



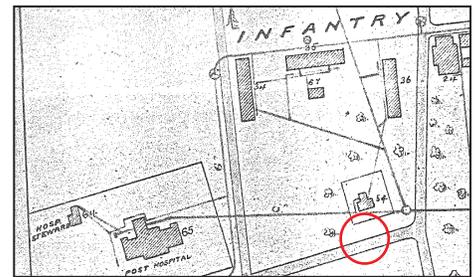
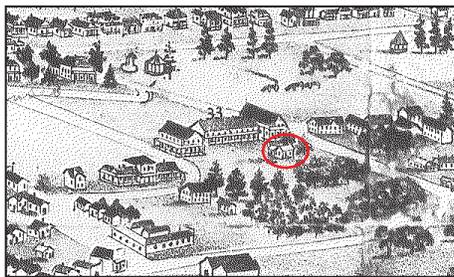
NCRI Report

NCRI Archaeologists are "Privy" to New Information at Vancouver Barracks

by Beth Horton, NPS Archaeologist

Recent discoveries this past spring during rehabilitation of the ca. 1904 Artillery Barracks at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve in Washington are adding to our knowledge of the daily lives of soldiers stationed at Vancouver Barracks. While trenching for a new sewer line under the concrete basement floor of the east wing, broken bottles and other late 19th century artifacts were unearthed by the construction crew. NCRI archaeologists Beth Horton and Elaine Dorset quickly mobilized to excavate the find before the new sewer line was installed, and identified it as a ca. 1800s to 1904 U.S. Army privy.

Privies, also referred to as outhouses, are pit toilets lacking a connection to a plumbing, sewer or septic systems. Walls and roofs provided privacy for the user, as well as protection from the weather, and were often constructed of wood. They were typically located behind the structures they were associated with - close enough to be convenient for use but far enough away to diminish the smell. Privies were commonly used to dispose of trash, and military posts were no exception. By throwing lime and/or trash down the privy vault, the waste below would be covered, thereby reducing offending odors.



The Artillery Barracks as they appear today (above). A drawing of Vancouver, Washington published in 1889 depicts the NCO building (circled in red) as a one story timber-framed building, with windows on its southern (front) and western sides. The privy is not shown (below left). Detail of an 1882 map of the area by McCrea with the NCO building circled in red (below right).

Because few ever ventured into the vault below, privies contain valuable information as deposited items can reflect the private and personal habits of their owners.

Historical map records document the first appearance of a T-shaped building in 1888 with a small outbuilding interpreted as this privy, associated with Staff Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs). Referred to as "the backbone of the Army" by Rudyard Kipling in his 1896 poem "The 'Eathen," NCOs are

the most experienced and senior leaders amongst the enlisted ranks. As the late 19th century Indian Wars usually consisted of numerous scattered skirmishes over wide areas, this led to further enhancement of an NCO's role as a small-unit leader. Often fighting in small detachments, troops relied heavily on the knowledge and abilities of their NCOs. They were, and still are, responsible for instilling the training and

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Historical Fragment

Excerpt from a letter from John McLoughlin to J.H. Pelly, Hudson's Bay Company on July 12, 1846. McLoughlin's Fort Vancouver Letters, Third Series, 1844-1846, Hudson's Bay Record Society.

...Sir George Simpsons Visit here in 1841 has cost me Dear—taking Mr. Finlayson from Stikine for which there was no necessity and which necessity could hardly Justify led to the murder of my Son the careless manner he took the Depositions was Ruinous to his character—the Deception practised on Rae by telling him the California Business would be carried on an adequate scale and giving it up when it held such fine prospects Drove Rae to Distraction [and suicide] and because I felt as I ought at his [George Simpson's] wanting to Stultify me and make me believe contrary to the evidence of facts—and therefore could hold no further private correspondence with him—for which my Salary of five hundred pounds p. annum is stopped—I am deprived of my charge—and called to the other side which will make me lose this property and Ruin me—and which I purchased to prevent the Company Being Despoiled and to manage their Business to Better advantage—But my conduct must have been misrepresented—and I trust that the Company will when correctly informed do me justice...

...I am of opinion [that] if I had acted otherwise than I did—desides Vancouver being pillaged and the Companys Business Destroyed—England and the United States would be at War...

