granddaughter.

Esther has been working with the costume department for five years now, and it is like a second family. She regularly volunteers her time and has been a Dame School Auntie since the program's beginning. Esther feels that volunteering at the Fort keeps her connected with the past and her own ancestry.



Photograph courtesy of Heidi Pierson

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## NCRI Director's Letter

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As the old year winds down and the New Year begins, it is important to reflect on change. New and exciting change is coming to Fort Vancouver in the form of a post-to-park transition between the U.S. Army Reserve Command and the National Park Service. The Vancouver Barracks, which was established as Camp Vancouver in 1849 will transfer to the National Park Service, possibly as early as fall 2011. The NCRI is committed to continue to explore and relay the long and illustrious history of the U.S. Army in the Pacific Northwest. Our 2010 calendar: Treasures of Fort Vancouver is one example of how material items in the collection can directly tie to the people and events that made this amazing place. You can get your own calendar and explore the unique history of the military post and the exciting objects in the museum collections each month by visiting the parks bookstore at: <http://shop.fortvan.org/store/pc/viewCategories.asp?idCategory=7>

Change provides new opportunities to explore the past. Our second reconstruction in the Village, built this last summer and fall, will give people a new experience in the multicultural worker's village (sometimes referred to as "Kanaka Village"). Combined with the interpretive programs being developed for the village, a new excitement towards reconnecting the public to the village is building amongst the NCRI and park staff. The archaeological field school (after a one year hiatus) plans to study within the Village and the park plans to bring in minority and underserved youth to explore the history associated with the village. We hope to engage them in the unique methods of historical archaeology to recapture the history of the multicultural worker's village. While training a new generation of cultural resources scientists, the field school will also promote an understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of National Parks and their varied resources.

**Doug Wilson**

# Historical Archaeology's "Trip" to Crater Lake

by Doug Wilson, NPS Archaeologist



Photographs courtesy of Fort Vancouver NHS

*This Arborglyph on a felled tree near Dutton Camp reads: "John Kennet Caton, July 30th 1881."*

Crater Lake National Park, one of the earliest parks in the National Park System, preserves the traces of an old wagon road that ran from Jacksonville in southern Oregon to Fort Klamath, just south of the park. In September, Todd Miles, Jacqueline Cheung, Eric Gleason, and I had the honor to conduct an archaeological assessment and re-examination of this 1865 road. The road crosses through the southern part of Crater Lake National Park, roughly tracing State Highway 62 from the west entrance of the park to its south entrance. We were also able to explore the 1869 Dutton Creek wagon route which spurs off the military wagon road up to the rim of Crater Lake. These impressive and unique cultural resources, which reside within

a park that epitomizes the natural beauty of our American West, provide a unique panorama of changing human perspectives on the park. For those who view these features, they encode abstract concepts of preservation and the uses of wild and beautiful places that resulted in the National Park Service.

First, what is a wagon road? A wagon road is much narrower than a regular road. The four-foot wheel base of a wagon (or early automobile) makes for a much narrower footprint. Wagon roads look different than those dirt roads that many of us are familiar with from family camping trips or other excursions into forest and desert lands. In the soft pumice from the eruption of Mt. Mazama (ca. 7000

years ago) that coated the slopes of Crater Lake, the wheels of the wagons cut deep ruts that make for a very clear trace in most places. These ruts wind north from the south entrance of the park through the thick ponderosa pine, crossing and recrossing State Highway 62, and ending in the hemlock and Shasta red fir forests on the western boundary of the park.

The archaeological survey of a wagon road puts one into the shoes of a traveler from a time remote from our own; when travel over short distances took hours, and stopping places near water and grass to feed the stock were of paramount importance. As we got close to the highway, the whizzing

*...continued on page 4*

# Crater Lake Wagon Roads

...continued from page 3

of cars past the old wagon road contrasted with our foot-bound mode of travel. It revealed perceptibly just how far (and how fast) we have come.

And then there are the camps—camps where beautiful springs and creeks provide a steady source of water that feed steep glacier and stream-cut canyons. Camps called Soldier's (Whitehorse Springs), Kanyon Spring (Anna Springs), Dutton, Oklahoma, and Cold Springs (Dead Wood) provided necessary resources to wagon-bound travelers. Historic, and at times modern, blazes on the trees denote years of camping at these sites. Teamsters and soldiers used these sites, and later scientists, mountain climbers, tourists, and even politicians. Today, these sites are abandoned—modern visitors stop for short visits in picnic areas and camping grounds, but most never realize that their ancestors spent time at these places, cooking on an open camp fire, repairing vehicles, taking care of their stock. Their camp might have been a day or more from Crater Lake, while we can easily travel there in an hour.

