



Vancouver Express

Living History Events at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve

"History never looks like history when you are living through it." ~ John W. Gardner

For many, history doesn't look like standard, boring history when experienced at a living history event. The National Park Service tries to bring history to life at Fort Vancouver and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

"Living history, or costumed interpretation, allows the visitor a chance to get a glimpse of the past and the people who called this place home," according to Ranger Jon Burpee. "We want to make the stories come alive in an exciting way. The Reserve is a wonderful setting for living history programs."



Private Jeremy Eakman of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry strikes at a ball at an earlier game. On July 19 and August 16, the 1st Oregon team will take on the Vancouver Occidentals on the Parade Ground playing under 1860s rules.

At Fort Vancouver, daily living history demonstrations in the Blacksmith and Carpenter Shops help visitors understand not only the crafts of the fort, but also the interesting lives of the craftsmen. The interpreters wear period clothing as they create usable objects for the fort's program.

As the park staff and volunteers make efforts to increase the amount of living history programs offered on a day-to-day basis, large living history events continue to engage visitors throughout

the year. Highlights of a few upcoming programs are included:

Soldier's Bivouac

On May 13, 1849 the United States Army arrived at Fort Vancouver to establish a new post that eventually would be called Vancouver Barracks. For much of its history, the Barracks was headquarters for US Army posts in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. It was a pivotal post during the frontier period and its soldiers impacted the history of the West and

overseas. Soldier's Bivouac brings that history to life and highlights the significant eras of the post's history.

On Saturday and Sunday, July 19th and 20th, volunteers portraying troops from the post will encamp upon the Barracks' Parade Ground giving demonstrations about the lives of the soldiers. Visit soldier's camps and hear the stories about what it was like to live at the post. The Bivouac is a great activity for the family and is an annual event.

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A Message from the Fort Vancouver Superintendent

It is summer at your national park! The staff and volunteers of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve are incredibly busy preserving and sharing this incredible place and its history.

Within the fort walls the Counting House is beginning to take shape. The maintenance crew and volunteers are reconstructing the building which originally was built in 1845. They are using lumber cut from donated trees from Mount Rainier National Park. Stop by throughout the summer to see their progress.

To the west of the fort, excavations are revealing clues about the Village and how its residents lived. The 2003 Archaeological Field School is a partnership between Portland State University, Washington State University-Vancouver, and the National Park Service to give students a first-hand knowledge of archaeology. Students from around the country are participating. The digs are open to the public Tuesday-Saturday.

July 19 & 20 brings the return of soldiers to the Parade Ground of Vancouver Barracks. A large number of volunteers portraying the soldiers from the post's past invite the public into their camps to experience a bit of Army history. At 6:00 PM on the 20th, the soldiers of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry will again face the ballists from the Vancouver Occidentals in a match of vintage base ball – 1860s style. These are wonderful events to take the family and experience a bit of the past that makes this such a special place.

Whether it is your first time visiting or you visit regularly, have a wonderful time in your national park!

Tracy Fortmann
Superintendent

Base Ball Played a Role at Vancouver Barracks



National Park Service volunteers portray the 1st Oregon Volunteer infantry who were stationed at the Barracks during the Civil War.

Fort Vancouver, December 1st
"I spent the day visiting the town and garrison, and in playing ball."
Private William Peck, 1858

"The base ball fever has taken hold of the privates at Vancouver Barracks, and the old club is reorganized for the coming season, in shape to be heard from favorably."

Vancouver Independent, April 4, 1888

For almost as long as soldiers have called Vancouver Barracks home, references reflect the role baseball played as a pastime and a welcome respite from the tedium of living in garrison. Routine duties included drilling endlessly on the parade ground, construction duty, kitchen duty, and guard duty. Since opportunities to leave the post were rare, soldiers found ways to entertain themselves on-post.

The earliest reference to playing 'ball' at the Barracks reflects its informal nature as a pick-up game. No historical references to a formalized post team have been found until the mid-1880s.

Vancouver Barracks continued to field teams from at least that point on until the end of World War II. Local opponents included town teams, high school and college teams, and industrial teams. After the opening of Camp (later Fort) Lewis, annual games were held between the two posts.

Baseball, as well as other games, played an important role in Vancouver Barrack's past. Today, the National Park Service strives to bring this past to life. If you are interested in finding out more information about the park's active vintage base ball program please contact Jon Burpee at 360-696-7655 ext. 15.



You can visit the park Visitor Center and the Northwest Interpretive Association book shop to get more information on historic base ball.

At the shop you can find a reprint of the 1860 *Beadle's Dime Base-Ball Player* including the 'Revised Rules' of 1860. The shop also carries *Past Time: Baseball as History* which contains an enlightening series of essays about our national game.

