Occurrences

The Journal of Northwest History

FORT NISQUALLY
LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM
METRO PARKS TACOMA
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Cover photo:
Synthia Santos cooks over the 19th century stove in the Fort's period kitchen. Photo courtesy of Fred Welcher, 19th Century Christmas event, December 2008.

FORT NISQUALLY FOUNDATION

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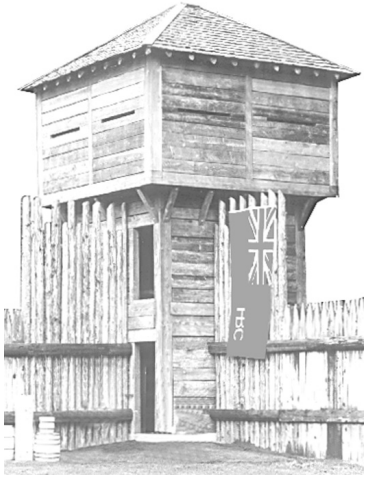
The Editor welcomes comments and articles submitted from outside sources dealing with early Washington State history. Preference will be given to those articles that deal with the Hudson's Bay Company, Fort Nisqually and other related themes. Authors will be credited; they will be responsible for the content and accuracy of their articles.

The Editor may be contacted by calling 253.591.5339

Please visit Fort Nisqually at our Web site at www.fortnisqually.org

Fort Foundation News



Although we don't often think of buildings as artifacts, the original historic structures are precisely that. They stand as silent witnesses to history. But are they really that silent?

In this issue, we'll look at some of ways the structures that make up Fort Nisqually Living History Museum help us tell the stories of those who lived and worked here. We'll also look at the furnishings of these buildings and the "furnishing" of the re-enactors and historic interpreters inside. We focus on the Factor's House in particular, but pay attention to the clothing article- it wasn't just the officers of the company wearing the fashions of the day! Who knows the variety of outerwear that passed through the hallways of the Large House as Dr. Tolmie entertained guests and conducted business with his employees...

Thank you for another great year of history and scholarship, and as always, we welcome submissions and article ideas!

- The editor

Letter from the President of the Board

If the walls of Fort Nisqually could talk, what would they tell us?

Would they regale us with the adventures of visitors, young and old alike, coming to the fort for the very first time — climbing into the bastion and pretending to be from 1855 as they gaze over the Puget Sound? Or would they delight us with images of dancers swaying to Ockham's Razor's music as it fills the air at Friday at the Fort? Perchance they would speak of the Candlelight Tour Groups silently passing through the fort on a dark, wet night, entranced by each enchanting vignette after being transported to another era? Maybe they would describe the awestruck children in the school tour groups that pass through the fort's giant gates before being magically carried back in time? Perhaps they would tell of the incredible staff and volunteers who tend the garden, feed the chickens, mend a shirt, work the forge, or who take a moment to share stories with entranced visitors. If these walls could talk. . .

To share something exciting, the Foundation has launched a new website! Our address is still the same: www.fortnisquallyfoundation.org. The new website is now more secure, so you can safely make donations or renew your membership.

Consider making a tax deductible donation to the Foundation before the year is over. There are many ways you can do this. If you want to test our website, I encourage you to visit the "Donate" tab and select one of the following:

- Endowment: Make a donation through the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to the Dr. Jerry V. Ramsey and Elaine Perdue Ramsey Fund for Fort Nisqually. This generous fund provides support annually to the quality education programs at the fort.
- General Operating Support: Contributions provide funding for ongoing activities including education programming, artifact conservation and historical interpretation.
- Scholarship Fund: Help low-income schools fund field trips to the fort to learn about Fort Nisqually's role in the development of the Puget Sound area.

My term as President of the Fort Nisqually Foundation has come to an end, and I would like to thank all of our wonderful members for your incredible support of the foundation during my term. Please join me in welcoming the incredible Dana Repp to her new role as Foundation President. You will still see me around the fort at the Fast Track table, so stop by and say hello!

It is such a privilege to be a part of the story of Fort Nisqually. If these walls could talk. . .

