

The Public Lands History Center Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 1, Summer 2012

Message From the Director

As we come to the end of our fifth year, we have much to celebrate. Among our greatest accomplishments is that we now have completed 25 projects involving some 60 students and bringing in more than \$800,000 in external funds. These projects have allowed our interns and assistants to develop valuable skills and launch their careers, enabled faculty affiliates to share their expertise with partners, and produced historical knowledge of crucial importance to the stewardship of precious natural and cultural resources. Our work fosters relationships between the CSU History Department and external partners, and thus helps the graduate public history program meet one of the National Council on Public History's best practices guidelines. The PLHC, furthermore, has attracted outstanding students and job applicants who see it as a critical component of the History Department's offerings. In this regard, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Sarah Payne, a public and environmental historian who will join the faculty this fall.

PLHC Wins National Award

The PLHC recently received a 2012 Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Network Award. The PLHC is one of three winners of the national award, given to individuals and institutions that contribute to the CESU network and effective resource management. Nominators cited the PLHC's "state-of-the-art research" for the National Park Service, the "diverse scope of the Center's work and products, their consistent incorporation of student energy and talent, and their capacity to deliver to parks and programs in a cost-effective, timely, and collegial manner," as valuable contributions to CESU. Congratulations to Program Manager Maren Bzdek and all current and former faculty and student affiliates, and thank you for your important contributions to the PLHC's success!

Our work in water history and national parks exemplifies some of the many benefits that we provide. In collaboration with the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute, the Morgan Library Water Resources Archive, and the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, we are engaged in projects that allow our students to develop skills in oral history, the digital humanities, and web site development, methodologies and techniques not taught in the curriculum but which are important to our mission to manage, conserve, and interpret public resources. Our work in the national parks has led to book projects and to the creation of new National Park Service collections in Morgan Library.

In spite of these accomplishments, we cannot rest on our laurels. As with many programs at public institutions, much of our existence is the result of good will and sweat equity. But we can't keep going on this way forever, and we have determined that our future depends on our ability to secure our administrative funding base. Although we are now developing a strategy to keep the PLHC alive beyond our formative period, we can't do it alone—quite frankly, we need your assistance. If you value what we do, if you want to give back to an institution that fostered you, if you want to extend a helping hand to a student, then please consider supporting the PLHC with your resources and ideas. We welcome your contributions. And we look forward to another successful year!

— Dr. Mark Fiege

Associate Professor of History;

William E. Morgan Chair of Liberal Arts

Colorado State University

PUBLIC LANDS HISTORY CENTER

Featured Project

Cultural Resource Management at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

As part of the Public Lands History Center's goal of aiding federal agencies in stewarding their cultural resources, we are in the process of completing two related cultural resource projects with the National Park Service at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Both projects are part of a larger series of studies initiated by the Monument to better understand the historic resources at the site.

In January 2010, Dr. Greg Smoak of the University of Utah and researcher Jim Bertolini began the first study, an environmental history context for the Monument's landscape. The primary goal of this project is to track landscape changes at the site from the Battle of Little Bighorn in June, 1876 to the present. Furthermore, the context provided in the report will explain how both American Indians and Euro-American settlers affected the battlefield site from the pre-historic period into the present. From fire use to bison, horse, and cattle grazing, this context will also inform NPS management regarding natural resource management, including potential issues such as prescribed burning.



Researcher Jim Bertolini at Little Bighorn Battlefield NM.

The environmental history context has contributed to the formulation of the Monument's Cultural Landscapes Inventory (2010) and Cultural Landscape Report (in progress), completed by Dr. Mike Tomson at Utah State University. It also led to the Center's second project with Little Bighorn, a revision of the Monument's documentation for the National Register of Historic Places begun in May 2011 and still in progress.