The Volunteer Dispatch

Guilds and Groups

Fort Vancouver NHS has benefited from a partnership for a long time. For years, the Blacksmith Guild has helped direct the shop and has allowed for a greatly expanded amount of interpretation of this important trade to the history of the fort. Recently the Guild has expanded to include the Carpenter Shop. This incredible group has inspired other groups to form.

Les Engagés des Fort Vancouver

Recently, a small group of volunteers and staff formed a living history group dedicated to telling the story of the working class at the fort. The goal of the group is to accurately portray the laborers and their families. Les Engagés meet once a month and has an on-line component that allows the group to communicate and share ideas on the web. If you primarily portray a working class person at the fort and are interested in joining, please contact Jon Burpee at 360-696-7655 ext. 15.

Oregon Trail Immigrants

Another group of living history volunteers are discussing the possibility of forming a group to improve the interpretation of the Oregon Trail and its connections at Fort Vancouver. The group is looking at how to best interpret the Oregon Trail camp at Candlelight Tour. Several energetic and creative volunteers are taking the lead in forming the group but need more volunteers to help it become a reality. If you are interested in information, please contact Julie Burpee at 360-258-6314.

Other Groups in the Future?

Do you see a possible group in your future? How about a **Culinary Guild** (Kitchen and Bake House)? Any reenactors want to start the **Vancouver Barracks Garrison**? Dream big, work hard, and improve tomorrow!

Thanks, Volunteers, for everything!!

A Garden Update

The garden is planted and we are waiting for the sun to do its work. This year we are growing some new historic vegetables like, Georgia Rattlesnake watermelon, Purple Sprouting broccoli, Speckled lettuce, D'algiers melon, and the Purple Hyacinth bean that got so much attention last year. Old Favorites like Cardoon, Amaranth, Moon and Stars watermelon will still be there to impress the visitors, volunteers, and staff alike.

Bill Green had his class of 2nd graders here to plant beans. The kids had a lot of fun and did a wonderful job, the beans sprouted within a week.

Some of the garden volunteers are

taking on a project to create a garden guide, with descriptions and pictures. This guide will meet ADA standards, so that visually impaired visitors can use the guide to learn more about the plants we grow and why they were important to the residents of 1845 Fort Vancouver.

We have some new benches in the garden. The old ones were in need of replacement. Along with the new benches we have added extensions onto the hops arbor to create a small sitting area that will be shaded. Hopefully we will find many people this summer stopping and spending a few quite moments in the garden.

~Submitted by Brenda Blair

Volunteer Picnic is on August 9th

The annual Park Picnic will be held on August 9th at 7:00 PM at the Picnic Shelter. The picnic will feature fun games, good food, and great friendship. All volunteers and staff are encouraged to attend. The Picnic is potluck.

If you are interested in attending please call the Visitor Center at 360- 696- 7655 ext. 10 to sign up. If you are interested in helping or have ideas on how to improve the picnic please call Jon Burpee at 360- 696- 7655 ext. 15.

The Emigrants of '45 to Form into Living History Group

Living history volunteers who are interested in portraying recently arrived American immigrants will be able to join a new living history group at Fort Vancouver. The group is interested initially in building up the interpretation of the Oregon Trail connections to the fort at events like Candlelight Tour. The group is looking for those who can perform period

crafts, tell stories, and interact with the visitors. The group also plans on working with 4- H to get children involved and to add animals to the camp.

If you are interested in more information about the group or want to join, please contact Julie Burpee at 360- 258- 6314.

Founder's Day: August 25th

The celebration of the National Park Service's 87th Birthday will be held on Monday, August 25th with free admission. A low-key special event,

we are looking for volunteers interested in helping staff the fort for the day. If interested please contact Becky Railey at 360- 696- 7659 ext. 12.

A New Face: Sharon Brown

If you are in the visitor center, you may see a new face in one of the offices. Sharon Brown, an interpretive specialist with the National Park Service's National Trails System, is now duty stationed in the Pacific Northwest with an office at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Sharon and her husband, Kevin Anderson, moved from Sante Fe, New Mexico. Sharon's primary duties include working with parks, organizations, and communities along the Oregon and California National Historic Trails to preserve the trails and interpret their legacy. Sharon has worked as an interpreter and historian at several sites in the National Park system.

Lewis and Clark Exhibit Closes July 27

If you haven't seen the exhibit in the Howard House you have only a few more weeks. The exhibit is open Wednesday- Sunday from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM.