~ Gail Cram

Curator's Journal

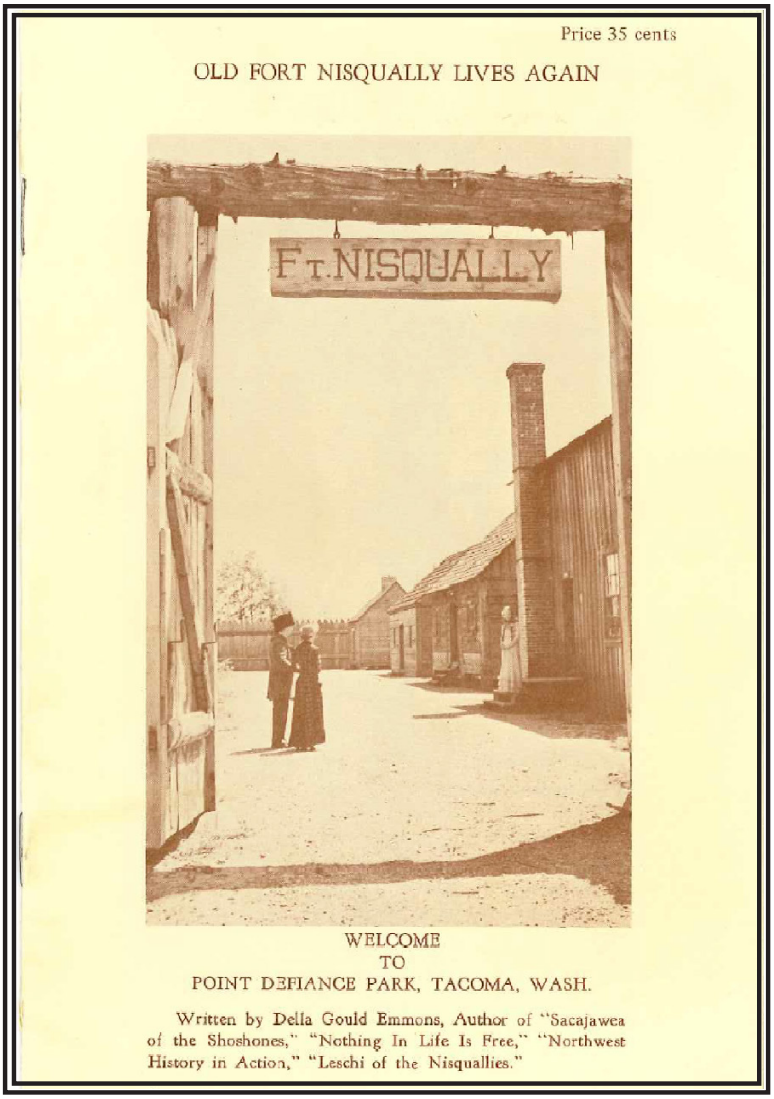
The Factor's House and the Importance of "Place"

By Claire Keller-Scholz ~ Curator

You're standing in the hallway of the Factor's House as it is today, and as your eyes adjust to the dimness of a room without electric lights, you look toward the children's bedroom. In your mind's eye you see Jane, checking on the children, turn when she hears the front door open. She watches Dr. Tolmie enter, taking off his hat while turning around to continue the conversation he's having with Henry Peers, up visiting from Cowlitz Farm. Jane's attention is quickly drawn back to the boys by a yell from little Willie, who was shoved by big brother Alec after a scuffle over the toy horse, and the moment has passed.

A sense of place contains powerful connections for individuals, as we define personal identities and relationships in context with communities and histories. Although Fort Nisqually is not in its original location, through the Factor's House and Granary, visitors have the opportunity to stand in the same location (relative to the buildings themselves) as did those in the past.

Rebuilt with the original materials at Point Defiance in 1934, the Factor's House was returned to its condition prior to removal from DuPont. This meant, however, that the extra rooms added after 1855 were also reassembled. These included a pantry and kitchen, the detached kitchen deemed too inconvenient especially in inclement weather, as well as an indoor bathroom. Many deteriorated pieces of the building were replaced during the restoration, but Roland Borhek, the architect in charge of the project, noted that over 30% of the material was original, including the front door.[1]


Price 35 cents

OLD FORT NISQUALLY LIVES AGAIN

WELCOME
TO
POINT DEFIANCE PARK, TACOMA, WASH.

