



Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

News from Your National Park

Fall 2014/Winter 2015

Stroll back in time at Campfires & Candlelight

Get ready to walk back in time at the largest living history event of the season at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site!

On **September 13, from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM**, we will host our 31st annual Campfires & Candlelight event. The pathway leading into the Hudson's Bay Company fort will come alive with over 150 costumed volunteers, ready to share and reenact history. Watch as Civil War-era interpreters demonstrate historic black powder weapons, and play 19th century games with volunteers interpreting Fort Vancouver's employees and families.

Inside the fort, the event focuses on the night in September 1846 when the American ship *USS Shark* wrecked at the mouth of the Columbia River. Reenactors will be bustling around preparing relief supplies for the wrecked ship's crew members, who were transported to Fort Vancouver. This event is **free of charge**, and a great opportunity for families to experience the history of the Northwest. For more information, visit our website, Facebook page, or call (360) 816-6230.



At Campfires & Candlelight, costumed interpreters will share the history of Vancouver - from the military period, all the way back to the Hudson's Bay Company period. Top photo: Christopher Communications; Bottom photo: Stephen Young



Visitor Center rehabilitation to begin in Fall 2014

Over the summer, the National Park Service awarded a \$1.7 million contract to DSL Builders, LLC, of Salem, Oregon, to rehabilitate the Fort Vancouver NHS Visitor Center. The Visitor Center's interior will be redesigned to allow for accessibility, increase educational activities and enhance visitor experience. The rehabilitation will focus on designing the facility to better serve the community, visitors, and educational and tour groups that visit the park. The museum exhibit area and theater will both be expanded to provide hands-on educational opportunities for visitors and the 12,000 elementary school students who visit the park annually for curriculum-based programming. The Visitor Center will close in the fall of 2014, and its functions temporarily relocated to the lobby of Pearson Air Museum during the rehabilitation. The new, redesigned Visitor Center will reopen in 2016, in time for the 100th birthday of the National Park Service. Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/NrDx>



What's Happening at Fort Vancouver

Campfires & Candlelight
At the reconstructed Fort
September 13, 4 PM-10 PM

Citizenship Day Naturalization Ceremony
Parade Ground
September 17, 11 AM

National Public Lands Day & Fee Free Day!
September 27

Summer's End Promenade
Officer's Row
September 27, 1 PM-3PM

Old Apple Tree Festival
Old Apple Tree Park
October 4

Museum Collections Open House
At the reconstructed Fort
October 11

Cultural Demonstrations
At the McLoughlin House in Oregon City
October 11, November 8

Veteran's Day Parade
Officer's Row
November 8

Veteran's Day Fee Free Day!
November 11

Heritage Holidays
At the McLoughlin House in Oregon City
December 6

Christmas at Fort Vancouver
At the reconstructed Fort
December 13, 10 AM-3 PM

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 Park Ranger Eva Dodd at (360) 816-6241.

Want to learn more about Fort Vancouver?

Find us online at www.nps.gov/fova and on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/fortvancouver

@FtVancouverNPS
@PearsonAirMus

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

Lantern Tours light up the night!

This fall and winter, join us for one of our very popular Lantern Tour programs! During these tours, visitors are led through the fort with lanterns in hand, where historical vignettes are presented by costumed volunteers in buildings throughout the fort. At the end of the tour, visitors enjoy cups of hot cider in the fort's Kitchen, and have the chance to mingle with fort staff and volunteers.

Reservations are required, and can be made by contacting the Visitor Center at (360) 816-6230. All tours begin promptly at 7:00 PM. Cost for these tours is \$10 for visitors ages 16 and over, \$7 for ages 15 and under. These tours are not recommended for children under the age of 10.

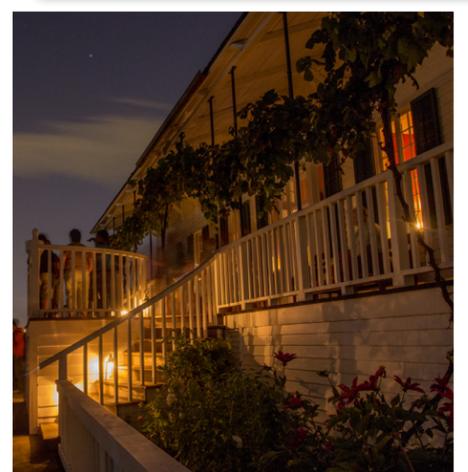


Photo: Christopher Communications

Celebrate the season at Christmas at Fort Vancouver!



