



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



January-February 2019 Archeology E-Gram

NPS NEWS

To celebrate African American History Month, the E-Gram offers news items about African American history. Check out the Slave Wreck Project story and the Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf!

National Park Service in Partnership to Discover the Story of the Sao Jose

Since 2009, the NPS Submerged Resources Center has provided technical expertise to the Slave Wreck Project (SWP) for excavation and documentation of a Portuguese slave ship that sank off the coast of South Africa in 1794. Four weeks after departing Mozambique and destined for Brazil, the Sao Jose sank near Capetown. More than half of the 512 slaves on board lost their lives, and the survivors were sold.



The Sao Jose is the first slave vessel known to have sunk with enslaved people still on board. Discovered in 2009 through efforts of the Slave Wreck Project (SWP), the Sao Jose and its artifacts have begun to tell the history of the slave trade. In addition to ship debris and artifacts, voyage ledgers and journal accounts provide comprehensive documentation of the ship's inventory. Its principal cargo: captured Africans, imprisoned below deck and destined to be sold into slavery.

What began as a diving expedition examining shipwreck archeology, interesting only to a niche community, has blossomed into a deeper narrative - an intimate examination of the slave trade. The inclusion of the Sao Jose artifacts in the National Museum of African American History and Culture's inaugural exhibit, *Slavery and Freedom*, illuminate interpretation capacities of this project. The combination of a traditional exhibit, joined with an interactive display, allows visitors to experience the artifacts and virtually explore the wreck site. The innovative tool also creates outreach distance learning possibilities, furthering the scope and potential of this project. Focus placed on inclusive collaboration with local communities throughout the entire process provided technical capacity building assistance and supported conservation of their heritage.

The Slave Wreck Project (SWP) is an international effort to locate and document sunken slave ships, incorporating technical conservation assistance and training for developing country partners; research; and story-telling to gain a broader understanding of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and African diaspora, examining, in-depth, its effects and repercussions socially, economically, and historically.

Focusing on underwater archeology permits a lens into undocumented and difficult histories that terrestrial archeology is less able to address. Due to their inaccessibility, shipwrecks, when found, contain artifacts that allow researchers to address dimensions of the difficult Middle Passage, the voyage from origin as a free person to destination as a slave.

Other partners in the SWP include the State Department, Diving With a Purpose, the George Washington University - Capitol Archaeological Institute, IZIKO Museums of South Africa, NPS Southeast

Archaeological Center, South African Heritage Resources Agency, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

To watch an NPS ArcheoThursday webinar about the Sao Jose investigations, go to *The Slaver Shipwreck Sao Jose Paquete D’Africa: New Perspectives and Possibilities for the Realization of the Black Atlantic Paradigm from Maritime Archaeology* by Stephen C. Lubkemann, George Washington University at <https://www.nps.gov/training/NPSArcheology/html/index.cfm#p2>

From story by Natalie Williamson, NPS Office of International Affairs Intern

Lawmakers Propose New Bill Intended to Protect Unmarked African-American Burial Sites

Cemeteries containing the remains of enslaved or segregated Black Americans have been uncovered in recent years during new construction projects nationwide after going unnoticed for centuries because they were never documented. Now a pair of lawmakers are looking to reclaim the missing pieces of the past.

New legislation proposed to Congress seeks to protect undocumented African-American burial grounds across the U.S. and would establish a first of its kind database for tracking the historic sites. The bill, proposed by African American Representatives A. Donald McEachin (VA), and Alma Adams, (NC), would establish the African American Burial Ground Network as part of the NPS.

The bill is intended to “help communities identify and record burial grounds and preserve local history while better informing development decisions and community planning.” It would authorize the creation of a federal nationwide database for the cemeteries, house additional information, provide educational materials for surrounding communities, and secure funding for additional research.

