



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



January 2008, Archeology E-Gram

Carving from First European Expedition in Utah Found at Glen Canyon NRA

An inscription from the Dominguez-Escalante expedition in 1776 has been found on a sandstone wall near Lake Powell in Glen Canyon NRA. The Spanish inscription "Pasa Por Aqui" - meaning "pass by here" - followed by the year "1776" was discovered near the Crossing of the Fathers on the Utah-Arizona state line. Jim Page, who heads the Graffiti Removal and Intervention Team (GRIT) that found the carving, said that the style of the letters and scientific analyses, along with journals kept by the Catholic priest Silvestre Velez de Escalante, make it nearly certain that someone in the small band of early explorers chiseled the unsigned message.

The expedition, led by the priest Francisco Atanasio Dominguez, left Santa Fe, on July 29, 1776, in search of a new overland route to a mission in Monterey, CA. After the group made its way north through Colorado, it turned west into Utah, crossing the Green River near present-day Jensen. Near Lund, they decided to return to New Mexico, arriving back in Santa Fe on January 2, 1777. "[Escalante's] diary pinpoints them being in the area November 6 or 7," Page said. "They were impacted by a storm system on their way back to Santa Fe and were on the verge of starvation."

The inscription has been authenticated through study of its cursive style and measurement of the amount of lead from the atmosphere deposited on the carving. The carving, unfortunately, has been damaged by later graffiti that reads "Rob and Kathi 1994" chiseled in the outline of a heart. "It's a terrible thing," Page said. "I don't think people understand the damage they have done."

Kevin Schneider, a spokesman for the NPS, said 3 million people a year visit the park and, until recently, no one had recognized the significance of the inscription. "It's a priceless piece of history," he said, "and should be protected." Schneider said the inscription is in the process of being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. To protect the historical inscription from further vandalism, its precise location will not be made public.

For more information about Glen Canyon NRA, go to <http://www.nps.gov/glca/>
(From an article by Mark Havnes in The Salt Lake Tribune)

Jewel Cave NM Celebrates Centennial

On February 7, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a proclamation that established Jewel Cave NM under the authority of the 1906 Antiquities Act. Established to protect the small, but extraordinarily beautiful cave, known for the jewel-like calcite crystals that line the walls, Jewel Cave has the most extensive known collection of different types of calcite crystals. The most abundant formations are called dogtooth spar and nail-head spar. Helictites twist and turn as though they were formed in a chamber without gravity. Another formation, called popcorn, grows in small knobby clusters. Veins of calcite deposited in a crisscross pattern are called boxwork. Frostwork, needle-like formations of calcite or aragonite, is as delicate as blown glass. Some formations are translucent, formed of pure calcite. Other crystals contain additional minerals and appear yellow, red, or opaque white. Individual crystals range in size from a grain of rice to a goose egg.

When Jewel Cave NM was proclaimed in 1908, less than half a mile of cave had been discovered. Currently, Jewel Cave is the second longest cave in the world, with a current length of over 141 miles. Exploration continues to reveal the hidden miles of passages beneath the Black Hills, South Dakota. Beginning in the 1950s, explorers Herb and Jan Conn mapped over 62 miles of cave passages.

Jewel Cave NM will celebrate its centennial through a series of events, programs, and exhibits that will highlight the theme "*Generations of Discovery*." The centennial celebration will formally begin on February 9, 2008, in the visitor center of the monument with a special program to commemorate the anniversary. Honored guests and former cave explorers Herb and Jan Conn will present a program on their 21 years of exploration as they mapped over 60 miles of cave passages, beginning in 1959. The caving parties led by this husband-and-wife team made 708 trips into the cave and logged 6,000 hours of exploring and mapping. A new generation of cavers has continued to push the known boundaries of Jewel Cave, but the mystery of its magnitude remains. As the Conns once said, "We are still just standing on the threshold." Other special guests will join the Conns for this celebration, which will kick off a series of monthly programs focusing on a variety of topics related to the past, present, and future of Jewel Cave.

For more information about Jewel Cave go to www.nps.gov/jeca/index.htm
(From contributions by Eric Peterson on www.howstuffworks.com/)

NPS Submerged Resources Center Receives Award

The NPS Submerged Resources Center received an Award of Merit from the Society for Historical Archaeology during the Society's 2008 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Albuquerque, NM. It was presented to the Center for its interdisciplinary approaches to shipwreck studies and efforts to inventory and evaluate submerged resources in the National Park System. The award was presented to Daniel J. Lenihan, who directed the Center from its establishment until his retirement, and Larry E. Murphy, the current director.

