



Archeology Program

National Park Service
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NPS NEWS

Passing of NPS Anthropologist Eileen Devinney



Devinney with Jean Rodeck (Swearingen), first NPS Alaska Regional Curator, 2015.

At the age of 51, Eileen Devinney, NPS cultural anthropologist for the Alaska Region, passed away on September 21, 2017, after a long and hard-fought battle with cancer. She worked for 25 years, at Yosemite NP and Yukon-Charley NP, the Western Arctic Parklands, and in the NPS Alaska Regional Office. Devinney was a graduate of Morrestown Friends School, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of British Columbia.

She was instrumental to cultural resource work in Northwest Alaska in the 1990s and 2000s. As liaison to Native communities she was given honorary names Cimiralria and Igaun by the Yup'ik and Iñupiaq tribes, respectively. For her work on behalf of stakeholders and colleagues in 2012, she received a national Appleman-Judd- Lewis Award.

Devinney's collaboration skills benefited Western Arctic National Parklands during her years as a cultural resource program manager and as the Alaska regional cultural anthropologist. She worked to establish appropriate contacts and protocols for communications with Alaska's Native communities and formed lasting partnerships with many villages. For over a decade she worked persistently to locate and return recordings of interviews made for an NPS project in the village of Kiana, succeeding in 2015. In the same community, she worked for years to initiate a Traditional Use Study, amid various obstacles. In the past two years, the project has been implemented, largely due to Devinney's diligence and persistence.

Devinney's involvement was crucial in successfully resolving conflicts arising from discovery of prehistoric human remains in Alaska parklands. She worked with park managers, tribal representatives, and local villagers to resolve misunderstandings and facilitate consultation. Processes that she introduced give NPS staff a better understanding of how people of the region feel about large excavations and allow the NPS to make better decisions about permitting excavations in the future.

Devinney's assistance extended beyond the Alaska Region. She served on two WASO Archeology Program working groups to develop guidance on managing cultural resources and fire activities; and managing cultural resources in wilderness. She was encouraging, constructively critical, and reliably attended many teleconferences. The Archeology Program will miss her editing skills and good advice.

Devinney was a terrific colleague, charismatic, smart, incredibly productive, devoted to the mission, highly regarded particularly in Northwest Alaska communities, and a good friend to many. Her passing is a loss to us all.

Archeological Investigations at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP is coordinating the archeological investigation of 13 acres of core battlefield land. This property, known as the Claytor Field, was the scene of Union camps before battle under the command of future president Rutherford B. Hayes. During the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864, Confederate soldiers continued their successful surprise attack towards the 8th Corps

camps. When fighting broke out in this field, Hayes's men attempted to stand their ground with support from the Union 19th Corps.

The NPS is conducting the first ever archeological investigation of this portion of the battlefield, including magnetometry, shovel test pits, and excavations. Cultural Resource Associates was awarded the contract and began in October 2017. Preliminary work has already yielded artifacts that will help the park understand the history of this landscape, and inform future management decisions. Volunteers from the Archeology Society of Virginia are supporting the project by screening and metal detecting.

by Karen Beck-Herzog



Archeological Investigations at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP

Mississippi Residents Convicted for Illegally Searching and Removing Native American Artifacts

Matthew Arnold and Tyler Wilemon, of Booneville, Mississippi; Jackie Arnold, Sandra Arnold, and Melinda Arnold of Burnsville, Mississippi; and Robert Aguirre, of Corinth, Mississippi, were sentenced in U.S. District Court for illegally searching for and removing Native American artifacts from government land. Matthew Arnold was sentenced on September 29, 2017, by Judge Debra M. Brown after a guilty plea to six felony counts of excavating and removing archeological resources from public lands in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). The investigation and charges arose out of the removal of Native American artifacts from U.S. ACE property along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Matthew Arnold was sentenced to 20 months imprisonment for each count of conviction, to be served concurrently, followed by 1 year of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$41,551.49 in restitution for damage to the property.

