

Fort Vancouver

National Historic Site

1948-1998 Celebrating 50 Years of
Cultural Heritage Preservation and Education



The Fort's workforce consisted of people from diverse places and ethnic backgrounds, including the British Isles, Hawaii, French-Canada and Iroquois and local Indians.

Dr. John McLoughlin - Chief Factor of Fort Vancouver 1825-1846. Also known as the "Father of Oregon."



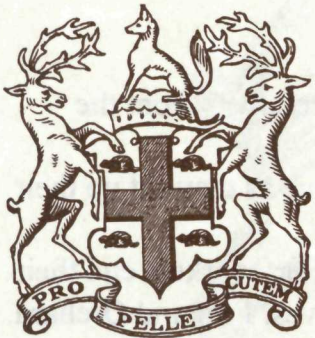
Today, History Comes Alive at the Fort. Special events, living history and demonstrations of period crafts, such as blacksmithing, enable the visitor to experience their cultural heritage.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is a partner in the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. This congressionally authorized partnership of the US Army, City of Vancouver, State of Washington, and the National Park Service is committed to cooperatively manage and preserve the historic resources of the area for public benefit and education.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

612 East Reserve Street

Vancouver, WA 98661-3811



"And behold the Vancouver farm, stretching up and down the river -- 3,000 acres, fenced into beautiful fields -- sprinkled with dairy houses, and herdsmen and shepherd's cottages! A busy place is this. The blacksmith is repairing ploughshares . . . ; the tinman is making cups for the Indians . . . ; the wheelwright is making wagons . . . ; the carpenter is repairing houses . . . ; the cooper is making barrels for pickling salmon and packing furs; the clerks are posting books, and preparing the annual return to the board in London; the salesmen are receiving beaver and dealing out goods."

-- Thomas Jefferson Farnham, American in 1839

Historic Fort Vancouver

Thomas Jefferson Farnham was correct. Fort Vancouver was a very busy place. Dedicated in 1825, it was the most important British fur trade post in the West. Until 1849, it served as the headquarters and depot for two dozen Hudson's Bay Company posts located from Alaska to California and the Rockies to the Pacific. With its abundance of supplies and food, the fort attracted the immigrants of the Oregon Trail. Without the aid of the fort's Chief Factor, Dr. John McLoughlin, many of those immigrants would have perished. Fort Vancouver served as the place where Euro-American settlement in the Pacific Northwest took hold and provided the roots upon which our community has developed.

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Fortunately Fort Vancouver's integral role in the development and settlement of the Pacific Northwest has not been forgotten. As early as 1915, the dedicated efforts of many local groups garnered support for the development of appropriate recognition. On June 19, 1948 President Truman signed the bill that established Fort Vancouver as a unit of the National Park Service.

For fifty years the National Park Service has protected and preserved the site. More than 8 million people have visited the site and learned its history through tours and special events. Through archaeological excavations and historic research the physical evidence of the fort and its many activities have been unearthed. History has come to life with the reconstruction of the Palisade and nine of the buildings within the fort. You are cordially invited to participate in these activities and gain first-hand experience of your rich heritage.

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1998 calendar of Events:

All programs occur at Fort Vancouver, unless otherwise noted.

May

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 P.M. - **Carpenter Shop Dedication.** Join us in celebrating the opening of the Fort's newest building. Witness the "Gentlemen" of the fort dedicate the shop and help us thank those responsible for its construction. Free.

Sunday, May 24, 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. - **Queen Victoria's Birthday.** Celebrate the birthday of the renowned Queen with Her loyal subjects of the Hudson's Bay Company.

June through August - special weekend cultural demonstrations - call for times and topics.

June

Saturday, June 6, 7:30 P.M. - **Evening Living History Program: "Garden in Bloom."** Enjoy the spectacular sights and smells of the Fort Garden with Billy Bruce and his labourers. The historic garden comes alive! Free.

Friday, June 19, 2:00 P.M. - **Hudson's Bay Flag Exhibit -50th Anniversary.** Partake in the unveiling of the huge flag which flew over Fort Vancouver in the 19th century. This is its first showing since being restored. At the Visitor Center. In cooperation with Clark County and Washington State Historical Societies. The flag will be displayed at the Visitor Center through Sept. 7. Free.

Friday, June 19, 7:30 P.M. - **Evening Program.** Join noted writer Richard Mackie for a presentation on *"The Company and the Indians."* Presented in Foster Auditorium at Clark College in cooperation with the Center for Columbia River History. Free.

Saturday, June 20, 2:00 P.M. - **Fort Rededication.** Join dignitaries and historic characters in rededicating the Fort after 50 years of public benefit as a unit of the National Park Service and a member of the Vancouver community. Free.

Saturday, June 20, 7:30 P.M. - **Evening Program.** Acclaimed author Tom Koppel presents *"The Company and the Hawaiians."* Presented in Foster Auditorium at Clark College in cooperation with the Center for Columbia River History. Free.

July

Friday, July 17, 7:30 P.M. - **Evening Program.** Noted Northwest author and maritime historian James Delgado presents *"The Maritime Activities of the Company."* Presented in Foster Auditorium at Clark College. Free.

