



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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NPS to Develop Guidance on Valley Fever for Archeologists

Valley fever (Coccidioidomycosis), is a fungal disease that infects people by inhaling spores in soil. If untreated, valley fever can be very serious. Because of the nature of fieldwork, archeologists are particularly at risk for the disease and a case of valley fever was identified in an archeological field team at Pinnacles NM in the summer of 2011 and ten cases at Dinosaur in 2001. The disease has been primarily confined to dry areas of the west, but may be found in other areas.

David Wong, Chief, Epidemiology and Health Promotion Branch, NPS Office of Public Health, is preparing guidance for prevention of valley fever, and will work with archeologists in the West and Southwest to develop prevention methods and disseminate information. The Office of Public Health is planning to conduct focus groups at several parks with high levels of archeological activity to identify feasible prevention methods. NPS archeologists with an interest in supporting these efforts should contact Wong at 505-248-7806.

Sue Renaud Has Retired

Sue (Henry) Renaud retired on December 31, 2011, after more than 22 years of service to the NPS and its partners. She spent her NPS career in WASO Cultural Resources, where she shared her expertise in historic preservation planning and historical archeology. Renaud received her academic training in historical archeology at Catholic University and at George Washington University and did her field school work at Historic St. Mary's City. She is a nationally known expert on colonial terracotta tobacco pipes, protecting archaeological sites on private land, and historic preservation of the recent past.

Before joining NPS in 1989, Renaud spent six years as a preservation planner and historical archeologist for the Fairfax County, Virginia, Office of Comprehensive Planning. Prior to her stint with Fairfax County, she worked for an archaeological consulting firm in Phoenix, Arizona; the Alexandria, Virginia, city archaeology program; the Delaware Department of Transportation; and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's property, "Oatlands," near Leesburg, Virginia.

While with the NPS, Renaud helped develop the current process that SHPOs use to meet their statutory requirement to have statewide comprehensive historic preservation plans. For many years, now, through her guidance, all 56 states and territories have statewide preservation plans that serve as guides for effective historic preservation decision-making. She also helped develop NPS policy for the development of park planning documents to ensure that historic preservation and cultural resource management were appropriately addressed. Renaud also helped to develop the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation Planning*. She also developed and maintained a comprehensive and useful website on preservation planning (<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/index.htm>).

There will be a celebration of Sue's career on the morning of February 14, 2012, in the 1201 Eye Street Building, in Washington, D.C. Please send any well-wishes or memories of Sue to John Renaud. (If you are interested in making other contributions to the celebratory event, please contact John Renaud at 202-354-2066, Kristen McMasters at 202-739-4200, Erika Siebert at 202-354-2217, or Marcia Keener at 202-354-3956).

Passing Of Diane Nicholson

Diane Nicholson, regional curator for NPS Pacific West Region, died while leaving work

on January 3, 2012. Nicholson was born in San Francisco, California, in 1951. She received a

BA in history from Oregon State University in 1974 and a MA in museum science from Texas Tech University in 1976.

the collections management facility in Building E at Fort Mason Center.

That year, she joined the NPS as a seasonal museum aid at the NPS Harpers Ferry Center. After a similar appointment in the Midwest Regional Office in 1977, Nicholson assumed her first permanent position as a museum technician at Tuskegee Institute NHS in 1979.



In 1980, she took a position as museum curator at Golden Gate NRA, bringing her home to California and beginning her long career in the NPS Pacific West Region. While at Golden Gate NRA, Nicholson was instrumental in building

In 1983, Nicholson moved on to the Regional Office in San Francisco as the regional curator. She served in that capacity for nearly a decade, developing such park assistance programs as the "curatorial SWAT team" that brought museum personnel from around the region to parks to complete projects and produce documents critical for museum planning and management. At the national level, Nicholson assisted with rewriting the NPS museum handbook and policy for museum collection management.

In 1991, Nicholson returned to Golden Gate NRA first as a curator, and shortly thereafter as the chief of museum management. While there, she was instrumental in developing the "Curator of Record" program for the region, an innovative response to staffing reductions and the requirements for professional oversight of museum collections, as well as developing and participating in training and mentoring programs for full-time and new curators in the region.

Nicholson oversaw the transfer of the Army's museum during the transfer of the Presidio of San Francisco to the NPS. The museum collection jumped from about 600,000 objects to 6,000,000 objects as a result. She built a museum collections staff and oversaw the development of the Park Archives and Records Center to house millions of archival materials and photographic images.

In 2007, Nicholson returned to the NPS Pacific West Regional Office as the regional curator. She played a critical role in the development of the region's cultural resources emergency response team, deployed most recently to preserve cultural materials damaged during the tsunami that struck National Park of American Samoa in 2009. She engaged tirelessly in a wide range of professional responsibilities, from organizing the regional office move to sitting on service wide committees, most recently the Cultural Resources Academy.