Jackie Arnold and Melinda Arnold were sentenced on October 13, 2017, Tyler Wilemon was sentenced on September 28, 2017, and Sandra Arnold was sentenced on September 7, 2017, by Judge Brown following a guilty plea by each to one felony count of excavating and removing archeological resources from public lands in violation of ARPA. Jackie Arnold was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$24,357.77 in restitution. Sandra Arnold was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$18,626.53 in restitution. Wilemon was sentenced to 5 months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$7,164.05 in restitution. Each were sentenced to one year of supervised release following their term of incarceration. Melinda Arnold was sentenced to 5 years probation and ordered to pay \$28,656.20 in restitution.

Aguirre was sentenced on October 19, 2017, by U.S. District Judge Glen H. Davidson following a guilty plea to two felony counts of excavating and removing archeological resources from historic public lands

in violation of ARPA. Aguirre was sentenced to two years probation and ordered to pay \$2,865.62 in restitution.

Two other defendants have plead guilty to similar charges and are currently awaiting sentencing.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, and the U.S. ACE.

Tlingit Cultural Items Return to Tribes

Seven historic Tlingit pieces, in East Coast museums for decades, have been returned to southeast Alaska. Cultural resource specialist for the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Harold Jacobs, said the three helmets, two hats, headdress and beaded shirt are dated from the 1600s to about 1890. The cultural items were brought back to Alaska through the efforts of the council. They will be stored at NPS facilities, with access being granted to the Tlingit clans.

Chaco Culture NHP Hosts Astronomy Festival

The Fall Equinox sunrise alignment kicked off the Second Annual Astronomy Festival at Chaco Culture NHP, an International Dark Sky Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. This year's three-day event, September 22-24, included special tours to a solar eclipse petroglyph site, a workshop with night sky photographer Stan Honda, talks about the effects of light pollution, night sky viewing, an indoor planetarium show, the premier of NPS short film *Starry Nights Over Chaco Culture NHP*, and a presentation about the 1878 total solar eclipse by author David Baron.

by Hilary Grabowska

FEDERAL NEWS

Tribes Seek Reparation Over Destroyed Oregon Site

Government lawyers asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by tribal elders who say a sacred site was destroyed to expand a highway near Oregon's Mount Hood. U.S. Justice Department attorney Ben Schiffman said the elders were not substantially burdened by the expansion of U.S. 26 in 2008.



Carol Logan speaks during a hearing for a lawsuit over the destruction of a sacred site (Steven DuBois, AP Photo)

The Oregon Department of Transportation did not disturb wetlands that ran along the road and avoided a roadside tattoo parlor. But the agency didn't use that same caution when it came to The Place of Big Big Trees – a sacred site to the Klickitat and Cascade Indian tribes. There, the government bulldozed a centuries-old stone altar, cut down the sacred trees that surround the area and covered the whole thing with a dirt berm. Carol Logan, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde elder, has worshipped at The Place of Big Big Trees since she was a young girl.

Elders from Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde claim the Federal Highway Administration violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Their attorney said the government

could have widened the road without bulldozing a stone altar and medicinal plants. The tribes' attorney, Stephanie Barclay with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, said that the government had imposed a "substantial burden" on the tribes' ability to practice their religion.

The government filed a motion to dismiss the case, claiming it can legally do whatever it wants on land it owns. "Cases show that the federal government's use of its own property, as a legal matter, cannot constitute a substantial burden," AUSA Reuben Schiffman told U.S. Magistrate Judge Youlee Yim You.

The tribes aren't asking for money. Instead, they want the return of the rocks that made up their altar, replanting of trees and medicinal plants and an interpretive sign describing the significance of the spot. Schiffman told Judge You those remedies are impossible. He said the government doesn't know where the sacred rocks are, and that highway maintenance would prevent the creation of a new sacred site. "Plaintiffs want an altar erected where ODOT may be mowing or otherwise landscaping," he complained.

Judge You asked "So you're saying it could be a problem because it could interfere with ODOT's potential landscaping of the area?" her incredulous tone drawing laughter from the packed gallery. She will decide whether the case filed nine years ago moves forward. If You finds for the tribes on the substantial burden question, she will next determine whether the government could have completed its project without disturbing the sacred site. She did not indicate when she will rule.

From story by Karina Brown, Courthouse News



The Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf: Sand Creek Massacre Books – A Must-Read for Cultural Resource Specialists!