NCRI Director's Letter

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As I write this, Elaine Dorset and Leslie O'Rourke are pulling the last of the summer's excavation equipment back into the storage shed. The units we excavated this year have been backfilled and we are gearing up for another laboratory season this Fall. As another successful field season has ended, it is very appropriate to thank the many volunteers that have made the past year such a success. Without dedicated volunteers, we could not do the things we have done in the museum, history, or archaeology programs. Besides the cadre of exceptional volunteers that come year-round, we were graced by our 10th Public Archaeology Field School, our fourth Public History Field School, a new partnership with the Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS), the continuing connection to the urban and nontraditional youth overnight and day programs ("Blast to the Past"), two new NCRI Curation Series booklets (*Tobacco Pipes* and the *McLoughlin Family Collection*), an inventory project for the Pearson Air Museum collection, and a new 2012 calendar. Thanks to the many students, friends, and other volunteers that made this a great year.

While I was out in the field with our OAS volunteers, I was surprised that many of the local teachers that were gaining hands-on experience in archaeology at the Village, did not know about our Teaching the Village with Artifacts, a curriculum-based program created by the NCRI and the Southwest Washington Educational Services District through a grant from Qwest awarded to our non-profit, the Fort Vancouver National Trust. It is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/fova/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm>. While best taught to middle school students, we think this exceptional program also serves elementary and high school students. The unit invites students to learn about the multicultural village using the objects that the villagers left behind.

It is a companion piece to our brand new book, *Exploring Fort Vancouver*, published by the University of Washington Press in association with the Fort Vancouver National Trust. This book uses some of the most intriguing objects from our archaeological and archival collections to tell the history of technology, material culture, globalization, health and diet at Fort Vancouver. I believe it captures the sweep of human history at the fort, interweaving history, archaeology, and museum objects. For more information, see <http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/WILFOR.html>, which includes a link to a short youtube video. I think you will like it.

Doug Wilson

New Privy Uncovered

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NCRI Archaeologist Beth Horton excavates the privy beneath the concrete floor of the ca. 1904 Artillery Barracks. Deposits of lime, seen as white patches, were often used to lessen obnoxious odors (left). A variety of bottles recovered from the privy (center). The person who dropped this skeleton key down the privy was apparently not eager to retrieve it (right).

discipline necessary for troops to successfully carry out their mission on the battlefield. Staff NCOs (Staff Sergeants and above) set unit standards, and developed the training regimen, while junior NCOs (Corporals and Sergeants) conducted the training in small unit tactics. Archaeological investigation of the privy serves an important function because unlike commissioned officers, very little written documentation survives on the daily lives of late 19th century NCOs.

The period encompassing the occupation of this building was one of great change in the Pacific Northwest. The earlier Indian Wars had ended and soldiers were reassigned to peacetime duties, including civil engineering work, land exploration (1881 Upper Columbia River survey, Alaska 1882-83 expedition), keeping the peace during riots and strikes (Seattle mid-1880s, Idaho 1892), and assisted with the 1894 Pullman strike of Northern Pacific Railroad workers. The role of the NCO at Vancouver Barracks took on new importance immediately preceding the 1898 Spanish-American War and subsequent occupation of the

Philippines as the garrison served as a mobilization and training center for Oregon and Washington volunteers.

Over 3,500 artifacts were recovered, ranging from housewares to horseshoes. Surprisingly enough, corset hooks and women's shoes were also recovered, and it is hoped that ongoing research will explain their source—Staff NCOs often did not typically live with their wives on post at that time. Some of the Staff NCOs may have worked at the post Hospital, as a bottle labeled “Duff Gordon Sherry Medical Department U.S.A.” was found with its cork intact. Several patent medicine bottles were identified, reflecting the American consumption of patent medicines (high in alcohol) which reached its height in the late 19th century. The majority of bottles, however, were from the Gambrinus (Beer) Brewing Company of Portland, Oregon. The brewery was established at NW 22nd Ave and Flanders in 1875, and later moved to Park and Washington in 1892.

Gilt-decorated and intricately hand painted ceramics collected reflect the higher status and greater economic buying power of the

Staff NCOs over other enlisted men. Evidence of their diet can be seen through collected condiment bottles, sardine tins, beef and chicken bones, egg shells, and seed clusters, possibly from raspberries. Beef was the meat of choice in 19th century Army meals. For example, the menu for Company C of the 14th Infantry for a week in June 1893 included meat balls (unknown meat type) or beef steak for breakfast, roast beef for dinner (the midday meal), and beef steak, cold roast beef, or meat balls for supper.

