



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



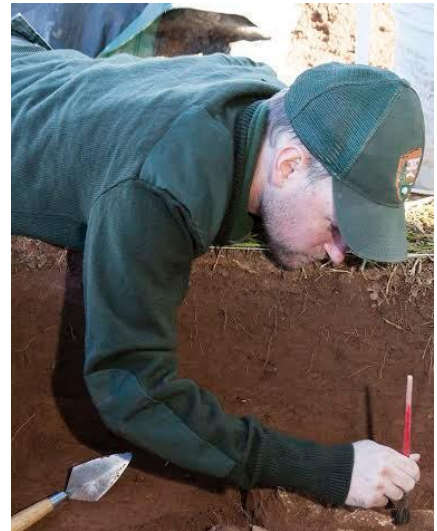
March 2017 Archeology E-Gram

NPS NEWS

Archeologist Brandon Bies New Manassas National Battlefield Park Superintendent

Brandon Bies has been named superintendent of Manassas NBP, site of two major Civil War battles. Bies has served as the legislative coordinator for the NPS National Capital Region since 2014. During that time, he also was the regional project manager for rehabilitation of Arlington House, Robert E. Lee's historic home, made possible by a \$12.35 million donation from philanthropist David M. Rubenstein.

As site manager of Arlington House from 2010-2014, Bies encouraged groundbreaking programs about the home and its inhabitants, including a midnight celebration of the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. Bies began his NPS work in 2001 as an archeologist at Monocacy NB. He has served as the cultural resources specialist for George Washington Memorial Parkway; site manager of Great Falls Park, and in the NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs. Bies holds a MA in applied anthropology and BAs in American history and anthropology.



National Park Service Receives First Place for ArcheoBlitz Centennial Event

The NPS along with several partner organizations received First Place for the Mark E. Mack Community Engagement award at the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) 2017 annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, in January 2017. The SHA Gender and Minority Affairs Committee presents this award to honor those individuals or teams that exhibit outstanding best practices in community collaboration, engagement, and outreach in their historical archeology and heritage preservation work.

The first ever NPS "ArcheoBlitz" took place at Knife River Indian Villages NHS on May 5-7, 2016, engaging 250 middle school and college students in hands-on archeological research. This event built on the popular "BioBlitz" model, but incorporated archeological methods and technologies. This event included students in the practice of archeology, stressed respect for traditional cultures, and gathered data to improve working knowledge and management of archeological sites within the park.

The ArcheoBlitz was built on community engagement with local, state, and the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation participation. Staff from the NPS Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) and the park worked with teachers prior to the event to provide distance learning and in-person lessons to help students prepare for the field research projects. Following the ArcheoBlitz, two students from the Nueta, Hidatsa, Sahnish College visited for additional instruction on archeology, lab techniques and artifact sorting, and visited ancestral Pawnee and Oto sites. In addition to local public and tribal school students, the ArcheoBlitz hosted an Ancestral Lands Corps crew of five young men who traveled from Zuni Pueblo to provide critical support for event preparation and logistics. The ArcheoBlitz demonstrated the utility of citizen science for archeological research and contributed to a goal of finding new ways to build bridges between communities.

by Allan Weber

The NPS Archeology Program is Moving!

The NPS Archeology Program, along with sister programs in the Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science directorate, is moving! All cultural resource programs will be housed on the 7th floor of the Main Interior Building. This will be the first time ever that all cultural resources directorate staff will have offices at headquarters. The consolidation was proposed by former Director Jarvis, who hoped that the move would be completed during his tenure.

The massive building takes up two city blocks and was completed in 1936. It has more Public Works Administration art than any other Federal building, outside of a museum. Visitors can take a tour of the artwork, eat at the cafeteria, shop at the Indian Arts and Crafts store, and visit the Department of the Interior Museum.

All cultural resource programs will complete the move by the end of April 2017. NPS Archeology Program telephone numbers and e-mail addresses will not change, but will have a new address: 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7508, Washington, DC 20240. Come visit us at our new digs!



FEDERAL NEWS

Archeology Organizations Ask Interior Secretary to Support Bears Ears National Monument

Seven groups whose missions address the archeology of Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico are urging the new Secretary to support the recently designated Bears Ears NM. In a letter to Zinke, the groups invite the Secretary to Utah and urge Zinke to demonstrate respect for the sovereignty of the Native American Tribes who proposed the Bears Ears NM, and for the shared scientific, cultural and outdoor heritage of the American people. It also notes the “unprecedented effort” that went into defining and ultimately designating the Monument, as well as its potential for long-term economic benefits to southeastern Utah.

“There are more than 12,000 years of human history represented on this remarkable landscape,” said Jerry Spangler, director of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance. In 2009, Spangler compiled an inventory of archeology of Greater Cedar Mesa, an area now in the heart of Bears Ears NM. That study was funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Utah Division of State History.

“Within that small area alone, archeologists have documented 2,500 sites, and that’s less than three percent of what we estimate is out there, which is at least 100,000 sites, mostly undiscovered,” Spangler continued. “In the larger Bears Ears landscape, that total could easily be double that number.”

Signatories to the letter to Zinke include Archaeology Southwest, Amerind Foundation and Museum of Northern Arizona in Arizona; SRI Foundation in New Mexico; Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado; and Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance and Friends of Cedar Mesa in Utah.

To read the letter, go to

https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/pdf/Letter_to_Secretary_Zinke_Mar_3_2017.pdf



The Federal Archeologist’s Bookshelf

The Scope of National Park Service Archaeology at Home and Abroad by David Gadsby, Teresa Moyer, and Stephen Morris **American Anthropologist**, Vol. 119: 138-141..