Written by Della Gould Emmons, Author of "Sacajawea of the Shoshones," "Nothing In Life Is Free," "Northwest History in Action," "Leschi of the Nisquallies."

Booklet, 1967, courtesy Fort Nisqually Permanent Collection

Although we call it the "Factor's House", this is a later nickname, applied by Edward Huggins in his writing around the turn of the 20th century. Contemporary records refer to it as the Large House, or the "New House" in 1854 and 1855. Tolmie refers to the earlier "Tyee" House (another Huggins appellation) simply as the "Officers' Dwelling House" on the 1847 map of Fort Nisqually and its surroundings. During the reconstruction in the 1930s, Thomas Huggins, one of Edward's sons, contributed greatly to the efforts at accuracy, and Edward's letters provided much of the information for the museum as well. As a result, museum staff and volunteers still refer to it as the "Factor's House" in casual conversation today.[2]

Throughout the "pioneer" fort period (c. 1940-1980), the Factor's House was the de facto museum and supported such office space with modern amenities as could be afforded space and funding. In fact, visitors and caretakers would often simply refer to it as "the museum".[3] It was not until 2003 that the interior was restored to its historic appearance of 1855, and the "back-of-house" museum functions

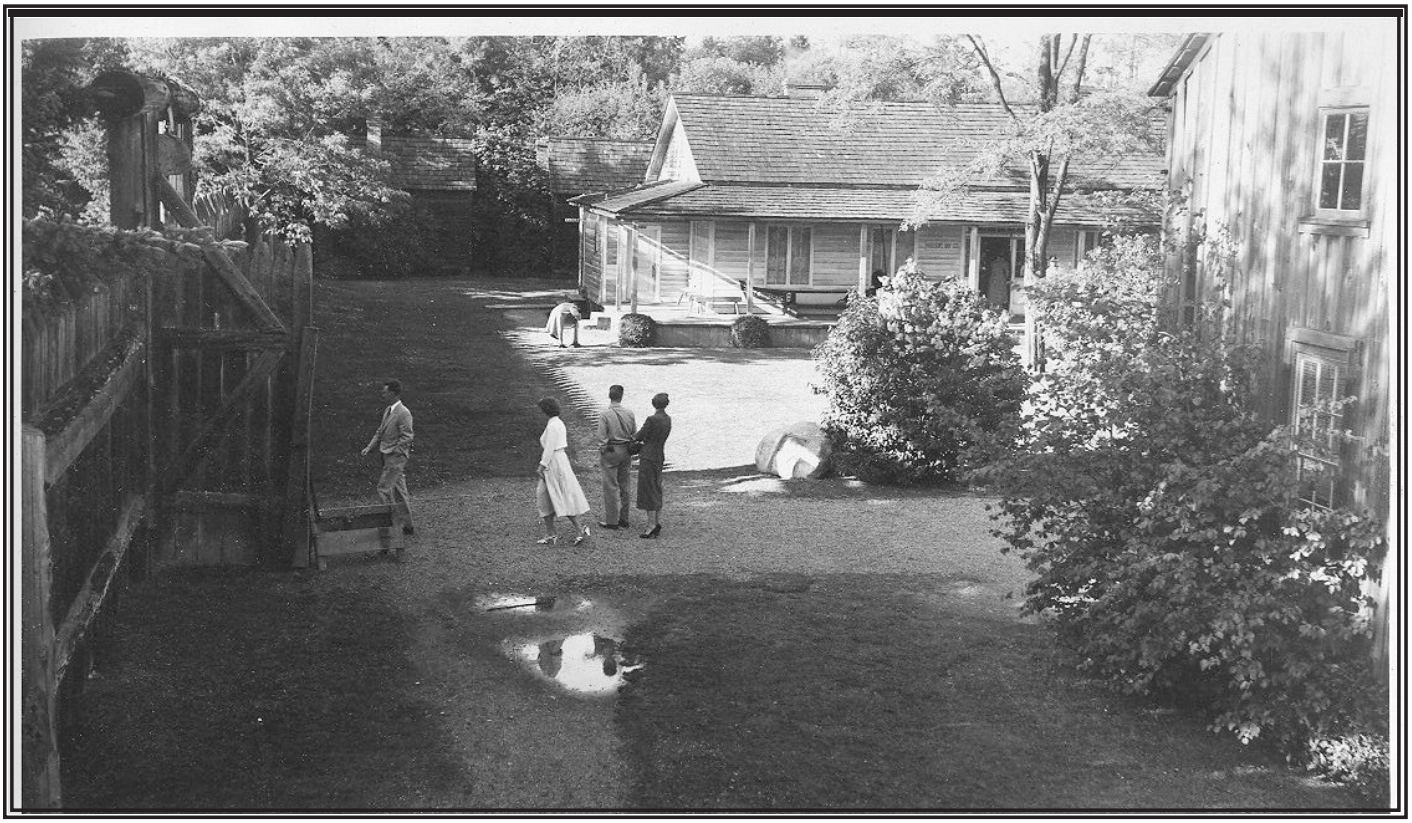
moved elsewhere. The 2003 project also saw the removal of the enclosed wings added by Huggins and the application of a covered veranda that wrapped around all four sides of the house. Based on extensive historical research and architectural examinations, the restored structure accurately evokes the 1855 appearance of Dr. Tolmie's dwelling house, inside and out.

