



NCRI Report

The Fort Vancouver Mobile Project

by Brett Oppegaard, Professor, Creative Media and Digital Culture, WSU-V



In a scene re-created for the Fort Vancouver Mobile Project by costumed park staff and volunteers, U.S. Army soldiers order William Kaulehelehe to leave his house in the Fort Vancouver Village. NPS Photo

Picture yourself on a visit to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. As you stroll through the Village, near the Land Bridge, you take out your smartphone and touch the screen to open the free Fort Vancouver Mobile application. This app directs you to the wayside sign at the entryway to the Village. Once there, a video automatically appears on your screen, beginning a mixed-reality adventure!

During this experience, you are shown a beautiful piece of coral found on the site during an archaeological dig. Why would Hawaiian coral be on the north bank of the Columbia River? That's for you to find out. As you move around the site during the investigation, and GPS satellites track your location, digital content such as reenactment videos, period music and clips of historical text are delivered to your device while the pieces of the story unfold.

Mobile devices have become ubiquitous information tools, but educators and researchers only have begun experimenting with ways to teach and learn through this emerging technology.

The Fort Vancouver Mobile project (www.FortVancouverMobile.com) is pioneering the art of historical interpretation in a mixed-reality environment by delivering

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Historical Fragment

No. 8 [John Stuart] Chief Factor. from The 'Character Book' of George Simpson, 1832. Hudson's Bay Miscellany 1670-1870, Hudson's Bay Record Society.

About 57 Years of Age, calls himself 47—70 winters at least, however, are marked on his countenance, but still very tough & hardy; has undergone a good deal of privation and from his persevering character was at one time the fittest man in the country for exploring Service and severe duty. Had not the advantage of a good Education but being studious improved himself very much and having a very retentive memory is superficially conversant with many subjects. Is exceedingly vain, a great Egoist, Swallows the grossest flattery, is easily cajoled, rarely speaks the truth, indeed I would not believe him upon Oath; lavish of his own means, extravagant and irregular in business and his honesty is very questionable: a good hearted man where he takes a liking but on the contrary Malicious & Vindictive: fancies himself one of the leading and most valuable men in the country, but his Day is gone by, and he is now worse than useless being a cloy upon the concern: has many eccentricities, & peculiarities, yet few of them do credit either to the head or heart although they afford him a privilege of speech and of action which no other man in the country possesses; in short he is a contemptable body altogether. (May be considered in his dotage and has of late become disgustingly indecent in regard to women).

NCRI Director's Letter

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The NCRI has been involved in a number of important projects in the old Fort Vancouver Village (aka Kanaka Village). In partnership with the Columbia River Crossing Project, the NCRI completed testing work on archaeological sites on the western margins of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve that may be removed from Federal and City ownership for a replacement of the I-5 Bridge. Our work re-located the "Kanaka House" (previously tested by Bryn Thomas in the 1980s), one of the houses located by Susan Kardas in the 1960s, and a previously undiscovered house associated with an Iroquois fur trade employee, Joe Tayentas, and his family.

The pieces of pottery, bottles, beads, and bones that were found suggest that important parts of the Village may be removed or become inaccessible to future generations. Likewise, aspects of the old 1880s allée of heritage trees that lined McLoughlin Road and led from the government docks to 5th street were documented to better assess whether they will be impacted by the project. Unexpectedly, we also found portions of the original "Vancouver Hotel" which had been inadvertently built partially on U.S. Army land near the original Government and City docks and is one of the earliest hotels in Vancouver, Washington. Our studies will help to guide discussions on impacts to park resources, define exactly what tangible resources will be lost, and explore the intangible impacts to the setting and feel of the Village and Fort Site may be affected by the project.

The NCRI also held its 9th archaeological field school (with Portland State University and Washington State University Vancouver), also focusing on the Village site. Our goal last year was to collect information on how the villagers used spaces outside of their houses. Looking at artifacts, microscopic pollen and other plant remains, and trace elements, we hope to better explore the types of crops they may have had in their gardens, the types of activities that occurred outside of the houses, and gather new samples to better understand the landscape history and importance of the multicultural community at Fort Vancouver. Related to this, we held our first day and overnight camps—*Blast to the Past*—that integrated the history of the fort with archaeology in the village. This program, spearheaded by the Interpretation Division, brought in urban youth to experience how science can recapture underdocumented histories of the American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Metis, French Canadian, British, and American inhabitants of the Village.