VIP Feature: History Day Participants

Two of our younger volunteers deserve attention for their work as participants in National History Day. The goal of History Day is to give students a chance to learn the skills of a historian by researching a topic and presenting their findings in a variety of creative ways. The program is year-long and based on a theme. This year's theme of National History Day was 'Rights and Responsibilities in History.'

Elly Brouhard, age 14, a longtime volunteer, researched the women's suffrage movement. She developed an exhibit entitled 'Women, Their Rights, and Nothing Less: Women's Suffrage in the United States.' She competed locally and won an opportunity to go to the state competition at Central Washington University.

According to Elly this program was a good experience for her. "It was lots of fun and really cool to see what I accomplished." As a volunteer Elly says

the experience of having the judges ask her questions at the competitions will help her as an interpreter working with the public.

Cassie Anderson agrees with Elly. "History Day is a wonderful experience that teaches kids what history is all about." Her program, 'Rights and Responsibilities of Métisse Women in the Fur Trade at Fort Vancouver,' was presented as an individual performance which incorporated elements of living history.

What remains after completion of the projects stays with the students a long time. Cassie summed it up, "The self-satisfaction from creating such awesome projects turns into motivation that inspires kids to investigate history for the rest of their lives.

GREAT JOB ELLY and Cassie!! You make Fort Vancouver proud!

Volunteer Opportunities

Quarterly Volunteer Meetings

The dates have been set for the 2003 Quarterly Volunteer Meetings. These meetings offer a chance to meet fellow volunteers, learn about happenings in the park and ask questions. The meetings occur at the Visitor Center at 7:00 PM on:

Thursday, July 10th
Wednesday, October 8th

Upcoming Interp. Training Series

Sept. 27 *The Process of Interpretation*
(pre-requisite for all other courses).
Oct. 4 *Effective Interpretive Talk*
Oct. 11 *Effective Conducted Activity*
Oct. 18 *Effective Living History*
Oct. 25 *Interpreting Historic and Archaeological Resources.*

All courses start at 10:00 AM in the Indian Trade Shop. Please call 360- 696- 7655 ext. 10 to sign up. Space is limited.

New Volunteer Orientation

The next new volunteer orientation will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday September 20th at the Visitor Center. The session is a chance to welcome new volunteers and give an overview of what volunteers do for the park. Space is limited. Please call 360- 696- 7655 ext. 10 to sign up.

Sinking into a volunteer 'rut'?

Climb out! Fort Vancouver will offer several new opportunities this year, which might be what you, or someone you know, has been craving.

Administration Volunteers

The park headquarters is in need of volunteers who want to work a few hours a week. Duties would include clipping newspaper articles and filing. For additional information please contact Elaine Huff at the administration building at 360- 696- 7655 ext. 12

Visitor Center Volunteers

Would you like to have the challenge of orienting visitors, making bookstore sales and working with very large school groups all at the same time? The role of visitor center host is demanding but rewarding as you get to meet people from around the world...and lots of school kids. If you are interested in more information, please contact Jon Burpee at 360- 696- 7655 ext. 15.

Kitchen and Bake House Volunteers

Enjoy baking or cooking and sharing history with the public? We are recruiting volunteers to wear period clothing, prepare period recipes (receipts) and tell the stories of the kitchen and bake house workers at Fort Vancouver to visitors. Please contact Becky Railey at 360- 696- 7659 ext. 11.

The deadline for the September-October Express is August 15

Archaeological Lecture Series

This year's lecture series focuses on archaeological sites in the Pacific Northwest. Seating for these lectures is limited, and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

This lecture series accompanies the annual archaeology field school at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, which is a partnership between the National Park Service, Portland State University, and Washington State University – Vancouver.

Thursday, July 10, 7:00 PM. In Pursuit of the Wild Vaccinium—Huckleberry Processing Sites in the Southern Washington Cascades. O.O. Howard House

Cheryl Mack will discuss archaeology in the Cascade Mountains, exploring the types of sites associated with the collection and processing of *Vaccinium* (huckleberry) by Native Americans.

Thursday, July 17, 7:00 PM. The Archaeology of Pioneer Logging: the Wind River Lumber Company's Camp 3. O.O. Howard House

Rick McClure will discuss pioneer logging in the Pacific Northwest, sharing his preliminary results from investigations at the ca. 1902 Wind River Lumber Company's Camp 3 near Trout Creek in Skamania County, Washington.

Thursday, July 24, 7:00 pm – Panel Discussion: Kenneth Ames, Virginia Butler, Brian Harrison, Steven Weber, & Douglas Wilson Lewis & Clark in Context. Vancouver Barracks Auditorium

This panel will explore the relationships between the search for sites associated with the Corps of Discovery and our understanding of archaeology in the Pacific Northwest.