From story by Tanasia Kenney, Atlanta Black Star

Senators Reintroduce Legislation to Preserve Battlefields

Senators Roy Blunt (MO), Johnny Isakson (GA), and Tim Kaine (VA) reintroduced the Preserving America’s Battlefields Act. The U.S. House of Representatives previously passed companion legislation introduced by U.S. Representative Jody Hice (GA), during the 115th Congress. Hice reintroduced the legislation earlier this month as H.R.307. The bipartisan legislation would provide for the restoration of battlefield sites across the country, helping transform them into historic tourism destinations.

The Act would reauthorize the Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program, which is a matching grants program that promotes preservation of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefields. The Preserving America’s Battlefields Acts would increase funding to \$20 million a year. The grants encourage state and private investment in battlefield preservation. The legislation would help foster partnerships between state and local governments, regional entities and the private sector to preserve and conserve the land and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields. Historically, battlefields across the country that have been preserved through Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants include more than 30,000 acres in 20 states.

There are 243 Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield sites and 282 Civil War battlefield sites across the country that have been identified as national preservation priorities by the NPS.

Provided by Katie Boyd and Tate O’Connor

South Lake Tahoe Man Sentenced to Prison for Destruction of Archeological Sites

After illegally digging at prehistoric Native American archeological sites on federal lands in Alpine and El Dorado counties, Nevada, 50-year-old Timothy Harrison, South Lake Tahoe, was sentenced to one year and one day in prison and ordered to pay \$113,000 in restitution.

He was found guilty on two counts of excavation and removal of archeological resources from public lands and one misdemeanor count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced. Harrison collected tens of thousands of artifacts from multiple archeological sites, and virtually destroyed two sites.

The case was the product of an investigation by the USFS, BLM, NPS, DEA, FBI, California State Fish & Wildlife Service, California Highway Patrol, and Alpine County Sheriff's Department. Harrison was sentenced by U.S. District Judge John A. Mendez. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Samuel Wong, Christopher S. Hales, and Miriam R. Hinman prosecuted the case.

From story by Paula, South Tahoe Now

New Mapping Tool for National Park Units on Sea Level Rise

In 2018, the NPS published *Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Projections for the National Park Service*. The report details the possible extent of sea level change for coastal parks in the future based upon downscaled datasets from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Report results can now be explored through the *NPS Sea Level Rise Viewer*, an interactive online mapping tool based on mapping design by Craig Tweedie, University of Texas. The sea level rise data are provided as map services and may be incorporated into desktop and web mapping GIS applications. The Southeast Region *Park Atlases* include sea level rise data along with each unit's core operational data. The viewer can be accessed directly from the *Sea Level Change page* on NPS.gov.

Approximately one-fourth of all NPS sites are situated on or near a sea coast. Coupled with other work on coastal risk, the sea level rise viewer provides a tool to help managers identify vulnerabilities, prioritize management action, and guide public investments in sustainable projects. The NPS Climate Change Response and Sustainable Operations Programs provides information for effective park management that addresses sustainability, facilities adaptation, and cultural resources, especially in the coastal zone.

Vandals Hit Tumacacori National Historic Park

Vandals scratched names into a wall at the Tumacacori NHP and the NPS is asking for the public's help to find out who did it. Special agents with the NPS Investigative Services Branch are assisting park officials with the search. The incident is believed to have happened sometime between 9 a.m. December 26 and 2 p.m. December 27, 2018. The names "Ferny and Nicky" were carved into an interior wall of the park's Convento ruins, a part of the 19th century mission complex.

The graffiti is believed to have happened during the shutdown, as the mission grounds, orchard, maintenance and administrative facilities were closed and entry into these areas was prohibited.

Anyone with information that could help investigators is asked to call or text the ISB Tip Line at 888-653-0009 or go online to www.nps.gov/ISB; tipsters can remain anonymous.

A Continuing Confluence of Archeological Research

The Glen Canyon Project was funded by the Bureau of Reclamation between 1957 and 1963. Before construction of Glen Canyon Dam, archeologists from the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) and the University of Utah documented evidence of human history in the canyons that soon would be covered by rising water. Only reconnaissance-level of survey and limited excavations were possible. Despite this, the Glen Canyon Project was one of the largest archeology programs in the Southwest, documenting thousands of sites. Sites of all ages were fully recorded, including early twentieth century mining claims, cabins, and Navajo home sites.