We plan to continue this synergistic mix of education, interpretation, and science at this summer's field school, which will continue the research begun last year. I hope you will be able to visit our site soon to see the village and reconnect to this special place.

Doug Wilson

Fort Vancouver Mobile Project

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Park staff and volunteers reenact William Kaulehelehe's arrival at Fort Vancouver (left) for a project video segment, while project coordinator (and NPS Volunteer) Brett Oppegaard solicits feedback from project volunteer Matt Wastradowski. NPS Photo



audio, video, text and animation through these devices juxtaposed against real-world sights, sounds and settings.

Compared to audio tours, brochures, or other types of traditional media incorporated into typical site interpretation, mobile media has several advantages, such as being:

- Location aware – Specific information can be delivered (or pushed) to a site visitor at the exact moment in which it would be most useful. The story of the vibrancy of the Old River Road for example, can be shared while the visitor is walking the road today.
- Spatially aware – The mobile delivery system knows where everything else is around that location, too, from related objects/ places that might be of interest, such as the Land Bridge route to the river, or even the quickest path to the closest restrooms.
- Contextually aware – The Fort Vancouver Mobile app can determine if a user has been to the site before and then can personalize the experience.
- Social – Instead of just being told about the history of the place, users of this app can become immersed and involved in the experience by

connecting with each other and expressing ideas and imagery.

- Flexible and fluid – The app can be updated and altered instantaneously. Users own and maintain the access devices, so there isn't that constant need (or cost) to upgrade or update end-user equipment. The app also can be tailored to special events and interpretive themes, then easily reverted to previous settings for normal daily operations.

Because of the virtually unlimited size of the digital landscape, diversity and interconnectedness can develop and grow exponentially in this kind of ecosystem, helping to connect disparate narratives.

The storyline that starts with the discovery of coral, for example, raises awareness about the cultural influence and impacts of Hawaiians in the Northwest, through the paradigm of a Hawaiian pastor, William Kaulehelehe, who came to Fort Vancouver. In the process of telling his story, the piece helps to illuminate the plights of the underdocumented workers at the site, as well as the ethnic issues of Hawaiians and the more than 35 other cultures who shared the Village in relative harmony.

The Fort Vancouver Mobile project brings together new media experts and more than 20 scholars—including faculty from Washington State University Vancouver's Creative Media and Digital Culture program as well as historians and archaeologists—to collaborate on the content production. Additional institutional support comes from Portland State University, the Center for Columbia River History, and Texas Tech University, plus other specialists—such as leaders of the Ke Kukui Foundation, the largest Hawaiian historical and cultural organization in the area—to consult as well, depending on the needs of the project. Our goals are to make the information compelling, provocative, and entertaining, but not at the expense of historical accuracy.

Mobile devices initially were being studied for the ways in which they tended to disconnect users from their surroundings and communities. We believe now that they also can have the opposite effect, reconnecting us as a community while also raising awareness about our shared past and our common bonds.

Archaeology at Hagerman Fossil Beds NM

by Leslie O'Rourke, NPS Archaeologist



View of Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and the Snake River.

In October and November, NCRI archaeologists Leslie O'Rourke and Cheryl Paddock traveled to south central Idaho near Twin Falls to assess the condition of the archaeological resources at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument.

The Long Butte Fire, one of the largest wildfires in the U.S. in 2010, burned 72% of the Monument in late August, leaving barren slopes

and an unprecedented opportunity to observe and document the Monument's archaeological resources before revegetation and rehabilitation of the landscape.

Hagerman Fossil Beds is famous as the location of fossils of the earliest true horses, dating to about 3.5 million years ago. Horses were originally native to the western hemisphere, traveled across the Bering Land Bridge to Eurasia, became extinct in the western hemisphere, and then were reintroduced to North America by the Spanish in the 1500s. The Smithsonian Institution excavated 120 horse skulls and 20 complete skeletons of the zebra-like "Hagerman Horse" at the Monument's fossil beds in the 1930s. No other fossil beds preserve such a variety of animal and plant species from the Pliocene Epoch.

