



Archeology Program

National Park Service
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NPS NEWS

Gettysburg National Military Park to Return Native American Human Remains

A skull that made headlines when it was saved from the auction block was due for a soldier's burial once it had been checked by Smithsonian physical anthropologists. They found the skull to be from a Native American.

In 2014, auctioneer Tom Taylor placed the skull, along with several other supposed Civil War artifacts, in an auction. A handwritten label with the items stated: "Found at the Benner Farm Gettysburg 1949." The skull came with a more specific notarized document stating that it had been found near a barn on the farm, located about two miles north of Gettysburg. It turned up while someone was tilling a garden, the document said. The barn had served as a field hospital and was the scene of fighting on the first day of the battle, July, 1, 1863, according to the document.

Taylor said that the skull might have fetched \$100,000 or more but when word got out about the auction, negative public reaction was so fierce that he pulled the skull from the sale. After the outcry, the skull was donated to the Gettysburg Foundation, the park's private partner. Once the skull was authenticated, it would be buried with full military honors in the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

The NPS sent the skull to a lab at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History last June. There, Douglas Owsley determined that the skull was of a young Native American man who had lived in the Southwest 700 years ago. Gettysburg NMP is now working to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to return the skull to the community of origin.

From story by Michael Ruane, Washington Post

Arkansas Man Sentenced in ARPA Case in Pea Ridge National Military Park

On February 6, 2013, NPS resource management staff reported seeing a man using a metal detector and excavating archeological resources near two tour stops in Pea Ridge National Military Park. Thomas Chaffin II, of Springdale, Arkansas, was found to have in his possession numerous artifacts that he confessed came from the park on that date.

Ranger Matt Fry and an NPS special agent responded to the report and conducted further investigations, processing the crime scene and collecting evidence. The investigation revealed that Chaffin had excavated a total of seven features in key areas of the park, resulting in felony damage to an archeological resource in violation of 16 U.S.C. § 470 (the Archaeological Resources Protection Act). Chaffin's activities caused \$6,290 in damages to the park.

In 2014, Chaffin pleaded guilty to one count of violating 16 U.S.C. § 470 and was ordered to pay \$525 in fines and costs.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office (Arkansas) and Deputy Giovanni Pop assisted in the investigation, Ranger Gabe Bell at Wilson's Creek NB assisted with the interstate investigation in Missouri, NPS archeologist Caven Clark conducted the damage assessment for this investigation, and Assistant US Attorney David Ferguson prosecuted this case in the Western District of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

Congressional Legislation Affects Cultural Resource Laws Citations

The 113th Congress passed legislation to recodify National Park Servicewide laws in a new Title 54 of the U.S. Code. Although the proposed change from Title 16 to Title 54 had been under development and consideration for several years, final passage only occurred on the second-to-last day of the 113th Congress.

This new law will require, over time, that NPS laws be cited differently from the way they are now cited. Antiquities Act, Historic Sites Act, and National Historic Preservation Act citations will be affected by the re-organization of the U.S. Code. Other cultural resource laws, such as the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, remain unchanged in the U.S. Code.

All changes in existing law made by the legislation are purely technical in nature. The bill was prepared in accordance with the statutory standard for codification legislation, which is that the restatement of existing law shall conform to the understood policy, intent, and purpose of the Congress in the original enactments, with such amendments and corrections as will remove ambiguities, contradictions, and other imperfections.

House Report 113-44, the Committee Report for H.R. 1068, the Bill that became P.L. 113-287 Among other things, this report includes a “Disposition Table,” that is a crosswalk for each of the provisions that the public law affects.

The transition from Title 16 to Title 54 is only partially done; another law will need to be passed to move park-specific laws from Title 16 to Title 54. Once completed, the researching, referencing, and amending of NPS laws will be much simpler than it is now.

New Strategic Plan for NPS Wildland Fire Management Program through 2019

The NPS Branch of Wildland Fire has released a five-year strategic plan that will guide the program until 2019. The new plan identifies trends, reaffirming the program’s values, and establishing program priorities to meet the NPS mission.

Applicable at all levels of the Service, the plan reflects the direction of both the *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the NPS *A Call to Action*, specifically the theme, *Preserving America’s Special Places*. The goals in the plan directly impact how the NPS Wildland Fire Management Program plans, responds, and manages wildland fire. In addition, they establish the framework for effectively planning an efficient organization comprised of a well-trained and well-positioned workforce, as well as how to make the best use of appropriated funds.

