



# Fort Vancouver

## News from Your National Park

Winter 2012/2013

## Christmas at Fort Vancouver Brings the Season to Life

Experience the sights and sounds of the 1800s holiday season on Saturday, December 8th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.! Christmas at Fort Vancouver shows how the employees at the Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post celebrated the festive time around Christmas and New Year's Day.

After months of hard work, the holidays were one of the few times during the year when Company employees were off from work and able to celebrate.

At our annual Christmas at Fort Vancouver event, you can join in the occasion today just as they did in the 1840s - by enjoying traditional carols performed by the Madrigal Singers, non-alcoholic holiday beverages, holiday stories, children's games, holiday music and dancing, and making handcrafts like toy tops and wreaths to take home. In addition, holiday-themed artifacts from the Fort Vancouver Museum Collection will be on display, and blacksmithing and black powder demonstrations will take place.

*New this year is a completely unique holiday photo opportunity - pose in holiday scenes with costumed re-enactors for a photo that's truly one of a kind (please bring your own camera to capture your scene).*

Admission is \$3 per adult, individuals aged 15 years and younger are free.



### What's Happening at Fort Vancouver

#### Lantern Tour Series

Join in a wonderful opportunity to tour the Fort at night. Each adult attending will carry their own lantern and tour with a Park Ranger through Fort Vancouver.

Reservations required. **Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15, Jan. 5, Jan. 19, Feb. 2, Feb. 16**



#### Heritage Holidays at the McLoughlin House

Enjoy period music, parlor games and refreshments at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City. **Saturday, December 1, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

#### Christmas at Fort Vancouver

Experience the sights and sounds of the season! Enjoy caroling, wreath and handcraft making, holiday music, dancing, and refreshments inside the reconstructed Fort Vancouver. **Saturday, December 8, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

#### CCC and WPA in Washington Exhibit Opening

Join us in the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center as we open our new exhibit on the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration in Washington, presented in conjunction with the Washington State Historical Society. **Saturday, January 19, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

#### Fur Trade Letters & Army Postcards: Connections Through the Written Word

Discover the 18th and 19th century art of letter writing through interactive, family-friendly activities at the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center. **Sunday, February 3, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

For more information on our special events and programs, contact the Visitor Center at (360) 816-6230.

#### Interested in hosting an event at Fort Vancouver?

Fort Vancouver offers a unique landscape for your special event. For more information on holding an event at the park, check the website or for initial inquiries contact Supervisory Park Ranger Kimm Fox-Middleton at: (360) 816-6243 or [kimm\\_fox-middleton@nps.gov](mailto:kimm_fox-middleton@nps.gov)

## Fur Trade Letters and Army Postcards: Connections Through the Written Word



Looking for a free, fun, educational event this February? On Sunday, February 3rd, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., come to Fort Vancouver to discover the history of letter writing! Delve into the legacy of the written word by watching scenes by costumed re-enactors, check out a special exhibit of letters and postcards from the park's museum collection, learn to write with a Hudson's Bay Company-period ink pen, and take home a replica postcard like those sent by soldiers stationed at Vancouver Barracks in the 19th century.

Program and supplies are free, and will take place at the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center. For more information, call (360) 816-6230.

### Want to learn more about Fort Vancouver?

Find us online at [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova) and on Facebook and Twitter:



[www.facebook.com/fortvancouver](http://www.facebook.com/fortvancouver)



@FtVancouverNPS

Download the Fort Vancouver Mobile App for iPhone and Android to discover even more!

### Celebrate the holidays 1850s-style at the McLoughlin House!

The McLoughlin House unit of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site has announced a fun-filled Heritage Holiday event this year on Saturday, December 1st, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Family friendly activities will include period music, parlor games, and refreshments at the Barclay House. The house and grounds will be lit by candlelight to chase away the winter gloom, and inside the house costumed interpreters will tell stories and answer questions.

For more information, call (503) 656-5151.





# New Exhibit Highlights the CCC and WPA in Washington



This January, a new exhibit on the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration in Washington will debut in the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center, where it will be on display until March 20.