Despite the many modifications to the house over the years, there was one component which did not need to be restored in 2003, and in fact has remained unchanged since the Huggins family lived in the home. Specifically, the steep, narrow stairway leading to the unfinished attic has remained untouched through the years. The uneven wooden stairs leading the way to the attic may seem like more of a hazard than an historical asset, yet the green paint on the stairway risers is believed to date to the 19th century, and may provide a glimpse into an early decorating scheme.[4] The tread of feet over 40 years of occupation in the house, in addition to the other 100+ years of use, has left a noticeable wear down the center of the staircase. Small details like these help enhance the day-to-day reality of this structure that was not only a place of business for the HBC and PSAC – large, international corporations – but also a home used daily. The unfinished attic was likely used for storage, a vital resource for any dwelling.[5]

In addition to a business and a home, the structure was also a history museum, open for tours for over seventy years. When the Factor's House and Granary were moved to Point Defiance in 1933, the goal was to recreate the 1843 site layout and rebuild the remaining structures to create a tourist experience unlike anything else in the area. Places like Mystic Seaport and Colonial Williamsburg were only just getting their start as tourist destinations in the early 1930s, capitilizing on what would come to be called "heritage tourism". On the West Coast, the Oregon Trail Memorial Association in Oregon was striving to raise awareness of the overland pioneers of the 19th century. The Tacoma Chamber of Commerce along with the Young Men's Business Club saw the opportunity to raise the profile of Puget Sound history by creating a local historic tourist destination, while at the same time providing work to the unemployed during the Great Depression.[6] Sure enough, the restored post drew crowds throughout 1934. A September article in the Canadian magazine *The Beaver* covered the Fort's history and restoration, noting that "without any special publicity, 2000 cars in one day visited the park to inspect the old granary, which had been carefully dismantled and re-erected at the new location."[7] The opening day celebrations were exciting (including a staged "Indian attack" detailed in contemporary newspapers and an earlier *Occurrences* article)[8] and the fort continued to prove a popular attraction over the years for families looking for an educational tourist stop. There were caretakers who lived on site at the Fort and provided tours for school groups and tourists, encouraging the visitors to sign a guestbook, leaving their name and where they were visiting from.

Some visitors took it upon themselves to leave their name

Photo of Fort Nisqually, c. 1960, courtesy Fort Nisqually files.



on more than just the guestbook. Scratched in pencil on the doorjamb and door of the upstairs attic room are names and dates from the 1930s. Likely the work of rebellious young people, the penciled-on names of these visitors have become part of the history of the Fort and the Factor's House in a tangible way, for better or worse. The presence of this hidden graffiti speaks to the nature of humanity[9] but also to the interest in the past that compelled Edward Huggins to save the *Journal of Occurrences* from the HBC days in the first place. Such was his passion for history that he wrote essays and letters preserving the incidents in his memory for future generations. The early visitors to the restored Fort Nisqually were curious about their ancestors, and were perhaps attracted by the romanticized past full of noble Indians doomed to extinction, hardy pioneers who risked their lives to establish a better life for their children, and the foreign "Bay men" who made such an impression with their wooden fortress.