Of particular interest are those objects related to personal health and hygiene, as they are not commonly found at Vancouver Barracks. A turquoise glass syringe and plunger was found with very small clear glass vials, interpreted at other military sites in the Pacific Northwest as hemorrhoid medicine applicators. Portions of a rubber tube likely used as a personal irrigator were also collected. These small details of daily life are often missing outside of privies because of their intimate nature. Further analyses of the artifacts will provide more insight into the lives of senior enlisted soldiers at Vancouver Barracks.

Dr. Douglas Wilson Honored with John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in NPS Archaeology

by Bob Cromwell, NPS Archaeologist



Dr. Doug Wilson doing what he enjoys most...

Northwest Cultural Resources Institute (NCRI) Director Dr. Douglas Wilson is the 2011 recipient of the John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in National Park Service Archeology. Dr. Wilson is an archaeologist for the Pacific West Regional Office of the National Park Service, based at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Dr. Wilson was nominated for his work on the Station Camp/Middle

Village archaeological site, a part of Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. The archaeology was initiated as a result of a proposed realignment of Highway 101 to create an interpretive park area commemorating the encampment of the Lewis and Clark expedition during November 1805, the history of the indigenous Chinook Indians, and the salmon cannery town established by P.J. McGowan. Dr. Wilson, as the principal investigator, brought together a multidisciplinary team to ensure a fuller understanding of the site. In addition, Dr. Wilson incorporated a battery of scientific techniques into the research design in order to establish the site's chronology and tease additional data from the artifacts, including Carbon-14 dating, ground penetrating radar, magnetometry, and isotope analyses.

The research will be the basis for park interpretive developments at Station Camp/Middle Village. The \$2 million project—a partnership between the Chinook Nation, the State of Washington, and the National Park Service—is scheduled for completion in 2011. Dr. Wilson has served as the principle cultural resource advisor on the project.

According to David Szymanski, Superintendent of Lewis and Clark NHP, "It is hard to overstate the impact of Doug's work at Middle

Village. It has and will change the way people think of the Lower Columbia. Since the release of his report in 2009, both the press and local people have become fascinated with the sophisticated, wealthy, and populous Chinookan culture that controlled the lower river."

As Director of the NCRI Dr. Wilson has been a strong advocate for including students in archaeological work and ensuring that information is disseminated to the public. Undergraduate and graduate students from Portland State University and Washington State University assisted on the project, both in the field and with lab work. Dr. Wilson has taken every opportunity to share his knowledge of the site with the local community and the greater region, through numerous newspaper articles, television appearances, talks at professional conferences, and public lectures.

Dr. Wilson has exemplified the tradition of responsible, scientific archaeology as espoused by John Cotter, resulting in an incredibly rich view of a significant site.

John Cotter is considered one of the founding fathers of historical archaeology in the United States. Dr. Cotter worked for the National Park Service from 1940 to 1977, retiring as the senior archaeologist for the agency. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Later, he helped to establish the Society for Historical Archaeology and served as its first president. The National Park Service award was established to honor Dr. Cotter's distinguished career and his pioneering contributions to professional archaeology within the National Park System. The peer recognition is designed to encourage and inspire archaeologists by highlighting an exemplary local archaeological activity.



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.

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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.

NCRI Archaeologists Help Hawaiian Park after Tsunami Damage

by Leslie O'Rourke, NPS Archaeologist

On March 11, 2011 an earthquake in Japan triggered a tsunami that traveled across the Pacific Ocean, and caused damage to Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park on the west coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i. Within two days, NPS archaeologists from the Pacific West Region were in Hawai'i to help park archaeologists document cultural resources affected by the tsunami.

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is a sacred Hawaiian site that was an ancient pu'uhonua (place of refuge) that offered sanctuary to anyone who broke a kapu (sacred law), an offense punishable by death. The transgressor would then be absolved by a priest and freed to leave. Defeated warriors and non-combatants could also find refuge here during times of battle. The Great Wall marks the boundary of the pu'uhonua, and is a stone wall built about 460 years ago. The Great Wall measures 1000 feet long, 12 feet high, and 17 feet thick, and is bordered on the north and west by the Pacific Ocean.

At the north end of the Great Wall is a stone platform with a reconstruction of the Hale o Keawe temple, built in 1650 to receive the bones of the great ali'i (noble chief) Keawe, great-grandfather of Kamehameha I. By 1818, Hale o Keawe held the bones of 23 ali'i. The power of their sacred remains consecrated the site and provided protection to those who sought refuge there.