New Junior Rangers

Every year, hundreds of young visitors complete the requirements to earn a Junior Ranger Badge. A few of the latest Junior Rangers include:

- ★ Tyler Burnett, age 10, Lakeside, CA
- ★ Brian Burnett, age 4 ½, Lakeside, CA
- ★ Christopher Lundén, age 7, Stockholm, Sweden
- ★ Jared Schiff, age 12, Enumclaw, WA
- ★ David Schiff, age 10, Enumclaw, WA
- ★ Heidi Osborne, age 9, Vancouver, WA
- ★ John Ryan, age 13, Melbourne, AUSTL
- ★ Rachel Ryan, age 11, Melbourne, AUSTL
- ★ Sarah Ryan, age 8 ¾, Melbourne, AUSTL
- ★ Daniel Murphy, age 7, Vancouver, WA
- ★ Julie Purnell, age 8, Houston, TX
- ★ Ian Purnell, age 10, Houston, TX
- ★ Claire Seder, age 9, Portland, OR
- ★ Gabriel Zárate, age 12, Napa, CA
- ★ Anna Zárate, age 10, Napa, CA
- ★ KayCee Gassaway, age 10, Vancouver, WA
- ★ Erin Fryar, age 9, Rio Rancho, NM
- ★ Cole Still, age 11, Grandview, WA
- ★ Timothy Williams, age 9, Oregon City, OR
- ★ Quinlan Nielson, age 6, Portland, OR
- ★ Abigail Naftz, age 7, Arvada, CO



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is a premier historical and archaeological site that shares and preserves the history associated with the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver and the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks. A part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, we value working with partners and the public to bring this special history to life.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
Vancouver National Historic Reserve
612 East Reserve Street
Vancouver, WA 98661-3811

Phone
360 696-7655 ext. 10

Web Site Address
www.nps.gov/fova/home.htm

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

Upcoming Events - 2003

July 4
July 12
July 10

July 17
July 19 & 20
July 19
July 24
July 26
August 9
August 16
August 25
September 11
September 12 & 13
September 20
September 27
October 4
October 8
October 18
December 13

Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks

Kid's Dig

Quarterly Volunteer Meeting

Archaeology Lecture

Archaeology Lecture

Soldier's Bivouac (Living History)

1860s Vintage Base Ball (Living History)

Archaeology Lecture

Kid's Dig

Volunteer Picnic

1860s Vintage Base Ball (Living History)

Founder's Day (Living History)

Remembrance Event

Candlelight Tour (Living History)

New Volunteer Orientation

"Process of Interpretation" Training Session

"Effective Interpretive Talk" Training Session

Quarterly Volunteer Meeting

Ghost Stories

Christmas at Fort Vancouver and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve (Living History)

For additional information about these and other programs offered in the Vancouver National Historic Reserve and Fort Vancouver National Historic Site please visit our website at www.nps.gov/fova/home.htm or call the Visitor Center at 360-696-7655 ext. 10 or 1-800-832-3599 ext. 10.

The *Vancouver Express* is published every two months by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. It is named in honor of the tried and true methods of communication used by the Hudson's Bay Company: the annual boat that carried communications to the Company's headquarters at York Factory was called 'the express.' The *Volunteer Dispatch* is named after military dispatches that were sent to posts and troops throughout the Pacific Northwest.

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“Living History Events”

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1860's Vintage Base Ball

For the soldiers stationed at Vancouver Barracks garrison duty was often tedious and boring. Base ball and other athletic events helped keep the morale of the troops in good shape.

On July 19th at 6:00 PM, 1860s-style base ball will return to the Parade Ground. The ballists (players) are members of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry and the town team, Vancouver Occidentals. They will play under the rules adopted in 1860 by the National Association of Base-Ball Players. A few of the more unique rules include:

- The ballists play barehanded. No gloves allowed.
- The hurler (pitcher) pitches the ball instead of throwing (underhand not overhand).
- A ball caught on the fly or the first bound (bounce) is an out.

- 'Fair-fouls' – Any ball that touches fair territory before going out of the playing field is a live ball.
- No fielder may use his hat to catch the ball.

Other Opportunities

Living history demonstrations occur daily in the Blacksmith Shop and are increasing in the Carpenter Shop. On most Saturday afternoons at the fort site, blackpowder weapons are demonstrated. Throughout the summer, living history events will occur at the fort and on the parade ground culminating in the site's signature event, Candlelight Tour on September 12 & 13. On page three of the *Vancouver Express*, a schedule of events highlights a few of these programs. For more complete information stop in at the Visitor Center, or visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/fova/home.htm.



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