Although today we strive to tell a more complete version of this history, "Old Fort Nisqually" is as much a part of our history as is Edward Huggins. We continually create the past each moment we look back at the pieces of evidence, whether written, photographed, or constructed, applying our own experiences and prejudices to them. In the midst of this, it's important to remember that the events we read about actually did happen, and the people in them were just as real and alive as you or me. Likewise, visitors today may have more in common with the visitors of 1937 than 1837, but all form a part of the narrative of Fort Nisqually.

As a living history museum, Fort Nisqually has dedicated itself to preserving the memories of the earliest inhabitants of this place, and bringing the stories to life in the imagination of each visitor that steps through the doors. As an artifact, the Factor's House provides a three-dimensional way for people to enter into those stories in a unique, physical way. As an original building, not only does one have the framework of a reproduction with which to orient oneself to a different setting, but there is a tangible connection. One might even say the Factor's House (and the Granary) provides a four-dimensional experience: height, breadth, depth, and a sense of time all connect the inhabitant to these historic landmarks.

Left: "July 8, 1938" is written in large letters, and the name "Katie" can be seen below it.

Below: Pencil-markings on the doorjam in the Factor's House attic deface the wood. The names of early visitors, along with the date of their visits are barely legible.

For more details about the restoration of Fort Nisqually in Point Defiance Park in the 1930s, check out the upcoming temporary exhibit "Saving Fort Nisqually". Opening January 14th, 2017, this exhibit will explore the impulses that inspired the reconstruction, the methods, and the people who made it possible.

Endnotes

1. Boyle, Wagoner Architects, "The Large House at Fort Nisqually, Building Condition Survey" August 1988, pg. 2.1.

2. Bill Rhind, "Getting Back to History: Names of Buildings" *Occurrences* Vol. 27, no. 4 (Fall 2009), 2.

3. Interview with John Simon, who lived at the Fort with his parents when his mother was caretaker, 1948-1968. Research Library, Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, interview conducted by Claire Keller-Scholz, September 27, 2016.

4. It is undetermined whether the paint was added by the Tolmies or the Huggins family at a later date.

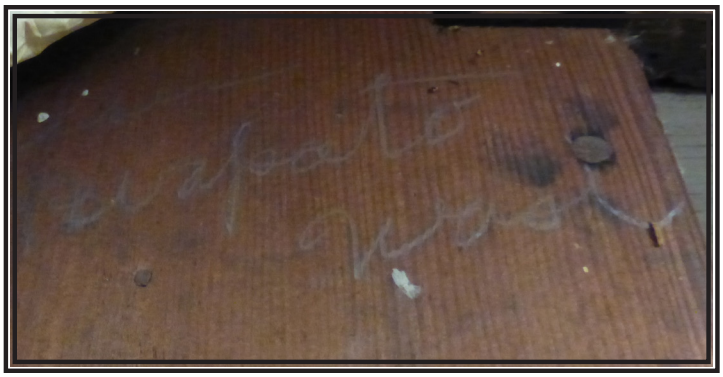
5. Boyle, Wagoner Architects, "The Large House at Fort Nisqually, Building Condition Survey" August 1988, pg. 2.13.

6. Correspondence between T.A. Stevenson, Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from the Tacoma Young Men's Business Club, 1934, Della Gould Emmons Papers, Fort Nisqually Permanent Collection; "On December 29, 1929, Edward E. Bradley, an industrialist; Carl C. Cutler, a lawyer; and Dr. Charles K. Stillman, a physician; signed the papers incorporating the Marine Historical Association, today known as Mystic Seaport," with the goal of creating a museum to enshrine the past and inspire the future. "History" Mystic Seaport website, http://www.mysticseaport.org/about/history/, accessed November 26, 2016.

7. Alfred L. Gehri, "Fort Nisqually Lives Again" *The Beaver*, Outfit 265 (September 1934), 54.

8. Bill Rhind, "How Fort Nisqually Got to Point Defiance Park", *Occurrences* Vol. 29, no. 3 (Fall 2011), 1.

9. It's human nature to want to leave one's mark and be remembered. Much like hearts carved into trees, or the "Kilroy was here" graffiti from American G.I.'s overseas in WWII, the penciled names in the Factor's House attic mark a moment in time.