Since 1936, NPS cultural resource activities have been guided by a “thematic framework.” Currently, one of the themes is the “Changing role of the United States in the World Community.” The authors of *The Scope of National Park Service Archaeology at Home and Abroad* – two NPS archeologists and the Chief of the Office of International Affairs (OIA), explore the Park Service’s role in cultural resources transnational partnering and global outreach.

NPS staff were part of the U.S. delegation that negotiated the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in the 1970s. Today, the NPS OIA provides oversight and coordination for U.S. World Heritage site nominations. The NPS has also entered into formal agreements with foreign governments for oversight of archeological resources significant to those nations, including shipwrecks. NPS cultural resource specialists work with OIS on issues such as the effects of transnational borders on archeological resources, comparative archeological research, monitoring of archeological collections from national parks housed in foreign museums, joint research projects, and training programs. Collaborations with foreign governments ensure that NPS archeological resources and resources managed cooperatively are preserved and protected.

The Scope of National Park Service Archaeology at Home and Abroad was published as part of a special section on world heritage management. To read the full article, go to <http://rdcu.be/pk1h>.

GRANTS AND TRAINING

NPS Vanishing Treasures Catalog

The NPS Vanishing Treasures is offering 15, two- to four-day technical and cultural resource management preservation workshops across the Western US in 2017. Foundation courses cover the basics of historic preservation and are strongly recommended for all students before taking Core, Materials, and Special Topics courses.

Core courses are designed to move students through the standard preservation process, dedicating each workshop to a specific phase in the progression of a preservation project. Core courses are hands-on but do not include instruction on treatment options, which are covered in Materials courses. Core workshops will be offered yearly on a rotating basis.

Materials workshops cover the history of use, technology, and treatment of major building materials. Students can choose from Wood, Masonry, and Earthen Building Materials tracks and are required to complete introductory courses or their equivalent before progressing to advanced topics. Like Core courses, Materials workshops will be offered yearly on a rotating basis.

The Vanishing Treasures Program supports the preservation of traditionally-built architecture, facilitates the perpetuation of traditional skills, and promotes connections between culturally associated communities and places of their heritage. The program helps parks, associated communities, and partner organizations to develop and implement proactive historic preservation programs founded in science, technology, and applied research through the delivery of expert technical assistance and training. Courses are open to federal, state and local government employees; private sector contractors, consultants, architects and design professionals; students; non-profit employees; and homeowners. The program's core activities address the survival of an outstanding collection of significant and unique heritage resources and the traditional knowledge and skills needed to build and maintain those resources.

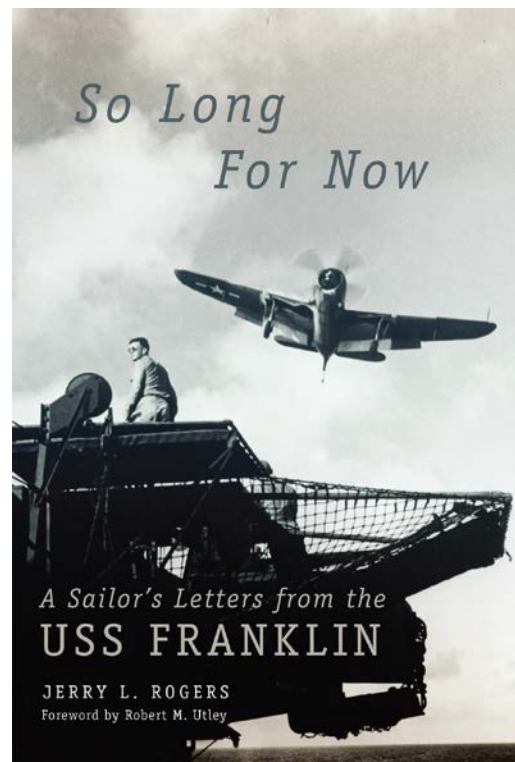
There is no tuition for these courses; however, trainees are responsible for travel and lodging. To learn more about Vanishing Treasures Program courses, go to <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1022/index.htm>

SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: So Long for Now, A Sailor's Letters from the USS Franklin

By Jerry L. Rogers, Foreword by Robert M. Utley

Elden Duane Rogers died on March 19, 1945, one of the eight hundred who perished on the aircraft carrier USS Franklin that day. It was his nineteenth birthday. Write home often, the Navy told sailors like Elden, thinking it would keep up morale among sailors and those waiting for them stateside. But they were told not to write anything about where they were, where they had been, where they were going, what they were doing, or even what the weather was like. Spies were presumed everywhere, and loose lips could sink ships. Before a sailor's letter could be sealed and sent, a censor read it and with a razor blade cut out words that told too much.

So Long for Now reconstructs the lost world of a sailor's daily life in World War II, piecing together from letters from Elden's family in Vega, Texas, and from his girlfriend, the untold stories behind Elden's own letters, and the context of the war itself. Historian Jerry L. Rogers delves past censored letters limited to small talk and local gossip to conjure the danger, excitement, boredom, and sacrifices that sailors in the Pacific theater endured. He follows Elden from enlistment in the navy through every battle the USS Franklin saw. Flight deck crashes, kamikaze hits, and tensions and alliances aboard ship all built to the unprecedented chaos and casualties of the Japanese air attack on March 19. "So long for now," Elden signed off—never "Goodbye." This moving work poignantly confronts the horrors of war, giving voice to a young sailor, the country he served, the family and friends he left behind, and the hope that has sustained them.



Jerry L. Rogers is retired NPS Associate Director for Cultural Resources and Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. He was six years old when his brother Elden was reported missing in action after the attack on the USS Franklin. Robert M. Utley, former NPS Chief Historian, is the author of numerous books on the history of the American West.

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 and to subscribe.