Created in 1980, the Center's core mission is to provide expertise to managers of national parks with submerged lands and assist other agencies with underwater heritage resource issues. Some of the parks that have benefited from the Center's pioneering work include Apostle Islands NL, Channel Islands NP, Dry Tortugas NP, Fort Sumter NM, Glacier NP, Glen Canyon NRA, Golden Gate NRA, Isle Royale NP, Lake Mead NRA, Pictured Rocks NL, Point Reyes NS, Statue of Liberty NM, USS Arizona Memorial, and Yellowstone NP. Efforts for other agencies include assessments for local governments in the Bikini and Kwajalein Atoll Lagoons; and work with the U.S. Navy on H.L. Hunley, USS Housatonic, and the Boca Chica Channel shipwreck near Key West, Florida.

Reports about these and other projects are posted on-line at www.nps.gov/history/history/hisnps/submerged.htm.

Special NOAA Exhibition Highlights Shipwreck Exploration and Discovery

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) invites the public to get that sinking feeling February 2-10, 2008, at *Shipwrecks!*, a free exhibition about the fascinating world of shipwreck exploration and discovery. This special event at NOAA's Silver Spring, MD, headquarters will feature shipwreck artifacts, robot subs, talks by undersea explorers, and hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Visitors will also be captivated by engaging exhibits about life aboard ship, navigation, safety at sea, and more. The exhibition is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily (including weekends). Admission is free.

A series of public lectures will be held in association with the exhibition, all beginning at noon:

Friday, February 1: *Shipwrecks on the Alaska Frontier: Kad'yak and Hassler*

Frank Cantelas, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration

John Jensen, Sea Education Association

Learn about Alaska's oldest shipwreck and a Coast Survey steamer that had a second life as a Klondike gold rush passenger ship before it mysteriously exploded and sank.

Monday, February 4: *The Hunt for the USS Alligator: The U.S. Navy's First Sub*

Jim Christley, Submarine History Enthusiast and Marine Artist

Join the search for the 140-year old Alligator. Last known location is off the North Carolina coast. Learn the exciting history of this mysterious vessel and the effort to find it.

Tuesday, February 5: *World War II Shipwrecks in the Deep Waters of the Gulf of Mexico*

Robert Church, C&C Technology, Inc.

Dive into a recent effort by a diverse team of researchers to study the wrecks of six ships that were sunk by German U-boats in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico during World War II.

Wednesday, February 6: *RMS Titanic: Exploring and Preserving a Maritime Icon*

Craig McLean, Deputy Assistant Administrator, NOAA Research

Ole Varmer, NOAA Attorney-Advisor

Get a first-hand account of NOAA's 20-plus year involvement in one of the most famous shipwrecks in history. This exciting talk will highlight the exploration and history of the vessel and the laws related to the wreck.

Thursday, February 7: *The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie: A Dive into a Slave Ship's Past*

Michael H. Cottman, Senior Writer, BlackAmerica.com

Join Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Cottman as he describes his underwater odyssey to a sunken 17th century slave ship. Learn about the ship's role in his ancestors' history, their story, and the African-American scuba divers who helped explore the wreck. (Presented in association with NOAA Chapter Blacks in Government.)

Friday, February 8: *Explorations of the Airship USS Macon, the Last Flying Aircraft Carrier*

Chris Grech, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

Bruce Terrell, NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program

Go deep off the California coast with researchers as they explore the wreck of one the largest flying objects ever built.

NOAA's Silver Spring Campus is located at 1301 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, near the Silver Spring Metro Station. Public parking is available.

More information about the exhibit and the lectures is available at

www.preserveamerica.noaa.gov/heritageweek.html

New U.S. World Heritage Tentative List

On January 22, 2007, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced 14 new sites to be included on the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List. The 14 properties can be considered for nomination by the United States to the UNESCO World Heritage List for the next ten years. Currently there are 20 World Heritage Sites in the United States already listed.

The UNESCO World Heritage List recognizes the world's most significant cultural and natural treasures. The preparation of a Tentative List is a necessary first step in the process of nominating a site to the World Heritage List, because a country cannot nominate a property unless it has been on its Tentative List

for a minimum of a year. Countries also are limited to nominating no more than two sites in any given year.

World Heritage Sites are designated under the World Heritage Convention, an international treaty for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage sites of global significance. The United States was the primary architect of the Convention, which was proposed by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972, and was the first nation to ratify it. There are 851 sites in 140 of the 184 signatory countries.