For more information and to share your thoughts, please visit the Facebook page set up to celebrate her life *Diane Nicholson - Celebration of Life*

(<https://www.facebook.com/DianeNicholsonMemorial?sk=info#>).

If you do not have a Facebook account you may also use a Sharepoint site set up for the same purpose at <http://inpniscsfern1:8000/sites/PWR/PWRCR/Diane/SitePages/Home.aspx>

The Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf: *Saugus Iron Works: The Roland W. Robbins Excavations, 1948-1953*

edited by William W. Griswold and Donald W. Linebaugh

During this current era of tight budgets and online publishing, it is a pleasure to see a well-illustrated hard cover book on historic archeology in a national park. The generosity of Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site (NHS) supported publication of *Saugus Iron Works: The Roland W. Robbins Excavations, 1948-1953*.

Saugus Iron Works NHS was established in 1968, when the NPS took over the management of a 17th century iron smelting site in Saugus, Massachusetts. The ironworks were established in 1646, within 20 years of the founding of the Puritan colony in Boston, and abandoned in 1670. From 1943 to 1968, the site was managed by the First Iron Works Association (FIWA), which based reconstructed buildings on the findings from excavations conducted by Roland Robbins, a gifted amateur archeologist. Robbins excavated at Saugus from 1948 to 1953 and located many of the 17th century building foundations.

Don't be misled by the title; this book has much to offer historic archeologists, historians of science, industrial archeologists, interpreters, among others. The first two chapters provide overviews of European iron smelting during the 17th century, including descriptions of the facilities, the smelting process, and social context of iron production. Iron production was resource intensive, requiring large amounts of wood, as well as iron ore and stone flux. Ready supplies of wood for charcoal in North America were a major draw for wood-poor Europe. These chapters add to scholarship of the colonization of New England, and a nice introduction to iron production. My only quibble with these chapters is a noticeable lack of schematic drawings. The book relies heavily on the excellent black and white photographs of Robbins' photographer, probably to keep publishing costs down, but a few diagrams would have been useful here.

Chapters 3 and 4 provide an overview of the pre-NPS history of preservation at the ironworking site, outlining the role of the FIWA in commissioning Robbins to carry out archeological investigations. He came to the attention of the association after locating remnants of Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond. Roland Robbins was a high school drop-out who lacked any formal training in archeology. Professional archeologists never accepted Robbins because of his perceived crude excavation methods, and encouragement of public participation in his projects. The author, however, gives a surprisingly non-judgmental account of Robbins' plan and excavation methodology, noting that his commonsense approach to early industrial archeology and

attention to documentation have created a legacy that more conventionally-trained archeologists would envy.



Chapters 5-9 focus on details of the excavations, and Chapters 9-11 outline curatorial work with the artifacts derived from Robbins excavations. Chapter 12 examines Robbins' public programs. In this, he was ahead of his time in use of motion picture cameras to record activities and to create informational and

promotional films about the iron works. He also engaged the local community through school programs and lecture series, encouraging volunteers to work at the excavations.

Chapters 13 and 14 examine Robbins' contributions to the interpretation of the Saugus Iron Works and to historic archeology. Relations between the NPS and Robbins deteriorated in the 1970s, but had recovered sufficiently by the 1980 museum addition dedication to allow him to attend. The development of historical and industrial archeology as an accepted academic discipline has created the context for evaluating Robbins' work and recognition of the many contributions he made to those fields and to cultural resource management.

Despite the fact that Robbins never completed a final report, his detailed documentation and field notes enabled editors Griswold and Linebaugh, and individual authors to pull together a coherent account of excavations at the Saugus Iron Works. Beyond this goal, however, *Saugus Iron Works* will be of interest to a wide range of readers. Well written, with extensive footnotes and handsome black and white photos, the volume provides thoughtful overviews and comments on topics such as the development of industrial archeology in the U.S., the organization of metallurgy, public involvement in archeology, curation of metallurgical archeological collections. The Saugus Iron Works NHS has done us a great service by supporting publication of this volume.

NPS Museum Database Goes Live

The NPS Museum searchable online database provides access to thousands of images and records from NPS museum collections, including archeological collections. Online visitors can perform simple or advanced searches by keyword, park name, object name, people, places, and date. Visitors can also browse or search collection highlights and park summaries. The records found in this database will vary in the level of detail.

NPS museums collect objects specific to the mission of the individual parks and interpret those collections in their original context. The collections are site-specific, that is, they pertain to that particular NPS site. Records and images will be updated and added on a continued basis. Currently there are 44 parks with collections online representing over a million objects. We expect this number to grow considerably in 2012.