In 2014, MNA began a cooperative agreement with Glen Canyon NRA to monitor previously-recorded archeological sites. MNA's work has involved boat-based fieldwork to explore submerged tributary canyons along the lake, and land-based sessions on the upland terraces north of the Wahweap Bay – Lone Rock area and around Halls Crossing.

Inundation by water can cause significant impacts to archeological sites. Wave action along the shore as the water rises and falls moves artifacts, having the same effect as people collecting artifacts. This is especially true in narrow canyons where waves are confined. Water saturates the soft mortar of masonry structures, causing walls to collapse. Calcium carbonate deposited by water, commonly known as the “bathtub ring,” can cover rock art panels. In areas exposed by the lower lake levels, the calcium carbonate rind is beginning to flake off, exposing rock art that appears to have survived submersion.



Recent climate models suggest the water level in Lake Powell will continue to decrease, and it may never again fill to its maximum capacity. As more archeological sites are exposed, MNA will continue to study the effects of inundation and visitation, and work with the NPS to protect these irreplaceable resources.

From story by Kimberly Spurr, Arizona Daily Sun

FEDERAL NEWS

Department of Justice and Bureau of Indian Affairs Repatriate Items to Acoma Pueblo

DOJ has announced the repatriation of an Acoma Shield and several other items of historical and cultural significance to members of the Pueblo of Acoma. BIA recovered the shield after learning that it was offered for sale online by an art gallery in Montana. Acoma Pueblo war shields are cultural patrimony.

U.S. Attorney John C. Anderson for the District of New Mexico, BIA Special Agent Franklin Chavez, and Governor Kurt Riley of the Pueblo of Acoma participated in a repatriation ceremony. Other federal and tribal officials and community members also attended the event at the Sky City Cultural Center and Haak'u Museum.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a federal law intended to return unlawfully obtained human remains and cultural objects to their homelands. The U.S. Attorney's

Office and the BIA-Office of Justice Services Cultural Resources Division are dedicated to stemming the loss and trafficking of cultural patrimony by investigating and enforcing the NAGPRA.

Once-Missing Petroglyphs to be Digitally Restored

After being blasted off a cliff face almost 60 years ago, a collection of Native American rock art went on display at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. And then, they disappeared. For decades, the federal government looked for the artifacts, hoping to reclaim them. But it was only recently that the art was rediscovered — and now, the ancient drawings are about to get a new future in the digital world.

The prehistoric petroglyphs were first brought to fame by regional explorer Bob Edgar. However, after the rock art became more well-known, those with less appreciation for the artifacts took frequent pot shots at the drawings. The surrounding cliff face was also being mined for rip rap to shore up the banks of the Greybull River.

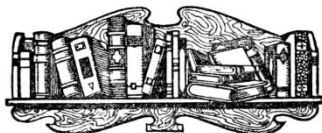


In 1962, Harold McCracken, the first director of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, arranged to have the large art segment removed from the cliff on what was then thought to be private land. McCracken paid \$300 to Mr. and Mrs. John Tillard to take the rock from their property and the Basin Monument Company \$1,400 to carefully dynamite the panels off the sandstone cliff. McCracken had the large segment cut into displayable-size segments prior to being placed on display at the center in Cody. What McCracken didn't know at the time was that the panels actually rested on BLM property.

The museum display eventually was moved to storage. In the meantime, BLM officials claimed ownership of the panels. The lack of paperwork — including clear evidence of who owned the cliff — complicated both the search and return of the artifacts. Eventually, staff found eight of the nine fragments of the rock art stored in an off-site Quonset hut. The museum agreed to return the panels to the BLM. The BLM promptly shipped the returned artifacts to the University of Wyoming, where they're being researched and carefully stored in climate-controlled storage.