In the 1930s, Vancouver Barracks served as a regional headquarters for the Civilian Conservation Corps, an important branch of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal plan that employed unmarried men. Artifacts from this period in the barracks' history will be exhibited, including CCC patches, photographs, and yearbooks.

This exhibit will be complemented by *Putting People to Work: The WPA in Washington, 1935-1943*, an exhibit created by the Washington State Historical Society that highlights another facet of the New Deal: the Works Progress Administration, or WPA. The WPA, like the CCC, also provided jobs to unemployed Americans during the Great Depression.

The exhibit's opening reception will take place on Saturday, January 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center.

## Painting and Chinking Preservation Keeps Our Buildings Looking Historic



Preservation is in progress at your national park! This summer and fall, National Park Service staff oversaw the repainting of the Chief Factor's House and completed re-chinking of the Carpenter Shop and Fur Store.

In the 19th century, chinking was a method of sealing cracks and voids between the horizontal timbers of post-on-sill structures. Today, the Fort Vancouver NHS Maintenance crew is faced with the challenge of finding a modern equivalent that will recreate the appearance of chinking used in the original Hudson's Bay Company structures. Working with a local sealant expert, we were able to find a material and method that will protect the buildings and maintain their historic appearance.

This summer, the Fort Vancouver NHS Maintenance crew assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the East and South Vancouver Barracks. Initial efforts to improve the cultural landscape included thinning and trimming historic hedges, removing dead wood from heritage oak trees, and clearing out overgrown storm water drainage features.



## Interpretation and Archaeology at the East and South Vancouver Barracks

Beginning over the summer and extending into fall, a team of National Park Service archaeologists, led by park Archaeologist Dr. Bob Cromwell, have been conducting excavations in the East and South Vancouver Barracks. These sections of the barracks were transferred from the Department of Defense to the National Park Service in May 2012.

In addition to contributing to our knowledge about the history of this site, these excavations are also an important step in the National Park Service's plan to preserve and renovate the historic buildings of the Barracks. The East and South Barracks areas have never been systematically excavated before, and we are excited to discover and share new aspects of our local history as they are revealed through the archaeological record.

Alongside excavation, National Park Service staff premiered free walking tours of the East and South Barracks this summer. These tours connect the public with the fascinating history of the park's newest addition.



## Summer Camps Share History and Science With Local Youths

2012 represents the third year that Fort Vancouver has presented our Blast to the Past Summer Education Camps, which connect kids, many of whom have never been to a national park before, to history and science. Campers set up their own tents inside the fort, played 1860s base ball, visited our archaeological dig sites, ate dinner cooked over an open fire, visited blacksmiths, hiked the Land Bridge, created a museum exhibit, threw atlatls, and much more!

Brand new this summer, the National Park Service partnered with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) to debut a week-long overnight camp titled *From Fur to Fossil: Earth and People of the Northwest*. At no cost to families, middle-schoolers spent two and a half days at Fort Vancouver learning about cultural history and archaeology, and then two and a half days at John Day Fossil Beds National Monument near John Day, Oregon, learning about natural history and paleontology. For the entire week, OMSI and National Park Service staff teamed up to show students that history and science are intertwined and always changing.

## Campfires and Candlelight Event a Huge Success!



Fort Vancouver's annual Campfires & Candlelight event in September was a huge success this year, with more camps, more music, and more black powder demonstrations than ever before! On the evening of September 8, over 150 costumed re-enactors animated the characters and stories of our park for 2,000 members of the visiting public in buildings and historic camps illuminated by campfire, lantern, and candlelight. New this year were WWII vintage vehicles, a WWII aide de camp station, a camp of 1890s Army laundresses, hands-on military drumming programs in the 1870s camp, dulcimer and bass music in the Oregon Trail camp, and a plowing demonstration.

Once inside the fort, visitors were transported to September 13, 1846, a night the fort buzzed with activity as the Hudson's Bay Company organized a relief effort for the wreck of the American naval vessel *USS Shark*. Image courtesy of Christopher Communications