The Center's team for the revision, consisting of Dr. Janet Ore, Jim Bertolini, and Maren Bzdek, intended Little Bighorn's new documentation to be a management tool that improved upon previous efforts to recognize the battlefield's significance to American history. The Park Service listed the battlefield on the National Register in 1966 and completed a partial inventory in 1987. The 1987 nomination developed two historic districts covering the two non-contiguous portions of the battlefield currently managed by the Park Service. The current revision overhauls that documentation, not only listing resources not previously recognized but developing full historic contexts and property types for the battlefield. This process has involved frequent communication with Park Service staff at Little Bighorn and the Intermountain Region office as well as consultation with the Monument's seventeen affiliated American Indian nations. It has also required archival research at Little Bighorn College, Montana State Historical Society, Park Service archives, and the National Archives.

Since the Monument's General Management Plan calls for the eventual expansion of the unit boundaries to encompass the full battlefield, the project team and the Monument chose to develop a Multiple Property Documentation that would provide the historic contexts and known property types for the full battlefield, including lands outside Park Service management. The team decided the final contexts would be thematic and cover history related to the site from prehistoric occupation to the American Indian Wars and into Park Service management at the battlefield.

The third part of the revision involved a nomination for the Indian Memorial at the battlefield. Completed in 2003, the Memorial stands as one of the only congressionally mandated and funded monuments to American Indian nations who fought against the United States in its 236-year history. Attending nations, Park Service officials, and the Center team agreed that, although it was relatively new and would be required to meet higher standards, the Memorial is an exceptional structure worthy of recognition on the National Register.

Grad Student Spotlight

Nichelle Frank

In the summer of 2011, Nichelle Frank worked as a graduate student researcher on an oral history project for Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The project included transcribing pre-existing oral histories and conducting new interviews to fill out the collection's perspectives. Frank spoke with local figures such as fossil quarry owner Toni Clare and individuals directly involved in establishing the monument in 1969, including former Colorado governor, Richard "Dick" Lamm, and his brother, Tom Lamm; award-winning botanist and daughter of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold, Dr. Estella Leopold; and pioneering environmental lawyer, Victor Yannacone.

Frank's research uncovered a significant moment in the history of environmental law. The designation of Florissant's fossil beds as a national monument came as the result of 1960s activism and a landmark case of federal support for environmental conservation. Land developers caught wind of the NPS interest in Florissant in 1962 and began buying up land in the area, including some of the fossil beds. To rescue the fossil beds, concerned scientists and citizens hired Yannacone and took the case to court. In a race against time, Yannacone, the Lamm brothers, and lawyer Roger Hansen acquired a restraining order to halt the developers' bulldozers while the bill to make Florissant a national monument sat in the Senate.

Frank will earn her M.A. in history from CSU this summer and will also assist fellow PLHC researcher, Christy Dickinson, in researching a history of Fort Collins Utilities. Once she completes her M.A., Frank hopes to pursue a Ph.D., a career in architectural history, or teaching.



PLHC Fall Events

Oral History Workshop

The PLHC will offer an oral history workshop to CSU students and faculty on August 16-17, 2012. Lou Ann Jones, NPS oral historian, Lincoln Bramwell, USFS Chief Historian, and Dave Steinke, USFS Region 2 public affairs specialist, will present the workshop based on the NPS training module for oral history. Students who complete the workshop will travel to Vail, Colorado in September for the USFS "Rendezvous in the Rockies" to capture oral histories with agency professionals and retirees about their professional activities. Dr. Janet Ore is Principal Investigator for the project, and Maren Bzdek will serve as project manager. Mike Eckoff, a CSU student completing his Ph.D. in Forestry, will serve as lead researcher.

Save the Date: PLHC Fall Open House

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 28, 4-7pm, when the PLHC will kick off the new academic year with a special event open to all. The program will begin with faculty and students discussing their research and projects in an informal panel presentation, followed by an open house reception with refreshments in the PLHC office, C104 Aylesworth Hall. We look forward to welcoming new graduate students and faculty, continuing students, colleagues from many disciplines, research partners, and new and old friends alike. Join us to learn more about our work and learn how you can get involved. We will share further details via email and our website as soon as possible.