Archeologists now hope to build a digital reconstruction of the cliff face where the petroglyphs once resided, using reflectance transformation imaging and photogrammetry. The results will be used as a key case study through which to open a dialog with the public on site vandalism, preservation, and continued public access to collections.

From story by Mark Davis



The Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf: Heroes of the Underground Railroad Around Washington DC. By Jenny Masur

If you are planning on reading a book to mark African American History Month, this is a good one to consider. "Heroes of the Underground Railroad" is about the movements of African Americans through a single city during the 19th century. The city is Washington D.C., and its history illuminates the nation's complex relationship with slavery. Within 10 miles, plantations such as Mount Vernon and Abingdon maintained a large enslaved work force. Sales of African Americans took place regularly at Alexandria,

just down the Potomac River from the capitol. An enslaved work force built many of the public buildings dating to that period, such as the White House and the Library of Congress. Within the District lived freedmen, enslaved people, and enslaved people from elsewhere hired out to work in the city. Given the water, rail, and road transportation routes that passed through Washington, D.C., it was inevitable that the Underground Railroad would operate here.

Masur, a retired NPS National Capital Regional Manager, Underground Railroad Program, divides her book into sections – background, people, places, and accomplices. The Background provides descriptions of slavery in the DMV during the 19th century, and the checkered history of emancipation. She defines the Underground Railroad as “resistance to power through flight,” and calls those who fled slavery “freedom seekers,” deftly providing enslaved people with power and agency to plan and execute their journeys. She rejects the term “slave,” preferring to call them “bondsmen.”

The following sections highlight people who moved through Washington, D.C. on their way to Northern cities, locations that were critical to movement, and the network of people who assisted. These stories illustrate Stanley Harrold’s Foreword. He points out that the institution of slavery in America was unique in at least two respects: unlike slavery in Europe and Africa, slavery in the New World was based on race rather than economic status, and that African American (and Native American) slaves had no conventional human rights, that is, they were property and treated as such. Masur’s vignettes demonstrate what a vicious effect this had on enslaved families and on slaveholders who lived in close proximity to this pernicious institution.

Masur notes that women “heavily embedded in kinship responsibilities” faced greater challenges than men in trying to escape slavery. Wives and husbands often were forced to live apart and women, as single heads of households, needed to take dependent children with them when attempting freedom. The story of the Plummers illustrates this well. Emily and Adam Plummer were married in 1841 and lived on separate plantations. They attempted to run away together in 1845, when they had two children, but were caught. In 1851, Emily and her youngest children were sold to another owner, leaving two behind. In 1863, Emily and five young children tried again to escape, but was intercepted. The family was not to be together again until 1866, when a son brought the eldest daughter back from New Orleans, where she was taken after being sold.

Even non-residents of Washington will find this an interesting read. Boarding houses, which were compared to college fraternities, had a special status in Washington. Abolitionists and Congressional anti-slavery advocates were “an unwelcome minority” in Washington, Masur tells us in “Impact of Places and Events,” but many found a welcome haven in Mrs. Sprigg’s boarding house. Abraham Lincoln and his wife lived here during his time in Congress.

This section and the following, “Operatives, Accomplices and Helpers” reminds us that Freedom seekers were not the only people who risked their lives for freedom. Heroes of the Underground Railroad include non-enslaved individuals who, if caught, could suffer the loss of family, livelihood, or life. Even with white privilege, helping freedom seekers was risky and dangerous. A number of people who were caught stood trial and went to prison, ruining their finances and their health.

The Selected Sources list primary sources for the profiles contained in the preceding chapters and are wonderful additions to the book, as is the Appendix. It provides addresses for a number of the locations and events mentioned in the text. There is even an index, a labor of love in a self-published book.

Masur mentions a person and an event that I wish that she had spent more time on. The person was Reverend Charles Torrey, who helped hundreds of freedom seekers before being caught and sentenced to prison in Maryland, where he died. The event was the interception of a ship, the *Pearl*, with nearly 100 freedom seekers on board, as it attempted to sail down the Potomac to Chesapeake Bay. Luckily for me, however, several pertinent books are listed in the Selected Sources – more reading for African American History Month!