A guest from "Wapato, Wash" left his or her mark in the Factor's House attic.

Artifact in Focus

Factor's House Hall Table

By Claire Keller-Scholz ~ Curator

Table, Fort Nisqually Permanent Collection, 2016.03.01

"Marble-topped hall table, with two drawers. Two pedestal legs rest on a base with four wheeled castors. The table measures 29.5 inches tall, 48 inches wide, and 23 inches deep."

-PastPerfect artifact catalog entry

During the research into the restoration of the Factor's House in 2003, curators Bill Rhind and Doreen Beard uncovered evidence about the original parlor table. The Bill of Lading from 1859 contains a reference to "1 table + drawers" that was part of the Tolmies' move to Victoria, British Columbia. There, the Tolmies had a house and farm named Cloverdale, where the family lived for many years.

In the 1930s, the Tolmie estate was put up for auction. The newspaper *The Daily Colonist* dated December 10, 1937 covered the auction and refers to a table at the estate sale as "a heavy marble-topped table on solid round legs and wide base. To be sold today, this was among the original furnishings placed in Cloverdale in 1859…The table stands on the spot where in the early history of Cloverdale, tenants of the estate received their weekly measure of supplies." Whether these two separate table citations are referring to the same table is uncertain.

The marble topped table mentioned in the article was purchased by McLoughlin House in Oregon City, Oregon,

operated by the National Park Service. According to Fort Vancouver's former curator David Hansen, the table dates to the mid 19th century, which would make it approrpiate as furnishing in the 1855 Factor's House. Per the available historical records, it seems likely that whatever table was originally in the parlor at Fort Nisqually was rectangular in shape. The reference in the Bill of Lading almost certainly negates a round table as it had drawers. The fact that it was an important enough piece to be shipped to Victoria argues for a manufactured table rather than country-made.

An October 1854 listing of items at the Fort that were charged to the Puget Sound Agricultural Company has "1 check Grenadine Shawl For new house table cover". Grenadine was a fine leno-weave mesh, probably made in silk in the 1850's. In the future, an appropriate reproduction of a grenadine shawl will be added (60 inches or more square) to complete the look of the marble-topped table.

This summer, thanks to volunteer (and past curator)Bill Rhind's on-going quest, we found an antique, marble-topped table almost identical in appearance to the historic Tolmie table currently on display in McLoughin House. Visit our new table in the hallway of the Factor's House today!

Left: Marble-top table, photo courtesy Fort Nisqually files.

This is the new table! Note the two drawers, with wooden knobs, and pedestal legs. Not pictured are castors on the base of the legs.

The importers were selling this table along with its mate as "bathroom counters" due to their marble tops.

It dates to the mid-19th century, but no manufacturer's information has been discovered at this time.

Right: McLoughlin House, courtesy Fort Nisqually files, c. 1990.

This is the table purchased from the Tolmie Estate auction in the 1930s, believed to be the same as that mentioned in the shipping record in 1859.

This table measures 44 1/2 inches long, 30 inches tall, and 30 3/4 inches deep. The newly acquired Fort Nisqually Permanent Collection table (above) measures 48 inches long, 29.5 inches tall, and 23 inches deep, which is just slightly taller and wider than the original Tolmie table at McLoughlin house.

Déjà Vu

Classic Articles from the Archives

God Sends Meat and the Devil Sends Cooks: The Troubled Kitchen at Fort Nisqually

By Jerry Eckrom ~ Contributor

This article was originally published in Occurrences*, Spring 2006 and explores a number of primary source vignettes about the Fort's kitchen.*

When Fort Nisqually was restored at Point Defiance in the 1930s, two small buildings erected in the Northwest corner were designated as the laundry and the kitchen. Neither was apparently intended to be functional, and both ended up as storage rooms, sitting largely unnoticed by the public for much of their lives. It was only in the 1990s that the kitchen was furnished in convincing fashion, becoming a striking final stop for visitors to the annual Fort Nisqually Candlelight Tour. One year the kitchen was staffed by teenage girls who took turns delivering food to a ball being held next door in the Tolmie home, returning each time to excitedly describe the gowns they saw in almost stitch by stitch detail. The scene, lit by candles, was mesmerizing. One woman compared it to Mount Vernon. Another visitor grew curious about a large pot of water steaming on a tripod over a wood fire outside the kitchen.