To browse, enjoy, and learn from the collections, go to www.museum.nps.gov

Archeology Reveals History Of Stanton House at Women's Rights NHP

Archeologists working this year at "Grassmere," the Seneca Falls, New York, home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, social activist and leading figure in the early women's movement, have uncovered details about the house and grounds' configuration when Stanton lived there.

Soon after the Stantons left Seneca Falls for New York City in 1862, the 2+ acre lot was divided into several parcels. Each plot was developed separately through the 1970s. By the time that the NPS reunited the parcels in the late 1990s, documentary evidence had only mentioned a driveway, flagpole, several outbuildings, some apple and cherry trees, berry bushes, and flower gardens. No maps, descriptions, photographs, or illustrations of these elements of Stanton's landscape have ever been found. Yet, the documents showed that the Stantons valued their home and landscape, which provided food, exercise, transportation, and political expression.



and electromagnetic conductivity to map underground anomalies, and Hartgen Archeological Associates excavated specific targets to locate remnants of Grassmere's landscape. The project established that elements of the 19th century landscape are intact, including the oval driveway that gave access to the front of the house from Washington Street, the foundation of the missing north wing, and a large privy. In addition, archeologists learned that the Stanton property had been extensively regraded, and was probably not the current flat expanse of lawn.

In 2011, New South Associates completed a geophysical survey of the entire Stanton lot, using ground penetrating radar, magnetometry,

Archeologists recovered pottery, nails, and other artifacts from the period of Stanton residency. These artifacts have been cleaned, analyzed, and added to the museum collection at Women's Rights NHP. They will be used to identify the location of activities in and around the Stanton yard and to guide future archeology and treatment of the Stanton landscape.

To learn more about Women's Rights NHP, go to <http://www.nps.gov/wori/historyculture/elizabeth-cady-stanton-house.htm>

Prescribed Fire Renews Traditional Practice at Pinnacles NM

Pinnacles National Monument conducted a small prescribed fire on December 8, 2011, as part of a Joint Fire Science Program research project to learn about the traditional use of fire in central California. NPS fire management staff from the San Francisco Bay Area network completed the burn operations with cooperators from the Cal Fire San Benito-Monterey Unit, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and the BLM. The burn was approximately two acres in size.

The burn was located on the east side of Pinnacles in an area rich in deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) and white root sedge (*Carex barbarae*), both highly valued by California Indian tribes. Pinnacles NM has begun research for the purpose of restoring traditional land management techniques to these plant communities. The central research questions are, "How did the use of fire and other practices by California Indians influence the vegetation of central California, and what techniques best achieve cultural goals for plant use?" The burn was ignited by a representative of the Amah Mutsun tribe.



The effects of burning deer grass will be compared with effects of mechanical clipping on growth of flower stalks that are used in the foundation of coiled baskets. Additional research at Pinnacles National Monument will determine what techniques promote longer, straighter rhizomes in the white root sedge, characteristics which enhance their use for basket making.

Fire temperature was measured during the burn and silica particles known as phytoliths (or plant stones) will be collected from the ash to learn about the fire history of the site. Fire scars in tree rings will also be studied at Quiroste Valley, a cultural preserve in Ano Nuevo State Park, 65 miles south of San Francisco.

[More Information](#)

By Jennifer Chapman, Fire Communication and Education Specialist

Interpol's Cultural Property Program Re-organizes

INTERPOL Washington's Cultural Property Program has been divided into two distinct programs in order to better combat the theft of cultural properties. The two new programs are the Stolen Art Program and the Stolen Antiquities Program. The Stolen Art Program will be dedicated to providing investigative analysis pertaining to stolen art. The Stolen Antiquities Program will be dedicated to providing investigative analysis pertaining to stolen ancient antiquities.

For further information and/or assistance, please contact:

Stolen Art Program
Gloria Ford
Tele: 202-305-2007

Stolen Antiquities Program
David Whitmire
Tele: 202-305-8171

In the Beginning: Archeology of George Washington's Birthplace

Modern historical archeology, albeit in its most rudimentary form, had its earliest beginnings at George Washington Birthplace NM 130 years ago and has continued, growing in scholarship and method through the 20th and 21st centuries. Much of this archeology, under the stewardship of the NPS, has made significant contributions to both the prehistoric and historical archeology of the Chesapeake region.

To read the entire report, go to <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/gewaHistoricArchy.htm>

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 www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the NPS Archeology Program web site.

Contact: Karen Mudar at dca@nps.gov to contribute news items, stories for *Projects in Parks*, submit citations and a brief abstract for your peer-reviewed publications, and to subscribe.