By Karen Mudar

GRANTS AND TRAINING

NAGPRA Grants Available for FY2019

The National NAGPRA Program is currently accepting applications for their Consultation/Documentation and Repatriation grant programs. Access more information and the applications through the NAGPRA Grants website: <https://www.nps.gov/nagpra/GRANTS/INDEX.HTM>. Deadlines to apply are March 8, 2019 for Consultation/Documentation grants and May 17, 2019, for Repatriation grants.

Contact: Sarah Glass, Notice and Grant Coordinator, National NAGPRA Program, 202.354.1479

John L. Cotter Award- Call for Nominations

NPS archeologists created the John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in NPS Archeology to honor the long and distinguished career and pioneering contributions to professional archeology within the National Park System of Dr. John L. Cotter. The award recognizes the archeological accomplishments of NPS staff or a partnership researcher within a unit or units of the National Park System. Submit nominations for professional achievement or project excellence by March 30, 2019. Nomination guidelines and format can be found at:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wnSnHGf_s22rtS0iTKMClrD0yRpbSHnb
or email the committee chair (adam_freeburg@nps.gov) for more information.

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training Offers Training in Archeology of Firearms

NCPTT, the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, and the Friends of NCPTT are sponsoring the Archeology of Firearms March 11-13, 2019 at Springfield Armory NHS, Springfield, MA. This workshop is being offered to discuss and demonstrate methods for studying firearms, firearm parts and ammunition components found in archeological contexts. The training offers information, analytical techniques, and conceptual approaches that archeologists can use to understand the material residues of guns.

Tuition: Regular \$450, student \$225

Contact: Tad Britt (318) 521-5641 Tad_Britt@nps.gov

Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory is accepting applications for the seventh year of the Gloria King Research Fellowship in Archaeology. The MAC Lab is an archeological research, conservation, and curation facility located at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, the Maryland State Museum of Archaeology. The MAC Lab is a clearinghouse for archeological collections recovered from

land-based and underwater projects throughout Maryland and is currently home to 8 million artifacts representing over 12,000 years of human occupation. All collections are available for research, education, and exhibit purposes to students, scholars, museum curators, and educators. The purpose of the fellowship is to encourage research in the collections.

Students, academics, or professionals (employees of the Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's College of Maryland are not eligible) may research any subject in Maryland archeology and must use collections at the MAC Lab. Applicants may wish to look at the Maryland Uneared website, which provides access to many of the important archeological collections maintained by the lab, at <http://jefpat.org/mdunearth/index.aspx>

Application includes a 1000 word proposal outlining the problem and the collections in the MAC Lab to be used to address the problem, a curriculum vita, and a letter of recommendation. Applicants are encouraged to contact the lab during proposal preparation to ensure that the lab has appropriate collections. The stipend is \$700 a week, with a minimum two week stay and maximum 5 week stay. On-site housing may be available for fellows, dependent on scheduling of fellowship. Applications must be received by March 1, 2019. Projects awarded a fellowship can begin as early as April 1, 2019.

Send applications to: Patricia Samford, Director
Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, Maryland 20685

Gloria Shafer King was born on January 6, 1931, in Baltimore, Maryland. She spent summers as a child on her family's farm near Chestertown, Maryland, and attended Washington College. In 1955, she and her husband, George M. King, started a small excavating construction business in Anne Arundel County. She had a lifelong interest in Maryland history and archeology and contributed funds and services to individuals and organizations supporting this interest. Mrs. King died on May 31, 2004, and this fellowship in her memory recognizes her many contributions to the preservation of the past.

Contact: Patricia Samford, patricia.samford@maryland.gov

SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: will be back next month, with your favorite archeological podcasts.

Archeology E-Gram, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the NPS and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page at www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the NPS Archeology Program website.

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