The Hagerman area was an important gathering place for American Indians, who fished for salmon on the Snake River at two waterfalls (now submerged by dams) at either end of the Monument. The remains of their campsites and villages can be found in the abundant archaeological resources along this portion of the Snake River.

Emigrants on the Oregon Trail passed through this area along their

journey from Fort Hall to Fort Boise. Wagon ruts are still visible across the southern portion of the Monument. The Oregon Trail rises up out of the Snake River plain along a ridge dubbed "the devil's backbone", considered by many emigrants as one of the most difficult portions of the Trail because of its steep slope and sandy soil.

Following on the heels of a special Burned Area Emergency Response Team from Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Leslie and Cheryl assisted new Monument archaeologist JoAnn Blalack by organizing the Monument's archaeological site records, mapping the sites in GIS, visiting site locations, and collecting isolated artifacts from the landscape in areas that were scheduled to be mechanically reseeded.

Heavy snowfall and sub-zero temperatures at the end of November brought a halt to fieldwork and plans for reseeding last fall, but restoration work will take place in the spring. Meanwhile, Leslie and Cheryl are at Fort Vancouver processing the artifacts collected and completing the documentation of the 29 archaeological sites and 123 isolated artifacts from Hagerman Fossil Beds.



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.

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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.

Landscape and the Fort Vancouver Village

by Doug Wilson, Director of the NCRI, NPS Archaeologist

To date, the archaeology of the Village has focused on the identification of house sites using artifact concentration as a primary means of discovery, with the assumption that a high concentration of artifacts makes it probable a house floor has been discovered. At times, archaeologists have conducted larger area excavations to sample selected house floors. These are often identified on the basis of features, like hearths, cellars, and patterns of post holes. While this has been useful in defining individual house sites for comparison, there are gaps in the archaeological data that could make interpretation of the lives of its inhabitants difficult.

Because much of the focus has been placed on the houses, there is relatively less known about the outside activity areas and gardens that were present within the Village. Archaeological test excavations within the John McLoughlin/Fort Vancouver formal garden in 2005-2007 verified the effectiveness of a more broad-scale exploration of the fort's surrounding landscape. Methods include using hand-excavated test trenches, and specialized pollen, phytolith, and macrobotanical analyses. There is a lack of information on outbuildings within the Village, including privies, barns, animal sheds, and shops. How did the inhabitants of the Village use the spaces around dwellings, and is there evidence for outbuildings, including privies, and other remains of the Village landscape?

Examination of the sketch attributed to George Gibbs in 1851 (see image) suggests that certain houses had attached fenced areas. It is very likely that the landscape around houses may have been used for important economic pursuits outside of work hours. Likewise, specific sites could be associated with cultural affiliation and religious beliefs. A major question relating to the Village is whether the presence of outbuildings, gardens, and other activity areas around buildings reflect household economic specializations, some of which could be tied to ethnicity.

In the summer of 2010, I began to explore these questions with the joint NPS, Portland State University and Washington State University public archaeological field school, employing landscape archaeology techniques. Test excavations around two of the hypothesized garden areas yielded a number of extramural pits, hearths, and postholes. While the artifacts and samples are still being analyzed and we have another year at least of field work, the use of landscape techniques are an important source of data to address issues of identity and ethnicity.

Why should we care about the diversity of the working class at a Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post in the Pacific Northwest? Studies of identity have explored the variety of strategies by which ethnic groups interacted and borrowed, creolized, and otherwise mixed elements of material culture (future artifacts) into their daily lives. The evidence to date suggests that there are more similarities than differences between Village households, regardless of ethnicity or household makeup. Further, more in-depth analyses may be able to better tease out differences between houses and across the landscape. This work is important because it informs us about people who were critical to the fur trade era but whose history has not been well recorded.



An 1851 sketch of the Fort Vancouver Village attributed to George Gibbs. Note the animals and fenced areas adjacent to the Village houses.

McLoughlin House Furniture Conservation

by Theresa Langford, NPS Curator



Jon Brandon and his makeshift lab in the McLoughlin House upstairs hallway.

In 2008, an NPS conservator assessed the wooden items on display at the McLoughlin House, particularly focusing on furniture. Several pieces were identified as high priorities for conservation, based on both their condition and their association with the McLoughlin family. This year, we were able to ensure that six items were conserved: a tea canister, dining table, chest of drawers, rocking chair, bookcase, and marble-top table. Most of the items were owned by John McLoughlin or members of his immediate family. The marble-top table was reputedly used at Fort Vancouver and then at Fort Victoria in British Columbia.