Ongoing PLHC Project Updates

Water History

Fort Collins Utilities Administrative History

In honor of its 130th anniversary and Colorado's Year of Water 2012, Fort Collins Utilities hired Principal Investigator Dr. Mark Fiege, project manager Maren Bzdek, and researcher Christy Dickinson to write an updated history of the organization this summer. Former Utilities employees Molly Nortier and Mike Smith wrote a short history, *From Bucket to Basin*, in 1982. The PLHC team will extend the narrative to cover the last thirty years and to present the city's water management within the larger framework of regional and national history. In addition, researcher Nichelle Frank will identify and catalog existing photographs for use in the book and in a related exhibit.

FRICO History Project Enters Phase II

The Public Lands History Center is progressing on its two-phase history of the Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company (FRICO) under Principal Investigators Dr. Mark Fiege, director of the Public Lands History Center, and Dr. Reagan Waskom of the Colorado Water Institute. In 2010, Clarissa Trapp completed phase one of the project, recording and transcribing thirteen oral interviews with people

associated with FRICO. Researcher Hayley Brazier has started work on the second phase of the project that will incorporate oral histories, company documents, and archival research into a book-length history. Hayley is currently finishing the first chapter and will write approximately four more chapters before the project is completed in 2013.

Since its incorporation in 1902, FRICO has developed into the largest private irrigation company in Colorado and one of the largest in the nation. To avoid mirroring readers in technical facts, Hayley is contextualizing FRICO into the history of the American West to enrich the company's story. In the past fifty years, FRICO has become heavily involved in agricultural-urban water legislation, and its history provides an opportunity to illuminate the complexities of agriculture and increasing urbanization as they relate to water use on the Front Range.

Poudre River Digital History Continues

Principal investigator Mark Fiege and researchers Maren Bzdek and Hannah Braun are continuing development of an educational and interactive website on the Poudre River. This site will be an online exhibit on local ditch companies and agricultural-to-urban water transfer, stressing the relationship between the agricultural and urban-industrial sectors and demonstrating how water use shapes communities. A three-year, \$120,000 grant from the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station provides funding for this project. The research team is building upon the research performed last year by researcher Ashley Baranyk. Recent work has centered on primary source collection, website conceptualization, and digital media integration.

The project team has developed a Wordpress website as a prototype for the finished product. Researchers are developing interpretation of primary sources such as documents, photographs, and maps within the historic context of the importance of water to society, especially in arid Northern Colorado. The team is exploring ways to integrate oral history into the website and develop opportunities for community involvement and



Researcher Hayley Brazier in front of the Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company offices in Brighton, Colorado.

partnerships with Colorado State University entities, ditch companies, and water organizations.



Headgate on Pleasant Valley and Lake Canal, 1941. Photo from the Groundwater Data Collection, Water Resources Archive, CSU.

NPS National Register Documentation

Thomas Stuart Homestead Historic Context Report Completed

In February, researcher Avana Andrade and Principal Investigator Dr. Janet Ore completed the Thomas Stuart Homestead Historic Context Report for Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO) in Deer Lodge, Montana. GRKO desires to construct a new visitor contact station, and the Thomas Stuart Homestead site is situated on an advantageous plot of land for this proposed structure. The report assessed the historic significance of the site in order to determine its potential eligibility for the National Register.