The Klamath Indians and other tribal groups used these camps,



*Artifacts found along the road.*

too. Wagon roads follow ancient trails where people journeyed to huckleberry, hunting and gathering grounds, or visited sacred places in the mountains. These camps served many people.

Along the road there are vivid reminders of the past—parts of wagons and early automobiles, tin cans, and bottles. These things abandoned along the way provide a human face, a tangible reminder of those who made and used these roads. In places, the silence of the forest and the fallen logs that cross the road create a sense of decay and loss that rivals more dramatic “ruins” in other places.

The road to Crater Lake is fundamentally different from the old military wagon road. The road is harder to follow. It is much steeper. Its major distinction is the abundance of blazes and “glyphs” that cover old camping grounds. The people that crossed this trail wanted to memorialize their trips. As early as 1853, Crater Lake was distinguished as the “Mysterious Lake”. News editor James Sutton and his group of tourists blazed the route to the rim, and coined the term “Crater Lake”. The dates on the arborglyphs (writing on trees) show increasing visits to Crater Lake in the late 19th century. An arborglyph on a felled tree near Dutton Camp reads: “John Kennet Caton, July 30th 1881”. If it is the John Kenneth



*Blazed tree.*

Caton who was born in Appleton City, Missouri, and is buried in Cottage Grove, then he was just 10 years old when he visited the area. Perhaps for that reason, the “N’s” in the glyph are carved backwards. Another at the crest of the rim reads: “OKAFADE . . ./JUNE 6 89”, which may be James O. Kafader, who was born in Jackson County in 1867 and became a miner in Fort Bidwell, California. Another tree memorializes the visit by “Mr. + Mrs. Wm Lemo/Aug. 18, 1897” punched into a tin sheet and nailed to a blazed tree. These glyphs provide a material record of visitation to the lake at a time when William Gladstone Steele and the Mazamas were publicizing its importance for preservation. Crater Lake became a National Park in 1902, and shortly after that the modern automobile road was built through Munson Valley in 1904.

The wagon road is preserved in segments, some that follow modern hiking trails and some that are truly abandoned. These simple traces of road tell the story, in physical form, of how the preservation ethic came to be and the continuing history of visitor use in National Parks.

*Many thanks go to Park Historian Steve Mark who conceived and initiated the survey of the wagon road and has supported its interpretation, preservation, and monitoring.*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Fort Vancouver National Site 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 National Historic Site, Vancouver Barracks and Officers 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.

#### Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

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#### Phone

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#### Website

[www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova)

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

# Public History Field School 2009

by Jodene Rudolf, PSU Graduate Student

In spring of 2009 a diverse group of nine students from Portland State University enthusiastically took part in the National Park Service Field School on the grounds of Fort Vancouver. Nine students worked under the direction of Greg Shine, Chief Ranger and Historian, gleaning historic information from Fort Vancouver's acclaimed Archives and Reference Collection (ARC) with the goal of contributing to the creation of new interpretive media for inclusion on the Fort's website and Visitor Center.

The beginning of the term focused largely on an introduction to the National Park Service itself and specifically, Fort Vancouver's interpretive services. Students were taken behind the scenes to become acquainted with the ARC and received interesting presentations from Fort Vancouver historians, archaeologists, and museum staff.

To provide a broader understanding of the ideological and methodological framework of the professional public history model that underscores the mission of Fort Vancouver, students were assigned readings in Beck & Cable's *Interpretation for the 21st Century: Fifteen Guiding Principles for Interpreting Nature and Culture*, MacIntosh's online text *Interpretation in the National Park Service: A Historical Perspective* and Tilden's ever inspiring *Interpreting Our Heritage*. Later in the term, Portland State University (PSU) professor Katy Barber led a spirited discussion of Cathy Stanton's public history case study *The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City*. To facilitate an understanding of Fort Vancouver's current and future interpretive needs students were



Photograph courtesy of Greg Shine

From left to right, front row, : PSU Professor Katy Barber, Marci Lim, Emily Stuckman, Olivia Tolle, Erica Stevenson. Back Row, : Jessie McClendon, Katie Wynia, Patrick Neal, Josh Olmsted, Chief Ranger/PSU Instructor Greg Shine; Not pictured: Jodene Rudolf.

given access to the site's many planning documents, including the Long Range Interpretive Plan. Additionally, historian Donna Sinclair's social history of early Vancouver Barracks provided invaluable information on U.S. Army history at the site.