The conservation work was done by Jon Brandon of East Point Conservation in Brunswick, Maine. Rather than shipping the pieces back to their facility, Jon agreed to treat them in a temporary conservation lab created in the upstairs hallway of the McLoughlin House. Though some of the treatments had to be done while the house was empty, for safety reasons, Jon often worked on the pieces while the house was open. The work of museum professionals is often hidden from the public, and this created an opportunity for visitors to see conservation in action and ask questions, and for Jon to educate them about furniture preservation and conservation techniques.



This rocking chair belonged to the McLoughlin family.



John McLoughlin gave this chest of drawers to his granddaughter, Maria Louisa Rae.

Announcements

We are very pleased to announce that the University of Washington Press will soon be publishing an edited volume about Fort Vancouver based on the museum collection. Keep your eyes open for **Exploring Fort Vancouver** in their spring catalog!

A new blog has been established for Fort Vancouver Volunteers thanks to **Aaron Ochoa, Roman Len, Luda Leksunkin**, and the interpretive crew. Please check it out to find information on trainings and upcoming events: <http://fovavolunteers.blogspot.com/>

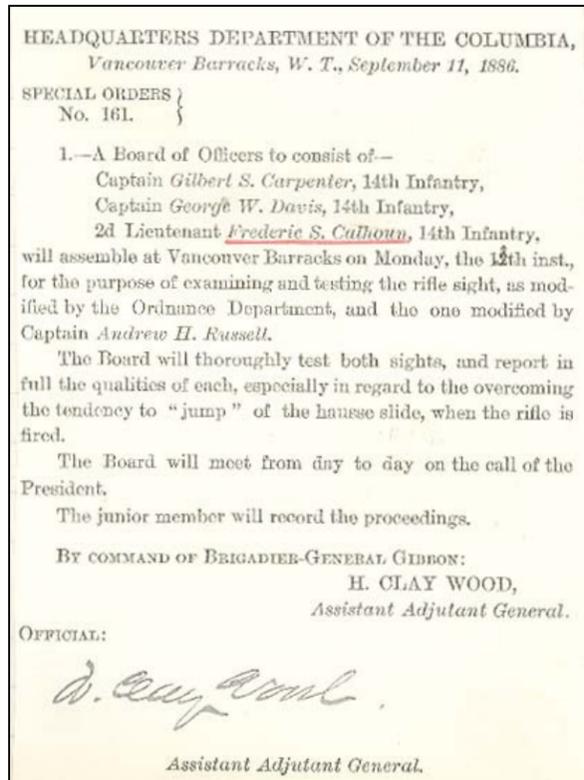
On your next visit to Fort Vancouver be sure to stop by the **Counting House** and see the new interactive exhibit for children created by **Lydia Sheehy**.

The **National Park Service's Civil War 150th commemoration** has begun. If you haven't yet seen the new NPS CW150 website, check it out; you'll note that Fort Vancouver is listed as one of the 70 NPS units with resources related to the history of the Civil War: <http://www.nps.gov/features/waso/cw150th/civwarparcs.html>

Fort Vancouver has a number of Civil War-era resources available on the park website, including a brochure, biographical studies, podcasts, and other resources. In addition, the Public History Field School is currently working on a CW150 project for our National office (learn more here: <http://www.nps.gov/fova/historyculture/2011-public-history-field-school.htm>).

Material Culture Notes: Historic Ledgers from the Calhouns

by Meagan Huff, NPS Museum Technician



Frederick S. Calhoun in 1884 (left), shortly before he came to Vancouver Barracks (image courtesy of the Vancouver Barracks Military Association). While Calhoun often transcribed the orders he received into his personal "orders" book, some have been cut and pasted into the book, like this order referencing Calhoun in the testing of rifle sights. Calhoun often underlined his name and made notes on these orders in red pencil.