The site was occupied until the early 1800s, when traditional religious practices were abolished and the bones of the chiefs were removed. Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary, features a complex of archaeological sites and remains a significant cultural and spiritual site to the people of Hawai'i.

Waves from the March tsunami surged onto the Royal Grounds to the base of the Great Wall at a height of about three feet. Retreating waves scoured away the white coral sand cap from the Royal Grounds and the coastal trail, revealing artifacts and archaeological features that had not been seen before by park archaeologists. The coastal trail at the south end of the park was covered with debris, and rock walls were breached. Archaeologists conducted surveys of the areas of the park affected by the tsunami, recorded and collected artifacts, and drew detailed maps of exposed cultural features.

Within two weeks, mapping had been completed on most of the Royal Grounds and archaeological features were protected with a fresh layer of coral sand. Visitors were again able to enjoy the main portion of the park. The coastal trail was reopened in late April.

Fort Vancouver archaeologists renewed the connection that Fort Vancouver has with Hawai'i. Many Hawaiians worked for the Hudson's Bay Company, reflected in the name "Kanaka" Village at Fort Vancouver. Hawaiian heritage can be found in place names throughout the Pacific Northwest: Kalama, Kanaka Creek, and Owyhee River.



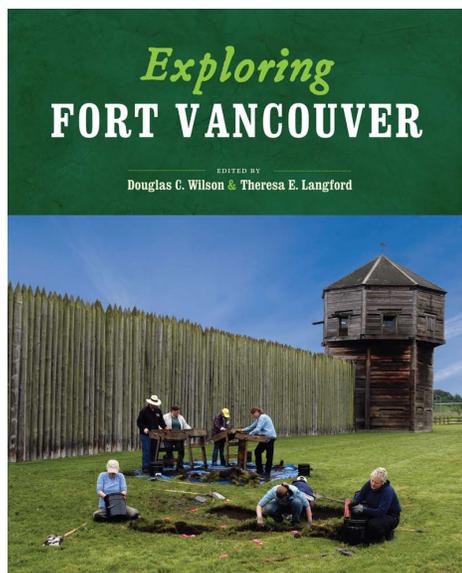
Mapping archaeological features on the Royal Grounds, with the Great Wall on the left.



Hale o Keawe temple reconstruction at the north end of the Great Wall.

Announcements

Exploring Fort Vancouver Book Released this September



Exploring Fort Vancouver, published by the University of Washington Press and Fort Vancouver National Trust.

To explore the sweep of human history at Fort Vancouver is to grasp some of the essentials of the North American experience. American Indians, traders, homesteaders, and soldiers lived and worked at the fort, their lives interwoven and their stories embedded in the objects they left behind. **Exploring Fort Vancouver** uses some of the most intriguing objects from the fort's extensive archaeological and archival collections to tell the history of technology, material culture, globalization, health and diet, and the National Park Service at this significant place.

Cultural Resources Training

The Cultural Resources Division has provided several artifact analysis training sessions over the last two years. The most recent session was on lithic analysis. It generated considerable interest and was very well attended by both park volunteers and staff.

Beth Horton, park archaeologist, organized the training with the assistance of **Elaine Dorset**, park archaeologist and Lab Director. The training started with a review of terminology and physical characteristics of stone tools, and then moved to a very informative demonstration by **Dennis Torresdal**, a flintknapper who also volunteers at Fort Vancouver in the Blacksmith Shop. His demonstration provided insight into how the tool-making process generates certain types of debitage, or waste. Understanding these processes allows us to develop hypotheses about the types of activities that may have occurred at a particular site, based on the debitage that is found in the archaeological deposits. Dennis also provided many samples of stone tools for the attendees to review their characteristics.

Horton continued the remainder of the training, a review of cultural sequences (styles) of stone tools in the Pacific Northwest, geologic materials preferred and trade routes, and lithics in the historical period such as gunflints and flaked glass tools.

Public Archaeology Field School at Fort Vancouver Examines Evidence of Intense Landscape Use

The National Park Service (NPS), Portland State University (PSU), and Washington State University Vancouver recently completed a six week intensive Public Archaeology Field School at the site of the Hudson's Bay Company Village at Fort Vancouver NHS. The Field School was instructed by NPS Archaeologist and

PSU Associate Professor, **Dr. Douglas Wilson**, and by NPS Archaeologist, **Dr. Robert Cromwell**.