Finding Sand Creek: History, Archeology and the 1864 Massacre Site
by Jerome A. Green and Douglas D. Scott, University of Oklahoma Press
2004

A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek by Ari Kelman, Harvard University Press 2013

Sand Creek Massacre Project, Volumes 1 and 2 prepared by National Park Service 2000

The efforts to establish the Sand Creek Massacre NHS holds a mystery as compelling as any offered by Masterpiece Theater and the best of BBC. The story is even more intriguing because it is true. At the same time, it is a morality tale, demonstrating unintended consequences of actions of people trying to do the right thing, yet needing to respond to deadlines and political pressure, all the while being oblivious to cultural cues that they are being offensive. The history of Sand Creek NHS should be required reading for every NPS cultural resource specialist. It is a story of how things nearly went very wrong, and then went right.

At the heart of the mystery was the need to accurately identify the location of the horrific events of November 29, 1864, when troops, led by Colonel John Chivington, attacked and killed many Cheyenne and Arapaho people who were camped along Sand Creek, in present-day Colorado. Legislation proposed by Colorado Senator Ben Whitehorse Campbell (whose life is another riveting story) and passed in 1998, authorized a special resource study to examine the suitability of a park unit to memorialize the sacrifices and losses suffered by the Cheyenne and Arapaho. Then-NPS Associate Director for Cultural Resources Kate Stevenson stipulated that the exact location of the site was to be identified before the site was established. The NPS had recently been assigned the care, and attendant responsibilities, of Charles

Pinckney NHS, but the purported residence of the signer of the Declaration of Independence was built in the 1800s, subsequent to Pinckney's sale of the property. Stevenson did not want to see the NPS embarrassed again and was taking no chances. The location of the massacre would also inform the extent of the historic site, so it was an issue that could not be ignored.

In the end, the NPS was unable to choose between competing interpretations for the location of the massacre. The development team acknowledged that each source of information – archeological, historical, and traditional – was legitimate. On April 28, 2007, Sand Creek NHS was established, and the boundaries were configured in such a way as to accommodate all the narratives. This compromise was prescient as, after the park unit was established, the mystery of the massacre location was resolved in such a way that all narratives were integrated into a single coherent interpretation. In an unexpected twist to the story, a park volunteer (a retired criminal investigator) found new evidence to reconcile the data.

While there are many books and reports about the 1864 event, we are lucky to have three encompassing the 1990s establishment of the park unit. Which to read first? The *Sand Creek Massacre Project* (Volumes I and II) consists of a longer site location study and a shorter special resource study (a standard report when contemplating a new park unit) and Environmental Assessment (required for NEPA compliance). Compiled by NPS staffer Christine Whitacre, the site location study methodically recounts the history of the project - the team, the timeline, the archival sources, the activities, the oral histories - in such a way that the reader can comprehend the priorities compelling historians, archeologists, and Native American oral historians to offer conflicting site locations for the camps that were attacked that infamous November day.

Beginning with the historical documentation gives the authors an opportunity to orient the reader to the physical landscape and subtle landmarks that made locating the camp site so elusive. The NPS historians consulted many sources but placed special emphasis on the map prepared by Samuel Bonsall, in 1868, after he accompanied Lieutenant General W.T. Sherman on a tour through eastern Colorado. The map, mislaid until 1996, when it was discovered in the Chicago branch of the National Archives, is a standard strip map and journal that is “the most important document yet located to convincingly posit the [location of the] site...” (NPS 2000:44).

The NPS historians prioritized the Bonsall map over the maps of George Bent. Bent had a Euroamerican father and Cheyenne mother and was himself a survivor of the Sand Creek massacre. (His life was the model for the book and movie *Little Big Man*). The NPS team gave his maps less importance because they were compiled 40 years after the event and because of the way that they were drawn. The historians determined that George Hyde, with whom Bent collaborated, had traced the bed of Sand Creek from an inaccurate USGS map and sent it to Bent to inscribe landmarks and events. Bent did the best that he could, but mapping his memories onto an erroneous and misleading map produced one that was at odds with Bonsall's map. Cheyenne and Arapaho historians prioritized the Bent map from a Native American eye witness as providing the most accurate description of the location, which put them at odds with NPS historians.

Other details were provided by the oral history projects. Excerpts from oral histories included in the project were unbelievably moving. One informant explained that people identified themselves by their geographic origin, and as a descendent of one or more massacre survivors. Imagine meeting a Vietnamese person who identified themselves as being from Saigon and a descendent of the My Lai Massacre.