The separate spheres of professional and domestic life at Vancouver Barracks in the latter half of the nineteenth century are vividly recalled in two ledgers kept by Frederick S. Calhoun, First Lieutenant of the 14th Infantry, and his wife, Emma Reed Calhoun, both of which were recently acquired for the museum collection of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

By the time Frederick S. Calhoun arrived at Vancouver Barracks in 1884 or 1885, he had already experienced a colorful career in the military. Throughout the 1870s and early 1880s, Calhoun traveled

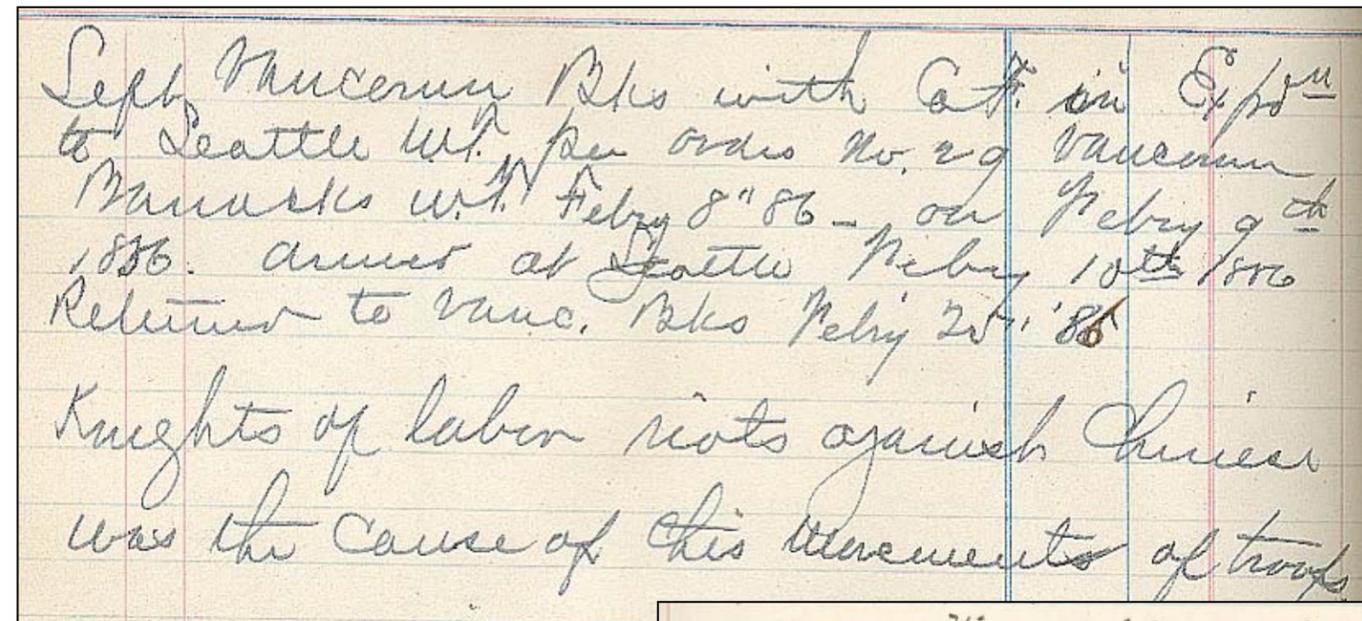
frequently among military bases in Nebraska, Utah, Colorado and Idaho. During this period, Calhoun was often involved in conflicts between the United States and American Indian tribes, and Calhoun's ledger contains references to his involvement in the protection of Mormon settlers in Corinne, Utah, his participation in the Big Horn and Yellowstone Expedition (also known as the Starvation March of 1876), a pursuit of Sioux warriors in the wake of the Battle of Little Big Horn, and his work with the Red Cloud Indian Agency in Nebraska. Calhoun was also

a favorite of General George Armstrong Custer, and married his niece, Emma Reed, in 1879.

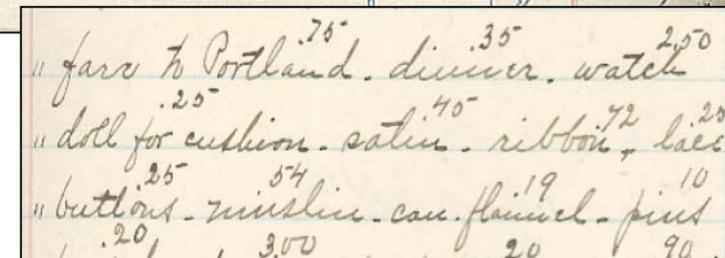
In Vancouver, one of Calhoun's notable activities was his service on the base's Post Exchange System Committee, a group that created and reported on the 14th Infantry Regimental Canteen. The canteen at Vancouver Barracks was the first in the nation and was meant to provide a fully stocked store, café, and lounge for the residents of the Barracks. Vancouver's canteen was opened in 1886 and was operated by the Army for its soldiers, unlike the sutler's store of previous decades, which had