The report explored the extent to which the property represents the métis community that established the small settlement of Deer Lodge. Research in Montana and Colorado repositories uncovered lesser known individuals, such as Thomas and Ellen Stuart, and cultural groups associated with Deer Lodge's early history. The site demonstrates the socio-cultural trends embedded in the area's history, as well. Thomas' wife, Ellen (Armell) Stuart, was of French-Canadian and Piegan (Blackfeet) ancestry, and when the two settled in the Deer Lodge Valley in the late 1860s, they moved to an intercultural community. The cultural plurality that characterized early Deer Lodge was a vestige of the fur trade era, which had been in decline since the

mid-nineteenth century but which had persisted into the last decades of the 1800s. Over the course of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the fur trade had forged a social milieu in which the practice of intermarriage was commonplace as a way to secure economic relationships between Europeans and Native Americans. Indeed, many of Deer Lodge's "town fathers," such as Granville Stuart and Johnny Grant, had mixed families. However, Montana's mining rush and its open-range cattle boom brought greater numbers of settlers from the East along with strict Victorian-era norms that permanently changed Deer Lodge's social landscape. While some families, like Johnny Grant's, retreated northward to escape the coming change, others, like Thomas Stuart, stayed and faced ostracism from a society that was increasingly intolerant of mixed families.

Murie Cabin Historic Furnishings Plan

This summer researcher Diane Sanders will write a historic furnishings plan for the Murie Ranch National Historic Landmark in Grand Teton National Park (GRTE) under the direction of Principal Investigator Dr. Janet Ore. Prominent wildlife conservationists Olaus and Margaret Murie and Adolph and Louise Murie used Murie Ranch as their home and a national base for other wilderness advocates. Papers and art at the site have been catalogued, but no evaluation of the furniture in the Murie Residence, Studio, and Homestead Cabin has been conducted. The furnishings report will document the current and historic appearance of the ranch buildings' interiors and make recommendations for future use of the ranch interiors.



Diane Sanders stands next to a 1946 photo of Aldo Leopold and Olaus Murie (hidden) in the Murie Cabin, GRTE.

NPS Collections Management

Zion Cultural Resources Search in Progress

Principal Investigator Dr. Janet Ore and researcher Clarissa Trapp are working with Zion National Park (ZION) to identify cultural resource collections from ZION held at offsite repositories. These artifacts, originally collected during a Civil Works Administration-funded survey by Benjamin W. Wetherill and Elmer Smith in 1934, were disseminated to museums and universities throughout the U.S. in the 1930s and 1950s at a time when ZION's on-site storage facilities were inadequate for the storage of these archeological artifacts. In many cases this distribution was poorly documented. The search requires travel to repositories throughout the U.S. West to identify objects or collections and locate missing documentation. The project will result in a report detailing the history of the dig and resulting artifact dispersal, an inventory of items found, and recommendations for ZION's cultural resources staff on how and whether to pursue repatriation of the materials at each repository.



Researcher Clarissa Trapp and Supervisory Archaeologist and Cultural Resource Manager Sarah Horton in Zion National Park.

Grant-Kohrs Museum Internships Continue

This summer, history graduate students Janell Nelson and Jenny Deichman will intern at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Deer Lodge, Montana. Grant-Kohrs has provided internships for CSU students hoping to gain archival and museum experience for five

years. During their internship, Nelson and Deichman will inventory the site's collections, catalog artifacts, and maintain and update artifact storage areas.

NPS Environmental History

NPS Grazing History Nearing Completion

The administrative history of livestock grazing prepared for the National Park Service by principal investigator Mark Fiege and research assistant Kelsey Matson is rapidly approaching completion. Comprehensive in scope, the report encompasses history from a diversity of national parks and Park Service units both prior to and throughout the agency's existence. By tracing the agency's pastoralist origins through its efforts in more recent decades to more carefully regulate or eliminate most forms of livestock grazing, the project seeks to illuminate a largely neglected slice of NPS history for agency professionals, academics, and the public at large. Fiege and Matson will submit a draft for NPS comment in August 2012.

Great Sand Dunes History Under Revision

Researcher Michael Geary submitted his report *Sea of Sand: a History of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve* to Great Sand Dunes National Park this spring. The report is a comprehensive history of Great Sand Dunes National Park, and it is now under revision for publication by University of Oklahoma Press.