Another oral history, the story of Singing Under Water Moss, was told *in the first person*. It sent shivers down my back to read words describing what she saw that day in November 1864 that were memorized verbatim by her children and grandchildren. The oral histories, in their immediacy, demonstrated the continued importance of Sand Creek to living communities.

The archeology section of the site location study is amplified in *Finding Sand Creek*. Authors Jerome Green and Douglas Scott methodically review archival locational information, describe their research methodology, and detail results. The identification of particular types of munitions, specifically mountain howitzers that were used in Colorado only at the Sand Creek massacre, demonstrated to Green and Scott that the site had been located. The archeological site location constructed through archeology did not agree with either the Bonsall map or the Bent map, which put the archeologists at odds with both Native and NPS historians.

A Misplaced Massacre (which won six literary awards) competes with the site location study for being the first book that you should read. While Whitacre's volume is a straightforward timeline, the Kelman volume loops around from present to past and back again to provide context and backstory. He explains why the NPS insisted on establishing an accurate location for the massacre. He also discusses points at which the whole project nearly derailed because of bad timing, poor communication, and unwarranted assumptions, things that Whitacre, understandably, could not include but which are issues that every cultural resource specialist should be sensitive to.

Kelman observed interactions between archeologists and descendants of survivors of the massacre during the metal-detecting sessions. When the archeologists identified metal domestic debris mingled with bullets and exploded shell fragments, they were jubilant, concluding that they had found the site. Kelman describes the effect this had on massacre descendants, who were outraged at the scientists' arrogance and offended by the lack of sensitivity in the presence of a killing ground. The archeologists also compounded insensitivity by announcing they had found the massacre site even before the oral history project was concluded and Native historians had assessed their own findings. It is a good case study for archeologists to read, especially archeologists who work on battlefields.

Locating the Sand Creek Massacre site is a compelling story, but one that can't be appreciated by reading just one book. In any order, these three volumes will give you a good sense of the historiography of the site, the efforts to memorialize it, and the context for people's actions. If you decide to read *A Misplaced Massacre* first, do yourself a favor and don't, DON'T, read the epilogue until you are done with the other volumes. Trust me on this; you will be glad that you did. It vindicates reliance on science, oral history, and archival research. It rewards the participants for adhering to their beliefs and sources of reality. It celebrates the NPS team who respectfully accommodated all interpretations of the site history; they all turned out to be true.

Together, these volumes provide the context and detail to understand a complex project with many moving parts. As the NPS expands and moves forward in time, the agency will no doubt be tasked with new studies as controversial and complex. The Sand Creek Massacre Project team, through their ethical and respectful decisions, have set a high bar.

By Karen Mudar

GRANTS AND TRAINING

SRI Announces Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis Offers Grants

The SRI Foundation has launched a new initiative, the Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis (CfAS). The goal of the Coalition is to foster synthetic research on social science questions whose answers will have important implications for addressing contemporary social issues. The CfAS synthesis projects will proceed through repeated, intensive meetings of self-organized, multi-disciplinary working groups focused on particular synthetic topics, a model pioneered and proven by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS).

The Coalition is composed of two types of members. Partners are organizations that govern and set the direction of the Coalition, and Associates are individual members interested in supporting the Coalition's goals. Organizations can register as a Partner through the CfAS website, as can individuals who would like to be an Associate.

CfAS has recently issued a call for proposals for two initial synthesis projects, to fund working groups that will address a substantive archaeological problem requiring synthesis, and will produce both intellectual products that will benefit the discipline and products that will inform public policy or benefit relevant publics. Funding will be provided for travel, meals, lodging, and conference facilities for working groups of no more than 8 individuals to meet face-to-face 3 times within a period of 2 years in a setting that is conducive to collaboration.

Proposals are due January 15, 2018, 5PM MST. Questions concerning this RFP should be sent to Mr. Terry Klein, Executive Director, SRI Foundation, at tklein@srifoundation.org.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is also available at <http://www.archsynth.org/requests-for-proposals.html>.

Coalition's vision is described more fully in an article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, at <http://www.pnas.org/content/114/42/10999.full.pdf>

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 <https://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the NPS Archeology Program website.

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