The U.S. Tentative List is scheduled to be formally submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by February 1, 2008. There are three archeological properties on the list:

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Ohio

Nine prehistoric sites containing more than 40 monumental ceremonial earthworks in precise geometric shapes reflect the sophistication of Ohio Hopewell culture 1,000-2,000 years ago. The sites are located within three archeological preserves, one in each of three of the principal northern tributary valleys of the Ohio River - the Little Miami, the Scioto, and the Muskingum. The preserves are Fort Ancient State Memorial, between Cincinnati and Dayton; the five sites in Hopewell Culture NHP, an NPS unit near Chillicothe; and the Newark Earthworks State Historic Site in Newark and Heath. These are among the largest earthworks in the world that are not fortifications or defensive structures, and they contain extensive deposits of finely crafted artifacts. Their scale is imposing: the Great Pyramid of Cheops would fit inside the Wright Earthworks; four structures the size of the Coliseum of Rome would fit in the Octagon earthworks; and the circle of monoliths at Stonehenge would fit into one of the small auxiliary earthwork circles adjacent to the Octagon.

Poverty Point National Monument and State Historic Site, Louisiana

Poverty Point NM is located on a bayou near the west bank of the Mississippi River. It is an integrated complex of three or four earthen mounds, six enormous concentric semi-elliptical earthen ridges, a large flat plaza, and several borrow areas constructed 1700 - 1100 years ago. It was the largest and most elaborate earthworks of its time in North America and was built by a foraging society of hunter-gatherers, which makes it without parallel in world archeological and ethnographic records. It may be the largest hunter-gatherer settlement that has ever existed and its design was absolutely unique. How and why such a society could have so totally transformed the landscape is still not understood.

Serpent Mound, Ohio

Serpent Mound is the largest documented surviving example of a prehistoric effigy mound in the world. It is part of the tradition of effigy mound building among several American Indian cultures of eastern North America. This sinuous earthen embankment more than 1200 feet long includes an oval feature at one end that may be the serpent's eye, part of its head, or a secondary object, such as an egg, grasped in its open jaws. Indications are that Serpent Mound was built by the Fort Ancient Culture about the year AD 1120. Serpent Mound also was aligned astronomically to mark the passage of the seasons.

There is one Mixed Natural and Cultural Sites on the list:

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Hawaii

This 1,200-mile-long string of islands and adjacent waters extending northwest from the island of Kauai represents the longest, clearest, and oldest example of island formation and atoll evolution in the world. Scattered in the deep ocean are some 10 small islands with reefs and shoals. In this remote and still relatively pristine part of the Pacific, marine life remains abundant and diverse, with a large number of endemic species, and a wide array of threatened and endangered species. Native Hawaiians reached these islands at least 1,000 years before any other people and planted settlements on some of them, where there are important archeological sites. The islands retain great cultural and spiritual significance to Native

Hawaiians. The islands figured as well in the European exploration of the Pacific and in Pacific whaling, communications, and early aviation. One of them, Midway, became the focus of its namesake battle in June 1942--the turning point of World War II in the Pacific. The monument is jointly managed by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Hawaii.

The World Heritage nomination criteria can be found on the NPS Office of International Affairs (OIA) website <http://www.nps.gov/oia>.

General information about the Tentative List process is posted on the OIA website at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/tentativelist.htm>.

The earlier NPS preliminary staff report, including summaries of information on all 35 sites that were considered for the Tentative List, is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/oia/TLEssayFinal.pdf>.

The original Applications submitted to the NPS for the candidate sites can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/NewWebpages/ApplicantsTentativeList.html>.

Contractor Convicted in ARPA Case

While investigating an unrelated matter, law enforcement rangers at Mesa Verde NP learned that an employee of Kirkland Construction, which had been engaged in a park repaving project, had been collecting and removing artifacts from locations near the construction site. Robert Gee, a truck driver for Kirkland, had been seen with a bag full of pot sherds and had been overheard talking about how he'd taken the sherds and an artifact described as a "grinding stone" from the park. Based on the description of the grinding stone, rangers believed that Gee had taken a mano and metate.

A search warrant was issued by the federal magistrate's office in Durango and executed by park rangers with assistance from a BLM ranger, a BLM special agent and Cortez County PD officers. A total of 252 items were found and recovered, including pot sherds, flakes, paleontological specimens, stone tools and a mano and metate. Cortez officers also found and seized drug paraphernalia. Gee took the items from the park over a month-long period. The day after the warrant was served, Gee took rangers and a park archeologist to the location where he'd removed the metate. The area was a known and previously surveyed archeological site. On January 8, 2008, Gee pled guilty to ARPA charges and was sentenced by the federal magistrate. He was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine and \$1,000 in restitution to the park, banned from entering all NPS areas for three years, and required to write a letter to the local newspaper explaining his crime and how it hurt the national parks and describing the sentence he'd received.

