

Press Release

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THE OREGON ENCYCLOPEDIA



www.oregonencyclopedia.org

A partnership of Portland State University, the Oregon Historical Society, and The Oregon Council of Teachers of English

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The OE History Night at the Mission in July

The Oregon Encyclopedia (The OE) continues its monthly series of History Nights at McMenamins pubs with programs at the Mission Theater in partnership with the *Northwest Examiner*. At each History Night, The OE will look back at the people and events that have shaped our communities. Visit www.oregonencyclopedia.org for History Night locations and more details.

“Exploring Fort Vancouver”

Presented by Douglas Wilson

Monday, July 2, 2012

7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:00 pm

McMenamins Mission Theater, 1624 NW Glisan Street, Portland

Free and open to the public

What National Historic Site contains the world’s largest archaeological collection of Spode ceramics, a brand of English pottery founded by Josiah Spode in the first part of the 18th century? If your answer is Fort Vancouver, the fur trade headquarters of the Hudson’s Bay Company and the first U.S. Army post in the Northwest, then you are correct! Did you know that the Fort Vancouver museum collection contains over two million archaeological and historic artifacts? The Spode ceramic pottery is only a small part of this collection of objects that tell the stories of the many people who lived, worked and visited the fort for over 150 years including, fur traders, soldiers, Native Americans, Hawaiians and European American settlers.

In this Oregon Encyclopedia History Night, archaeologist, Doug Wilson, will discuss the development of the Northwest through the artifacts and narratives of Fort Vancouver, a center of trade and military history in the Pacific Northwest. The fort’s museum collection, centered on over 60 years of National Park Service archaeological excavations provides a tangible means to understanding technological change, health and diet, the history of globalization, and the creation of the Northwest identity.

Doug Wilson is an archaeologist for the National Park Service at Fort Vancouver. He is also an Associate Professor of Anthropology at P.S.U. and is a co-author of the book, *Exploring Fort Vancouver*.

The OE is an online resource for information on the state’s significant people, places, events, institutions, and biota. Over 1000 entries and essays have been published online and new entries are added every day. For more information visit www.oregonencyclopedia.org.

The OE is a partnership between Portland State University, the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, and the Oregon Historical Society. The OE has received support from a collaborative of the state’s five cultural partners—the Oregon Arts Council, Oregon Council for the Humanities, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, and the State Historic Preservation Office—with funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust. The Oregon Council of Teachers of English, the Oregon State Library, the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon University System, Willamette University, and private donors have provided additional support.