Work on the plan began in 2013 and involved staff at all levels of the wildland fire management organization. The group reached out to the broader NPS interdisciplinary community, the interagency wildland fire community, and the public for comments and feedback on the drafts. The final plan takes these diverse perspectives into account and puts forth goals, objectives, and strategies that will take the NPS Wildland Fire Management Program into the 2nd Century of the NPS.

The plan may be found on the [National Park Service Fire and Aviation website](#).

OTHER FEDERAL NEWS

California Man Accused of Removing Native American Relics from Public Land

An Inyo County man has been indicted on Federal charges that he took Native American relics from public lands along the Eastern Sierra Mountains. Norman Starks, 76, of Lone Pine, has collected artifacts for decades despite objections by Native American leaders and State and Federal authorities.

Starks faces six counts of excavating and removing Native American beads, ceramic pots and stone tablets from areas including a prehistoric burial site in relic-rich Keeler Dunes, which is administered by the BLM. If convicted on all counts, Starks faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine, U.S. Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner said.

Federal agents led by the FBI raided Starks' home eight months ago, seizing evidence including golf clubs that they believe he used to dig up artifacts he later stacked on tables, benches and on his front porch. Starks said after the raid that hunting for artifacts was his birthright. He shrugged off the idea that they were sacred. "The Indians that made this stuff didn't think it was anything special," he said. "They used it and tossed it aside."

But Paiute-Shoshone tribal leaders say he destroyed priceless items placed by loved ones at graves for use in the afterlife. Kathy Jefferson Bancroft, tribal historic preservation officer for the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation, said, "When this case goes to trial, we'll be there in the courtroom to make sure everyone knows this is not a victimless crime."

An earlier Federal case against Starks was dismissed in 2004 after the statute of limitations ran out. State charges against him ended with a hung jury in 2011. Starks, however, agreed to a court order barring him from a 700-acre patch of Keeler Dunes for the rest of his life. He continued gathering relics on private property immediately north and south of the restricted area. Artifacts can be taken legally from private land.

By Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times

Divers Begin Recovery of Civil War Ironclad

The deepening of the shipping channel in Savannah, Georgia will be raising a link to the past: an ironclad boat that protected the city during the Civil War. For the next nine months, divers will work to bring up the *CSS Georgia* from a depth of nearly 40 feet in the Savannah River. Harbor deepening will see channel depth go from 42 to 47 feet so cargo container ships can use the port without relying on the tide.

The *CSS Georgia* didn't have enough power to maneuver and fire on enemy vessels approaching from the Atlantic Ocean. Instead, the vessel became a stationary floating battery, bristling with artillery pieces. The Yankees refused to take on the *CSS Georgia* or other nearby defense obstructions. The vessel was scuttled in December 1864 shortly before Union forces took Savannah.

Recovery of the ironclad will cost between \$14 million and \$15 million, Corps officials said. While some material was recovered after the war, four artillery pieces, parts of the propeller and propulsion system, a boiler, and two casemates that housed the artillery pieces remain in the water. One of the casemates is huge: 68 feet by 24 feet.

U.S. Navy and contract divers have been at the site and are mapping, tagging and putting a recovery grid in place. They will be recovering small artifacts, such as fasteners or small personal items, and will take special care because of the possibility of live ammunition and powder.

Conservation of selected artifacts will be done at Texas A&M University and will take about two years to complete. The casemates were made of railroad iron. The vessel could handle 10 guns, though fewer were onboard when it was destroyed. There are no known blueprints for the ironclad, which was produced in Savannah in 1862 as part of a defensive naval squadron. The recovery of the *CSS Georgia* may answer questions about dimensions and manner of construction.



Julie Morgan, staff archeologist with Savannah District USACE, stands next to a 5,000-pound piece of the *CSS Georgia*, a Civil War ironclad scuttled in the Savannah River in 1864. (USACE photo by Jason Okane.)