Saturday July 18, 11:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. - **Brigade Encampment.**

SPECIAL LIVING HISTORY ACTIVITIES:

11:00 A.M. - **River Brigades Arrive.** Witness the arrival of the brigades as they bring in the yearly "returns" from the interior down the Columbia River. At the waterfront, just east of I-5. Free.

1:00 P.M. - **Brigades Encamp.** Witness the arrival of the trappers at the Fort and share in the experience as they set up their camps. Fort Orchard. Free.

6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. - **Twilight Living History.** Witness the end of the day as it occurred in 1841. Fort workers end their day by socializing and celebrating in the encampment. Gentlemen take their supper and share tales of their lives. Fort and Orchard.

Sunday, July 19, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. - **Brigade Encampment.** The encampment continues! Witness and share the adventurous life of the trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company. Fort Orchard. Free.

August

Saturday, August 8, 7:30 P.M. - **Evening Living History Program. "River Rendezvous."** The year is 1845 - a trapper and a gardener tell tales of their different lives as Company employees around the campfire. Free

Saturday, August 22, 7:30 P.M. - **Evening Living History Program. "At the End of the Trail."** An American emigrant family arrives at the Fort seeking to obtain supplies. Hear of their trials and tribulations along the trail. Free.

Tuesday, August 25, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. - **Founder's Day.** Celebrate the founding of the U.S. National Park Service. Free.

Sunday, August 30, 7:30 P.M. - **Evening Program.** Highly acclaimed historian and author Robert Utley presents *"The Fur Trade, Mountain Men and America's Continental Destiny."* Presented in Foster Auditorium at Clark College in cooperation with One Place Across Time. Free.

Fall and Winter

Fri. and Sat. Oct. 2 and 3, 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. - **Candlelight Tour.** The fort is illuminated by candles to allow you to experience the night life and activities of 1845.

Sunday, December 13, 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M. - **Christmas at Fort Vancouver.** Experience the festive traditional sight, smells, and sounds of the holiday season. Free.

For Information call (360) 696-7655 or 1-800-832-3599

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is open daily, 9:00AM-5:00PM from Mar. 1 thru Oct. 31, and from 9:00AM- 4:00PM from Nov. 1 thru Feb 28 (with the exceptions of July 4; open 11-8, and Oct. 2&3; open 1-5pm). It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, December 24 and 25. An entrance fee (\$2 per adult, \$4 maximum per family) is charged for entry into the Fort during the summer months, approximately May through September.

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1998 Cultural Demonstration Series Schedule

Weekend demonstrations and discussions illustrating the cultural and ethnic diversity of the Hudson's Bay Company and Fort Vancouver are presented every Saturday and Sunday at 3:00 PM (unless otherwise noted) during the summer season. Presentations will occur inside the fort in a covered seating area. The programs are free with fort admission. For more information please contact Jon Burpee at (360) 696-7659 ext. 10.

June

- 6 Fred Bridges, "Nineteenth Century Medicine."
- 7 Nick Peck, "Captain Baillie of HMS Modeste."
- 13 Norma McGraw, "What Can You do With the Tules?"
- 14 Paul Lawson, "Gunflints of the Fur Trade."
- 20 Rededication of the fort 2:00 PM (No demo scheduled).
- 21 Pam Cundy, "The Folklore of Herbs."
- 27 Dave Leach, "Peter Skene Ogden, Troubleshooter of the Honourable Company."
- 28 Ken Evans, Brendan Cundy, and Tanner Cundy, "The Baker Joseph Petrain and his apprentices."

July

- 4 Fourth of July-living history all day (No demo scheduled).
- 5 Ken Bierly, "Father Blanchet, the Catholic missionary."

- 11 Tom Laidlaw, "William Cannon, First American Blacksmith at Fort Vancouver."
- 12 Nick Peck, "Captain Baillie of HMS Modeste."
- 18 Brigade Encampment-living history all day (No demo scheduled).
- 19 Brigade Encampment-living history all day (No demo scheduled).
- 25 Don Kaulitz, "Chinook Jargon, the Language of the Columbia Fur Trade."
- 26 Tom Laidlaw, "William Cannon, First American Blacksmith at Fort Vancouver."

August

- 1 Chief Clifford Snyder, "An Address on the Chinook Peoples."
- 2 Mike Darrig and cannon crew, "Historic Weaponry of the Hudson's Bay Company." (includes cannon firing). 12:30 and 2:00 PM
- 8 Judy Knowles, "Life at the Fort from a Woman's Point of View."
- 9 Jerry Peterson, "From Strathmore to the Columbia: A Scotsman's Journey."
- 15 Nancy Knox, Jennifer Knox, and Kara Moore, "Children of the Fort and Their Games."
- 16 Jon Burpee, "La vie et les chansons des Voyageurs." (The life and the songs of the voyageurs).
- 22 Dave Leach, "Peter Skene Ogden: Troubleshooter of the Honourable Company."
- 23 Bill Green, "Historic Gardening."
- 29 Kay Milberger, Pat Peterson, and Elizabeth Honeycutt, "The Women of the Fort."
- 30 Mike Darrig and cannon crew, "Historic Weaponry of the Hudson's Bay Company." (includes cannon firing). 12:30 and 2:00 PM

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