Celebrate the holidays with us on **Saturday, December 13 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at Christmas at Fort Vancouver!

This annual event interprets how employees of the Hudson's Bay Company celebrated the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Just as it is today, Christmas in the 19th century was a very special occasion, and employees of the Company would receive precious time off for celebration. Explore 19th century life

and holiday traditions by talking with costumed volunteers throughout the fort. Visitors are also encouraged to join in on the 1840s festivities by making handcrafted spinning tops, participating in children's games and activities, enjoying hot apple cider and listening to historic carols, and holiday storytelling. Visitors can make wreaths to take home, and get a photo with costumed volunteers for your holiday cards!

New partnership with the Confluence Project provides educational programs



Confluence Project Executive Director Colin Fogarty and Fort Vancouver NHS Superintendent Tracy Fortmann in front of the Pearson Field Headquarters Building, which now houses Confluence's main office.

The National Park Service and the Confluence Project first partnered over a decade ago for the development and construction of the Vancouver Landbridge, a pedestrian bridge that connects historic Fort Vancouver with the Columbia River waterfront.

Now, that partnership has deepened into an agreement that ensures more public opportunities at the national park, including annual education programs such as Gifts from Our Ancestors. This arts-based program connects Native American artists and storytellers with students to create hands-on projects that explore the rich history, culture, and ecology of the Columbia River system. The partnership also includes the development of exhibits and events that celebrate this site, and digital opportunities to explore its history and landscape in depth. For more information about the Confluence Project, visit www.confluenceproject.org.



New developments take flight at Pearson Air Museum

The National Park Service is now directly managing Pearson Air Museum and the Jack Murdock Aviation Center, and a slate of new exhibits and activities will be welcoming visitors.

Starting in July 2014, Dr. Bob Cromwell (pictured above) began serving as the museum manager. Bob has been busy recruiting new volunteers, training existing volunteers, strengthening connections with aviation museums and developing exciting new programs for museum visitors. In addition, the park's curatorial staff, with the help of a summer intern from Syracuse University in New York and others, are hard at work developing new, interactive exhibits on aviation history in Vancouver.

Pearson Air Museum is open **Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM**. The museum is **free** to the public. For information on hosting events at the museum, call Park Ranger Eva Dodd at 360-816-6241



Fall and winter events celebrate the history of the McLoughlin House

The McLoughlin House unit of Fort Vancouver NHS, located in Oregon City, will offer some excellent events this fall and winter. On **September 13** at 12 PM and 2 PM will be a lecture about 19th century sewing tools featuring a private collection and tools that belonged to Marguerite McLoughlin. On **September 20** at 12 PM, author Greg Nokes will give an hour long talk on his latest book: *Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory*.

On **October 11** from 12 PM to 4 PM, drop by and learn to make an old fashioned pair of scissor sheaths at our popular Victorian Cultural Demonstration series. Also as part of this series, learn to make delicate paper boxes on **November 8** from 12 PM to 4 PM.

On **October 18**, the McLoughlin House will close at 2 PM to participate in the annual Spirits of Oregon City event (call 503-650-1851 for more information). On **November 22** at 12 PM, Daniel Klug, park ranger at Champoeg State Park, will talk about the 1840s in Champoeg and how it relates to the history of Oregon City.

Celebrate the season 1850s-style at Heritage Holidays at the McLoughlin House on **December 6**.

Archaeology at Fort Vancouver uncovers history



This year's Public Archaeology Field School at Fort Vancouver continued the park's partnership with Portland State University and Washington State University.

This summer's dig took place in the area to the west of the fort, where the Fort Vancouver employee Village was located. Excavations found post holes and the remains of posts that were part of the north wall of a house occupied by French-Canadian fur trader Little Proulx and his wife. The house had a clay floor, and artifacts were found on top of and embedded in the floor. The house appeared to have been burned, probably in the 1850s, as students and staff uncovered burned and charred house remains.

Another team of students worked on the Vancouver Barracks Parade Ground, excavating the site of the historic post's flag staff. The site was identified through historical documents as the location of the 1854-1879 flag staff. Remains of the large pit that held the 50-75 foot tall pole have been found, as well as US Army-period artifacts. Data collected from the excavation will help in reconstructing the post flag staff. The reconstruction of the flag staff is supported by a partnership between the National Park Service, City of Vancouver, and the Community Military Appreciation Committee.