Recently Completed PLHC Reports

(click to download)

[Oral History Project for Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Phase I \(2011\)](#)

[Thomas Stuart Homestead Historic Context Report, Grant Kohrs National Historic Site \(2012\)](#)

[An Environmental History of the Kawuneeche Valley and the Headwaters of the Colorado River, Rocky Mountain National Park \(2011\)](#)

[Sea of Sand: a History of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve \(2012\)](#)

Center Notes

Ruth Alexander is working on three projects: a book-length history of recreation and the environment on Longs Peak; a book about the meanings of nature and modernity in American civic protest during the 1960s; the 5th edition of *Major Problems in American Women's History*, co-edited with Sharon Block.

Avana Andrade is an intern in the Maze District of Canyonlands National Park. She leads hikes and conducts backcountry patrols to maintain trails in and out of the Maze. She is also writing an article on the archeobotany of Horseshoe Canyon.

Ashley Baranyk currently works as a Historic Interpreter at Clear Creek History Park in Golden, CO. She also volunteers at the Avenir Museum in Fort Collins, for Megan Osborne and Linda Carlson.

Jim Bertolini works for the National Park Service as a Park Guide at Pipe Spring National Monument.

Maren Bzdek represented the PLHC in a working group on public history and sustainability at the 2012 NCPH/OAH annual meeting. The group is developing a point paper that will ask the NCPH membership and board to integrate sustainability into the ethos of the profession through education, resource and site management, and community planning.

Mark Fiege's book *The Republic of Nature: an Environmental History of the United States* was published by University of Washington Press in April. He delivered a paper, "Cowboy Resource Management: The Influence of Livestock Husbandry on the National Park Service," at the 2011 ASEH meeting. His essay "Towards a History of Environmental History in the National Parks," appeared in *The George Wright Forum*, v28, n2, 2011.

Adrian Howkins spent the 2011-2012 field season in Antarctica working on an environmental history with the McMurdo Dry Valleys Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) site <http://mcmlter.org>. His work examines the intersections of environmental history and history of science in one of the world's most extreme

environments. In summer 2012 he is supervising internships at Scotts Bluff National Monument.

Mark Fiege, Jared Orsi, and Adrian Howkins are editing an anthology based on the essays produced for the PLHC's fall 2011 history colloquium, "National Parks Beyond the Nation." The University of Oklahoma Press will publish the collection in 2013.

Cori Knudten completed the first year of a history Ph.D. program at UC Davis. In March, she participated in the George Wright Society's Park Break program, developing a sustainability/energy use curriculum for 8th graders. This summer she will research the 1930s development of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Brandon Luedtke began his Ph.D. in history at the University of Kansas in August 2011. As part of his involvement with the IGERT program, he spent 11 days in the Yucatan studying climate change issues.

This past March, the CSU History Department awarded **Kelsey Matson** and **Nichelle Frank** with Outstanding Graduate Student Awards and **Hayley Brazier** and **Christy Dickinson** with the Harry Rosenberg Scholarship for Excellence in Western History.

Tessa Moening recently edited transcriptions for the Florissant Fossil Beds project and located preliminary sources for the Poudre website project. She will return to CSU this fall to pursue an M.A. in Public History.

Janet Ore received the inaugural Bishir Prize from the Vernacular Architecture Forum for her essay "Mobile Home Syndrome." The annual prize will be awarded to the scholarly article that makes the most significant contribution to the study of vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes.

Jared Orsi received the CSU Alumni Association 2012 Best Teacher Award. This spring, he and a group of CSU students constructed a website, *National Border, National Park: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument*, providing students with a public application for scholarly research.

We Need Your Support!

The Public Lands History Center gratefully accepts donations from those who wish to support our efforts to produce critical historical documentation for agencies who administer and steward public lands and resources. We are in particular need of support for general administrative operations not covered by project funds. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, please contact Maren Bzdek at maren.bzdek@colostate.edu, 970-491-6130 or visit publiclands.colostate.edu/support.

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2012 Center staff and researchers outside the PLHC office in Aylesworth Hall.

On the Trail staff for Vol. 3, No.1

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