Tasked with heading up the efforts to bring up the *CSS Georgia*, Savannah District ACE archeologist Julie Morgan has assembled a team of the country's top specialists, including:

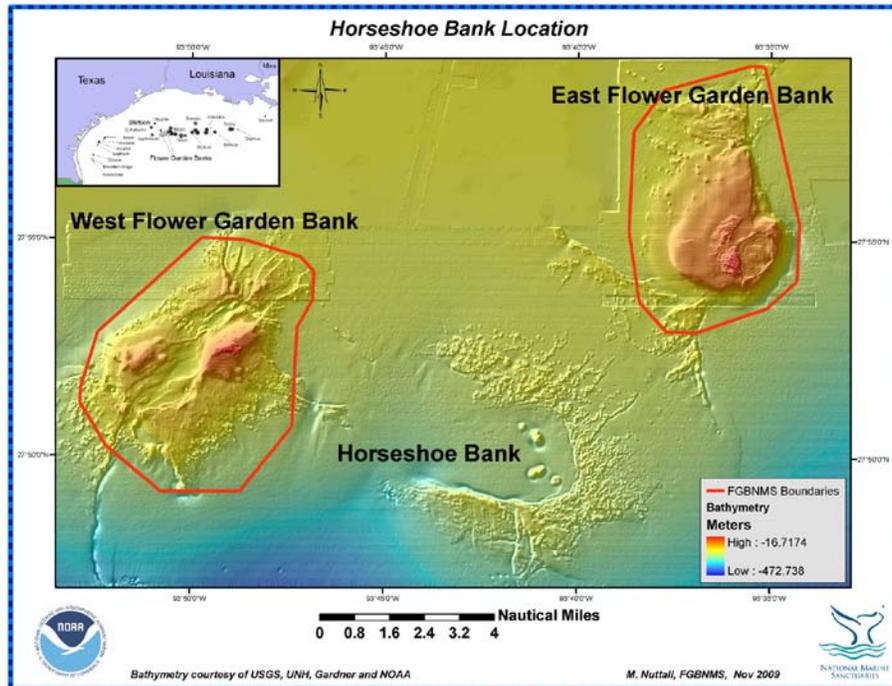
- Marine archeologist John Broadwater of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, who was the chief scientist of the *Monitor* expedition in 2001;
- Jim Jobling of the Conservation Research Lab at Texas A&M University, one of the oldest continuously operating labs in the country dealing primarily with archeological material from shipwrecks and other underwater sites;
- Robert Neyland, head of the Underwater Archeology Branch of the Navy's History and Heritage Command who was the project director and chief archeologist on the recovery team for the Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley*;
- Steve James, founder and principal of maritime archeology and cultural resource management firm Panamerican Consultants Inc.; and
- Gordon Watts, archeological scholar and founder of Tidewater Atlantic Research Inc.

From story by Phil Gast, CNN

NOAA to Enlarge Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

NOAA has proposed a plan to enlarge the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary from 56 square miles to cover 280 square miles. The sanctuary would safeguard an area of the Gulf of Mexico from scavengers looking for historic shipwrecks, ships dropping anchor, commercial fishing and oil and

gas drilling. The sanctuary is popular among divers and fishermen for its abundance of sea life. The sanctuary includes the northernmost coral reefs in the continental United States. A series of reefs, sitting atop salt dome sea mounts, are found along the rim of the Continental Shelf between about 70 miles and 150 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana.



The sanctuary was established in 1992 and a neighboring area, the Stetson Bank, was added to the sanctuary in 1996. Expansion of the sanctuary's boundaries was proposed by an advisory council in 2007. The council includes public official and stakeholder groups, including representatives for the oil and gas industry, fishermen and divers.

The new banks under consideration for protection include the Horseshoe Bank, the MacNeil Bank, the Rankin Bank, the 28 Fathom Bank, the Bright Bank, the Geyer Bank, the McGrail Bank, the Sonnier Bank and the Alderdice Bank.

Larry McKinney, a sanctuary advisory council member and the executive director of the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, said that the oil and gas industry was "on board" with the expansion. Reserves within sanctuary boundaries can be tapped into by companies using directional drilling techniques. Directional drilling involves digging a well at a slant, often from great distances, avoiding drilling vertically into the reefs.

The agency is holding public meetings on the proposal in March in New Orleans, Houston and Galveston, Texas. The agency will collect public comments until April 6.

TRAINING AND GRANTS

NPS Offers Introduction to Metal Detecting for Archeologists

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, the Friends of NCPTT, and Connor Consulting will be conducting an introduction to metal detecting for archeologists, 8-9 May 2015, near Santa Fe, NM.

This introductory course is designed to provide the attendee with:

- An understanding of how a metal detector works,
- Familiarity with the various devices available, their strengths and weaknesses, and their cost points
- Practical experience using a variety of today's metal detectors in a field situation, and
- A resource book and product literature for future reference.