The Hudson's Bay Company Village (45CL300), was the social heart of the colonial capitol of the Pacific Northwest, Fort Vancouver (ca. 1829-1860).

The goal of this year's field school was to provide insight into the activities that occurred in the Village in the spaces surrounding known house sites.

This year's field school students have found close to 40 features and over 30,000 artifacts. Small hearths dotted here and there, some of them in linear groupings, possibly represent "smudge pits" to create smoke which softens animal furs, or simply cooking fires for the 600 to 1,000 people that seasonally occupied the village during the HBC period. There are pits with little evidence to explain their purpose; possible trash pits (burned and unburned); posts and post holes, house floors strewn with significant quantities and a wide variety of artifact types, and two dog burials, one of them thoughtfully wrapped in a dark green blanket. Sediment samples were taken extensively to see what information microscopic artifacts, such as pollen, phytoliths and trace elements, can tell us about the uses and locations of dooryards, gardens, and other enclosures as shown on contemporary illustrations and maps. These investigations will continue during the 2012 field season. The information obtained will allow the National Park Service to further reconstruct everyday life in a 19th century fur trade village.

Material Culture Notes: Historic Postcards

by Meagan Huff, NPS Museum Technician



Before 1907, writing messages on the reverse side of postcards was prohibited, so senders wrote their messages on the front side. This penny postcard was sent in 1905 from a Portland resident to San Francisco.

(FOVA Vertical Files, FOVA 1714-18)

This postcard was likely produced using a "postcard" camera. The photographer used a metal stylus to write on the negative, creating a caption on the developed image in white lettering.

(FOVA 201601)



Historic postcards can be found in many museum collections, and provide historians with a unique window into the past. In addition to giving us the written correspondence of their senders, postcards also show what kinds of scenes were worthy of sending. Furthermore, the stylistic changes of postcards can supply further information about trends in printing and correspondence habits.

In the nineteenth-century United States, postcards were

mainly used as advertising tools. The term "postcard" was only to be used by the U.S. Government, so privately mailed postcards were titled "Correspondence Card," "Souvenir Card," or "Mail Card." The popularity of these cards as souvenirs rose sharply in 1893, when they were distributed to visitors of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

On May 19, 1898, an Act of Congress allowed for postcards to be mailed by private

individuals at a rate of one cent (hence the term "penny postcard"), greatly increasing their availability and popularity. Early postcards were printed with the words "Private Mailing Card" on their reverse sides, until the U.S. Government allowed for the private use of the term "postcard" in 1901.

Until 1907, law prohibited the senders of postcards from writing personalized messages on the reverse of the cards.

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Material Culture Notes: Historic Postcards

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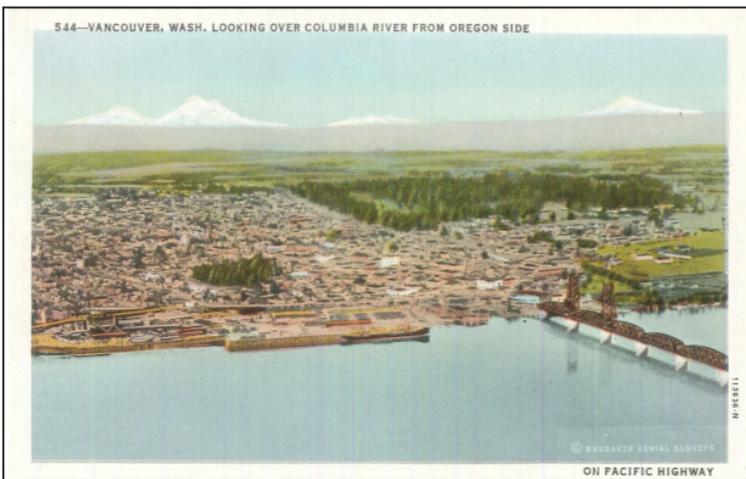
The lithograph used to create this postcard was produced in Germany. German lithographs had a reputation for high quality and were often used by postcard manufacturers. This postcard was sent from Vancouver Barracks in 1918, and its white border is typical of postcards produced during World War One.

(FOVA 201601)



Postcards produced during WWI underwent adjustments, like the addition of the white border, that reflect reactions to the war effort. This stamp, on a postcard sent from Portland by a soldier stationed at Vancouver's Spruce Mill, is another example of how the war effort manifested itself in private correspondence.

(FOVA 201601)



This postcard with an aerial view of Vancouver dates from 1936, and is printed on linen paper stock. Postcards printed on linen paper stock were cheap to produce and often contain brightly colored dyes.