Students put their readings to use when asked to create their own interpretive themes and ideas for exhibits that reflected the following specific learning threads:

- National Park Service's role as a purveyor of public history
- objective historic interpretation and exhibitry
- specific knowledge of the site and its early U.S. Army history.

Students broke into groups of three to carry out their research. Lively discussions ensued when it was time to decide on an overall interpretive theme for the field school project. Students worked collaboratively on their ideas for interpretive themes,

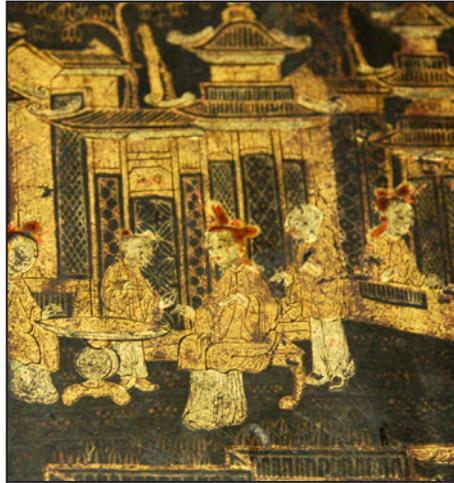
ultimately resulting in solid critiques of the 'holes' currently reflected in the park's interpretive media and ultimately, in inspired proposals for interpretive themes and exhibits design ideas presented in front of an appreciative audience of Fort Vancouver administrators, park staff, and PSU professors.

The thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring spring 2009 field school experience was invaluable in providing public history students with the opportunity to see interpretive design and implementation in action and in learning the heart and history of the strong mission of the National Park Service in serving the public's interpretive needs.

To learn more about the Public History Field School and view some of the student work on the park website, go to <http://www.nps.gov/fova/historyculture/public-history-field-school.htm>

# Mrs. McLoughlin's Sewing Cabinet Conserved

by D. Katie Powell, MPF Conservation



*The image on the left shows a detail of the tilt desk that rested within the cabinet, note the excellent condition of the lacquerwork. The right image shows the outside of the case after conservation, and the permanent damage done by time and exposure.*

MPF Conservation is currently conserving Marguerite McLoughlin's Chinese lacquer sewing cabinet, ca. 1835, which is housed at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City. The cabinet is said to have been a gift from Dugald McTavish, a clerk at Fort Vancouver, and is one of the original family pieces in the collection. Imagine that Fort Vancouver was the social center of the region from San Francisco to Alaska; the drawing together of women sewing about this handsome cabinet—the finest of its kind—must have been an event that changed the lives of the women who had the opportunity to work with Mrs. McLoughlin, who taught sewing to many young women.

The cabinet is a mixture of western and eastern design, from the cabriole legs and claw-and-ball style foot, which is also called "Queen Anne style," to the center piece or finial of the crest, a traditional Chinese motif: the lotus.

The cabinet needed a great deal of treatment: leg joints needed to be shimmed due to shrinkage; rot in several areas (possibly due to a spill from long ago, exacerbated by our climate's humidity) needed fill; lacquer reparation was necessary in the areas where rot was apparent; and the cabinet needed a good cleaning.

All treatment work was to be as non-invasive as possible, which is the goal of conservation and preservation work. Occasionally non-reversible techniques must be utilized, and we will need to do this in the small areas of rot, where the infill—while technically reversible—will be utilized in an area that will be permanent. However, we must stop the rot and fill the desiccated areas to prevent further collapse of this important piece.

One surprise we had was removing the small tilt desk from the sewing box of the cabinet; the top of the desk was in beautiful pristine condition, and so gives an indication of how the entire cabinet may have appeared at one time.

A personal observation: As a woman who works with quilts and woolen materials, I am delighted each day I get to work on this piece of history, knowing that the sewing cabinet brought women together in what may have been an otherwise socially barren existence. As I cleaned a small area of gold and black lacquer, I thought about the women, and also the men, who benefitted from this one piece of furniture gifted into their lives. We also found many fingerprints on the cabinet. Lacquer holds fingerprints which can never be cleaned; one of these fingerprints has to be Mrs. McLoughlin's.



*The cabinet before conservation.*



*Before (above) and after (below) photographs of the lotus finial from the cabinet.*

# Material Culture Notes: Textiles from the Haughey Family

by Heidi Pierson, NPS Museum Technician



Photographs Courtesy of Fort Vancouver NHS

(Above) One of Idabelle Sparks (Haughey) Kress' bodices and (below) a safety pin that was found on it.