Field archeologists will gain an understanding of the capabilities and value of metal detector use on metal bearing sites. CRM firm managers, state, and federal archeologists who are contracting representatives or prepare contract requirements, and archeologists who review reports will acquire knowledge that will assist them in determining if the use of a metal detector on a project is appropriate, help them evaluate if the proper metal detecting technology is used, and aid them determining whether the metal detecting techniques employed were appropriate for the project goals.

The course is designed as a two day event, with day one being an introduction to metal detectors and metal detecting capabilities and day two as a field practicum where attendees will use various detectors in a real archaeological situation.

Classroom instruction will take place at the NPS Santa Fe office, located at 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail. Field exercises will be conducted at Camp Lewis, a March 1862 Union campsite related to the Battle of Glorieta Pass, in Pecos NHP. No experience or knowledge is necessary.

Contact: Tad Britt at NCPTT, at (318) 521-5641.

National Park Service Offers Archeological Resources Protection Training

The NPS and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) are co-sponsoring the Archeological Resources Protection Training Program. This 37-hour course provides training in all aspects of an archeological investigation and prosecution. The class culminates in a 12-hour archeological crime scene practical exercise where law enforcement officers and archeologists work as a team to investigate and document a crime scene. Attendees will gather and process physical evidence, write incident reports, executive summaries, search warrants, damage assessments, and provide testimony in a courtroom scenario. This training is open to all law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and Federal archeologists.

Training dates: XP-ARPTP-501 April 27- May 01, 2015, Tupelo, MS; XP-ARPTP-502 May 04-08, 2015 Gettysburg, PA.

Contact: Wiley Golden at (912) 267-2246 for registration (NPS employees). Other Federal employees should contact their national academy representatives at FLETC to register. Charles Louke (912) 280-5138 for course information.

Slightly Off Topic: Monuments to America's Past, and Future

Editorial Board, New York Times

(E-Gram Editor's Note: On January 18, 2015, President Obama used the powers granted to the president by the Antiquities Act to establish three new national monuments. Two will be administered by the NPS and one will be administered by the BLM. He also announced the "Every Kid in a Park" pass, a pass good

for free admission to all public lands for a year for every 2015-2016 fourth grader and his family. The initiative will also:

- *Make it easy for schools and families to plan trips:* The Administration will distribute information and resources for teachers and families to identify nearby public lands and waters and to find programs that support youth outings.
- *Provide transportation support to schools with the most need:* As an integral part of this effort, the National Park Foundation (NPF) – the congressionally chartered foundation of the NPS – is expanding and re-launching its Ticket to Ride program as Every Kid in a Park, which will award transportation grants to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools that have the most need.
- *Provide educational materials:* The initiative will build on a wide range of educational programs and tools that the Federal land management agencies already use. For example, NPS has re-launched a website with over 1,000 materials developed for K-12 teachers, including science labs, lesson plans, and field trip guides.

A historic industrial district in Illinois, a weed-choked gulch in Hawaii and a stretch of riverine Colorado wilderness, home to eagles and bears. These three dissimilar American places are the newest national monuments, established this month by President Obama, to be protected forever by the Federal government from development and destructive neglect.



A mural in the Pullman neighborhood of Chicago. Credit Charles Rex Arbogast/Associated Press

The best-known is the Pullman NM in the Chicago neighborhood built by the Pullman Company, whose railroad-car employees helped build the African-American middle class and laid the foundations of the Civil Rights Movement. The Honouliuli NM, outside Honolulu, protects the site of a vanished, nearly forgotten internment camp that held Japanese-American civilians, along with thousands of foreign

prisoners, during World War II. The Browns Canyon NM lies along a rocky stretch of the Arkansas River Valley rich in wildlife and popular for rafting, hiking and fishing.

Presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Mr. Obama have used their authority under the Antiquities Act to set aside places like these. Many of the earliest monuments, established soon after the law was enacted in 1906, protected ancient American Indian settlements in the Southwest that would otherwise have been looted and returned to dust.

Through those places and more recently protected ones — like Pullman, Honouliuli and the African Burial Ground, created in 2006 on the site of an office tower in Lower Manhattan — the American public gains a richer understanding of a history that is too often overlooked, distorted or misremembered. Other monuments in fragile wilderness areas and vast, mostly pristine expanses of ocean, protect the American future.

For more about the Antiquities Act and national monuments, go to <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/Antiquities/index.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 website.

Contact: Karen Mudar at dca@nps.gov to contribute news items, stories for *Projects in Parks*, and to subscribe.