(FOVA 202343)

For this reason, postcards dating from before 1907 may have messages written across the front side of the postcard.

Beginning in 1907, writing messages on the address side of postcards was permitted. Postcard manufacturers began releasing cards with divided backs, much like postcards we see today, allowing for a message on the left side of the card and an address on the right side. The most popular

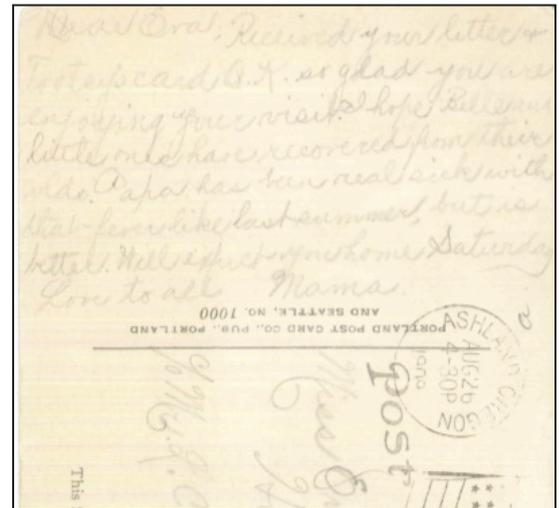
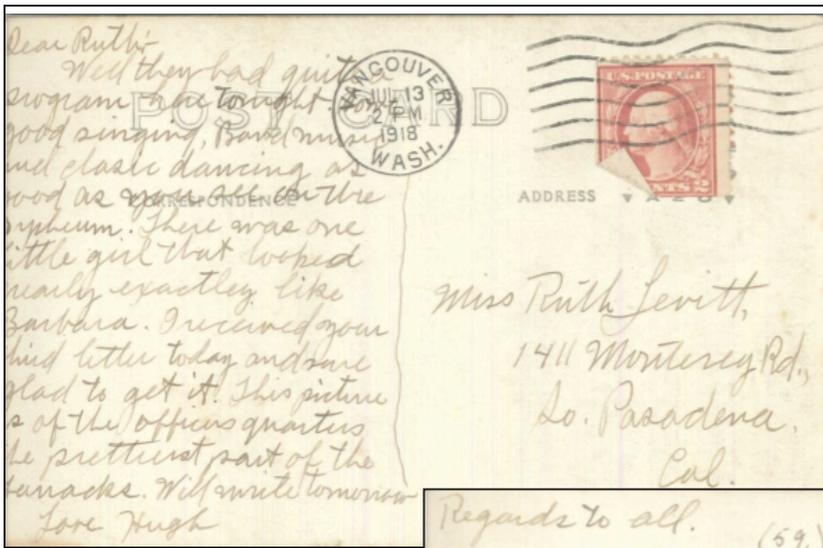
postcards at this time contained lithograph images and were often produced in Germany, since German lithographs were known for their high quality. The period from 1907 to 1915 is known as the "Golden Age" of postcards due to the incredible volume of postcards sent during this time. In 1908 alone, the U.S. Post Office reported that 677 million postcards were mailed.

World War I had a significant effect on postcard production. The availability of lithographed postcards began to decline due to the disruption of trade with Germany, and never recovered. Starting in 1915, lithographed postcards that were available were printed with a white border surrounding the image in an effort to reduce printing costs.

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Material Culture Notes: Historic Postcards

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Messages from Vancouver Barracks.

Photograph, or “real photo,” postcards, however, grew in popularity during the war. In 1906, the Eastman Kodak Company began producing “postcard” cameras that allowed photographers to easily print photographs at a postcard size. Some styles of these cameras had a door on the rear of the camera body that allowed the photographer to write captions on the negative with a metal stylus.

After 1930, color cards printed on linen paper stock became popular. These postcards are identifiable because the high rag content in the paper gives them a textured surface.

In 1939, the photochrome process was developed and used to print postcards. This process is still used today.

The images on postcards in the Fort Vancouver museum collection help us to reconstruct

or re-imagine buildings and landscapes that no longer exist. They also indicate the types of images and scenes that were considered worth commemorating as souvenirs. The messages on these postcards are just as valuable, and serve as vivid illustrations of the thoughts and lifestyles of their senders.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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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 object was unearthed during the Summer 2011 Public Archaeology Field School.

Last issue's mystery object was a coffeepot lid.