Material Culture Notes: Historic Ledgers

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In the above excerpt, Calhoun describes his order to travel to Seattle from Vancouver Barracks to quell the 1886 Knights of Labor riots. On the right, an entry from Emma Reed Calhoun's account book tells of a trip to Portland in January, 1886, and lists her purchases and the prices she paid.



offered fewer amenities and was operated by civilian contractors.

Calhoun's ledger is an "orders" book, in which he transcribed or pasted the assignments and orders he received between 1874 and 1887. Emma Calhoun's ledger is a record of household expenses between 1880 and 1887. After Frederick and Emma were married, the books begin to compliment each other in subtle ways. In November of 1885, Frederick and his company were dispatched from Vancouver to Seattle to quell the Knights of Labor riots that threatened Chinese immigrant workers. At the same time, Emma's account book indicates ten dollars spent on a trip to Seattle (whether this sum was spent by Frederick alone or if Emma accompanied

him is unclear). Lieutenant Calhoun returned to Seattle in February 1886 when anti-Chinese sentiment flared again, and the trip is again reflected in Emma's records.

Emma Reed Calhoun's financial records also indicate the kind of life led by an officer and his family at the post. Emma's ledger outlines several shopping trips to Portland, the amounts the Calhouns placed in the donation tray at church, Lt. Calhoun's pay (\$140.00 per month by the time he reached Vancouver), medical bills (frequent visits to optometrists were likely the result of an injury Calhoun received in 1879, when a he was hit in the eye with a tree branch while horse riding), club dues and other bills, servants' wages, and dietary habits

(including a love of berries and ice cream in the summer).

While posted at Vancouver Barracks, Calhoun was promoted from Second to First Lieutenant, which is reflected both in the ways that Calhoun is referred to in the orders in his ledger, and in the ten dollar increase in pay seen in Emma's ledger. Shortly after this promotion, in 1888, Calhoun was diagnosed with spinal sclerosis and neuralgia. After a period of attempted recuperation at Vancouver Barracks, he retired in 1890. The Calhouns then relocated to Wellesley, Massachusetts to be closer to their daughter, Emma May, who was a student at Wellesley College.

Historic Book Added to Museum Collection

by Meagan Huff, NPS Museum Technician



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
612 East Reserve Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

A partner in the
Fort Vancouver National Site



Fort Vancouver's museum collection has just received an exciting new addition—a book bearing the signatures of a number of prominent figures in Northwest history. The book, an 1826 edition of *The Prose Work of Milton*, was purchased by Alaska State Archaeologist Dave McMahan from the closeout rack at a library book sale a decade ago. On the inside cover is the signature of Daniel Lee, who established a mission with his uncle, Reverend Jason Lee, near Salem.

Also on the inside cover is the name of Harvey Gordon

(1828-1862) and his daughter, Sarah Lister Gordon. Harvey Gordon was a Salem-based surveyor, engineer, and editor and publisher of the Oregon Statesman. Gordon is also credited with designing the Oregon State Seal. The names of the Gordons are accompanied by an address – perhaps indicating that Gordon and his daughter lived together or received mail at the same address, and would have wanted the book returned if it was lost.

On the inside of the back cover is what appears to be the signature of Peter Skene Ogden

(1794-1854) above the word “Vancouver.” Throughout the 1830s, Ogden worked as a fur trader and occasionally resided at Fort Vancouver. In 1845, Ogden was appointed to the board of management for the Columbia District, along with John McLoughlin and James Douglas, and was based at Fort Vancouver until his retirement in 1854.

This book is a wonderful addition to the park's museum collection and an interesting indicator of its owners' literary tastes.

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.

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MYSTERY ARTIFACT

This mystery artifact is from Mount Rainier National Park. It was discovered in a small historic camp site near the old White River Road, along with other artifacts dating from 1915 to 1930.

Last issue's mystery object was an harmonica.



Photograph courtesy of Ben Diaz