Robert Wilson, Supervisory Archeologist, NPS SEAC, Retires

Robert C. "Bob" Wilson, Supervisory Archeologist at the NPS Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), retired on January 4, 2008, after 22 years with the NPS and 3 years in the US Army. Bob began his NPS career as a temporary employee at SEAC during the 1970s, working on several projects, including an early survey at Cumberland Island National Seashore in 1974-75. He was also the principal investigator on a large survey project at Big South Fork NR&RA in 1978-79. After pursuing graduate work in Anthropology at the University of Florida, Bob joined SEAC in 1985 to oversee the archeological site data program. He served on several service-wide committees that led to the development of the current NPS archeological inventory and management program, ASMIS. In 1988, he conducted testing and evaluation of the French Warehouse Site, an important early colonial French site, on Ship Island, Mississippi.

In 1994, Bob was promoted to Associate Director for Archeological Collections and Information Management and assumed responsibility for the SEAC collection management program. He held this position until his retirement. As Associate Director, he directed significant improvements to the storage and management of SEAC's collections, wrote chapters in more than ten park Museum Collection Management Plans, established NPS SERO standards for cataloging artifacts, helped guide SEAC

through a Competitive Sourcing (A-76) review, oversaw significant portions of recovery work for museum collections damaged by Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, and provided numerous other types of collections assistance to parks in the Southeast and Northeast. He was often able to assist parks with work that needed to be completed on short deadlines and to high standards.

Bob's friends and colleagues wish him the best in his retirement.

Allen Bohnert, Chief, Museum Services, Southeast Region, Retires

Allen Bohnert, who started out his NPS career as the Museum Curator at Mesa Verde NP in 1979, retired from the NPS on January 4, 2008. He also served as both the NPS Southeast and Southwest Region's coordinator for implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Allen also participated in the development of the museum management program for the Tuskegee Airmen NHS. He was the lead of the archeology sub-group to develop significance criteria for NPS museum collections.

Allen has held a National Endowment for the Arts internship at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and holds a Master of Arts degree in Museum Science from Texas Tech University.

Allen's friends and colleagues wish him all the best in his retirement.

Fort Vancouver NHS Celebrates 60 Years with Calendar

Fort Vancouver NHS is celebrating 60 years as a national park with a handsome calendar! In honor of the occasion, twelve objects have been chosen for the calendar from the two million artifacts in the Fort Vancouver collections. These artifacts represent the Native American, fur trade, and military periods at the fort. Smaller, inset, photographs provide additional details and context for appreciation of the larger images.

Additional information about the objects is available in online versions of catalog records and artifact studies. You can even take a tour and view the actual artifacts!

To take a tour, read more about the collections, or purchase a calendar, go to www.nps.gov/fova/.

NPS Searches for Lincoln's Boyhood Home

NPS archaeologists from the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) used shovels, sifters and magnetometers to search for artifacts of Lincoln's boyhood and the footprint of the tiny cabin where the nation's 16th president lived from ages 2 to 7. The house site was thought to be in the NPS unit at Knob Creek, KY, where the park is planning to expand visitor facilities.

The prospects of digging for Lincoln artifacts drew many volunteers like Doug Bennett, who lives near Hodgenville, KY. Enthusiasm was high, because finding the Lincoln cabin would have been a big deal, especially on the eve of his bicentennial birthday celebration. The field, where the Lincolns once farmed, was dotted with piles of dirt as NPS archeologists and volunteers conducted test excavations. Development during the last century, however, likely obliterated any trace of Abraham Lincoln's boyhood at his Knob Creek home, since very few material remains from the 19th century were recovered. The construction of the nearby highway, or of a tavern, to be renovated by the NPS, may have destroyed the small cabin.

The excavations were a prelude to Kentucky's kickoff of a sprawling, two-year national Lincoln bicentennial. Kentucky will play a pivotal role in that celebration, officials say. The inaugural event happens on February 12 when President Bush has been invited to deliver the keynote address at a ceremony at Lincoln's birthplace in Hodgenville. A day earlier, Louisville will be host to a gala at the

Kentucky Center, with music, displays, and an appearance by TV actor Sam Waterston as Lincoln.

For more information about Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS, www.nps.gov/abli/.
(From story by Chris Kenning, Louisville Courier Journal; John Friedlein
News-Enterprise (Elizabethtown, KY))

Projects in Parks: Projects in Parks is taking a break during the month of January, and will return in February.

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 National Park Service and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. Past issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* are available on the *Archeology E-Gram* webpage <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3867> on InsideNPS; and on the *What's New* page <http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/NEW.HTM> on the Archeology Program website.

Projects in Parks is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in a national park. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* webpage. The full reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* webpage <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670> on InsideNPS; and through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* on the Archeology Program website.

Contact Karen Mudar, Archeology Program, NPS, (202) 354-2103, karen_mudar@nps.gov to contribute news items, stories for "Projects in Parks," and to subscribe.