Historic textiles are some of the most fragile and beautiful objects that we care for. We have many textiles in our collection ranging from military uniforms to quilts. Most of our textiles are donated items associated with the U.S. Army at Vancouver Barracks. These textiles can represent military life, but often they show us the softer side of life, those things that people made and kept in their homes. We often use textiles to inform our costume department. Photographs are useful, but having actual dresses allows seamstresses to understand the inner workings of a garment and how it was constructed.

The quilts and dresses featured in this issue are associated with a family that once lived on Officer's Row. Both quilts were made by Elizabeth McLean (Sparks) Haughey. Elizabeth was married to Charles Sparks and had a daughter, Idabelle Sparks. We are fortunate to have a copy of Idabelle's journal, which includes detailed accounts of her life.

After being widowed at a fairly young age, Elizabeth and her daughter travelled to San Juan Island and met (then) First Lieutenant James Haughey of the 21st Infantry.

Lieutenant Haughey happened to be the commanding officer

of the San Juan post at the time when the boundary dispute with England (the Pig War) was settled. Idabelle describes their first sight of Lieutenant Haughey: "... an Army Officer riding down the green knoll, on a prancing gray horse, coming to meet our party." After Elizabeth married Captain Haughey they moved to Vancouver Barracks with her daughter Idabelle, afterwards referred to as "Miss Haughey" after her stepfather.

The Haughey family lived on Officer's Row in Vancouver from 1874 to 1884. It was probably

*...continued on pages 8 and 9*

# Material Culture Notes: Textiles from the Haughey Family

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This dress (above) was worn by Idabelle Sparks Kress to a banquet in 1905, detail below.



Photographs courtesy of Fort Vancouver NHS

Crazy quilts were often made with small scraps of luxury fabrics such as silk, brocade, and velvet cut into random shapes and pieced together using a multitude of decorative stitches. This quilt, made by Elizabeth McLean Haughey, is a more refined pattern. Simple solid silks and velvets make a lovely pattern, and the sentiment embroidered onto the border indicates that this was used as a bedspread, rather than simply being a lap robe or decorative piece.



This chenille embroidery panel is part of dress that belonged to Idabelle Sparks Kress.

# Material Culture Notes: Textiles from the Haughey Family

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Another of Idabelle Sparks Kress' gowns, this dates to the early 1900s, probably from the same period (1905) as the dress on page 8.

during this time that Idabelle met her future husband Frederick N. Kress, son of (then) First Lieutenant John A. Kress, commanding officer of the Vancouver Arsenal. Idabelle gives an idyllic description of the area: "Vancouver was one of the largest and finest Army posts in the country, situated on the banks of one of our greatest rivers, with scenery not to be surpassed anywhere, and Mt. Hood rearing its snowy height off to the east of us. . .



Photographs courtesy of Fort Vancouver NHS

During the Victorian era, many middle to upper class women (officer's wives for example) had time on their hands to engage in the craft and textile fads of the day. Crazy quilts were very popular, and were often made as show pieces or lap robes, rather than being a functional item of bed clothing. The detail (above) shows Mt. Hood and the date "Feb 28 1882." This crazy quilt (below) is still owned by the Tate family in Oregon, descendents of Elizabeth Haughey's sister.

The Garrison was large, comprising Regimental Headquarters of the Infantry—two Batteries of Artillery—the Ordnance Department, Quartermasters' Dept. and Department Headquarters; with General O. O. Howard in command—and later with Gen'l Nelson A. Miles as Department Commander. . . . The social life was very fine—the social activities were many, and the great garrison, with over one hundred children and young people, was

like one big family."

Six years after leaving Vancouver Barracks, both Elizabeth and Idabelle were widowed. At that time they left their Army life behind and returned to New York City. They spent the rest of their lives together travelling, and, later, retired in New York. Idabelle never forgot her ties to Vancouver Barracks, and that is how her great-niece ended up donating many items to the Fort Vancouver Museum Collection.



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Fort Vancouver National Historic Site**  
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A partner in the  
 Fort Vancouver National Site

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

**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

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**Curator**  
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 Martin Adams, Frederick Pierson, Beth Horton,  
 Cheryl Paddock, Todd Miles

**MYSTERY ARTIFACT**

This mystery artifact is from the Belle Vue Sheep Farm excavations on San Juan Island. The objects are all under 55 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter.

The mystery artifact in the last issue was a butt cock, used to tap a barrel of wine or beer.



*Photograph courtesy of Fort Vancouver NHS*