"For washing dishes", a guide informed him. He shook his head and murmured "A whole different world." It looked so idyllic that no one would imagine the real history of the Fort Nisqually kitchen included lurid episodes of insanity, crime and murder. The first building specifically designed to serve as a kitchen on the original Fort Nisqually site was begun by two workmen squaring logs into timbers in February 1834. Work was completed by late May and was likened in the *Journal of Occurrences* to the appearance of a farmer's cottage. There were surely a number of cooks across time, but the first identified in the *Journal* on December 15, 1835 was an employee named Mowat, who tended cattle and cooked for the chief trader.

Another kitchen seems to have been built soon after Fort Nisqually was relocated to what became known as the 1843 site. It was another of the standard post-in-sill HBC timber frame buildings, probably using some timbers salvaged from the original fort site. Another, more substantial, kitchen was built in 1851, and by 1854 the "old kitchen" was pulled down. The 1851 kitchen, eventually growing to 14 by 22 feet, stood until the late 1860s. The *Journal of Occurrences* covering the period from 1860-69 has not yet been transcribed, **[Ed. note: It has since been transcribed]** but a cursory scan of the microfilm copy shows several more references to the kitchen:

October 4, 1867
Purchased a stove for kitchen use from Mrs. Gallagher of Steilacoom

May 12, 1868

Cowie whitewashing kitchen.

November 13, 1868

Huggins purchased 250' of flooring in town to be used in building a little kitchen adjoining the pantry, the present kitchen being inconveniently situated so far from House and ____ open to weather.

November 16, 1868

Men purchasing material for new kitchen.

November 20, 1868

Men working on kitchen.

November 23, 1868

Bought a cook stove.

May 5, 1869
Man making kitchen repairs.

The Fort Nisqually kitchen, in its many incarnations, served its purpose well. The trouble had much more to do with a series of bad fortune experienced by a succession of cooks or by those who employed them.

On May 24, 1851, the fort's *Journal of Occurrences* noted the arrival of Richard Thornhill and his wife on the ship *Orbit*. They were part of a group of about 15 laborers dispatched from England. In the days following his arrival, Thornhill worked with the French Canadian Jean Baptist Chaulifoux on a variety of woodworking tasks. On the 17th of June came the first clue that this was a troubled man: "The Englishman Thornhill was taken last night with a fit of insanity & has continued bad ever since, as to require the attendance

of two men, [William] Cross & [Richard] Fiander. He was struck by the sun on his passage out and has been subject to [fits?] ever since." On the 20th he was noted as doing well, and on the 25th he was assisting in weighing wool bales, but on the 30th, there was a garish indication that his domestic life was something less than stable. "Cross and Thornhill off to Newmarket in chase of T[hornhill]'s wife who disappeared this morning, and is supposed to have made towards N[ewmarke]t with a sister runaway & two sailors from Victoria."

The *Journal of Occurrences* was a work record, not a social register or a scandal sheet, and it leaves posterity with no clues as to why Mrs. Thornhill chose to run away, or why she returned with her husband the next day. We do know that the officers in charge of the fort retained confidence in Richard Thornhill. On July 4, he began his recorded association with the kitchen, when the *Journal* made mention of "Thornhill partitioning off Kitchen to make room for himself & wife. He will for the future serve as cook and steward." Evidently the 'steward' part of his duties included acting as a servant in the Tolmie household.

In the ensuing months, Thornhill was twice reported ill, this time presumably physically rather than mentally. In December, without explanation, he was out of the kitchen doing a series of odd jobs around the fort. Then on December 8, a new figure appeared with a notation in the journal:

"Thornhill & [William] Sales unpacking & airing furs that arrived yesterday. The man Sales is a hand from Victoria who arrived by steamer in search of his wife, an English woman who came here some time ago on a visit to Mrs. Dean. Sales wishes to stop & work out his time at this Fort." Was this domestic trouble again, and what would the fort do with him? On December 16, there was a terse *Journal* entry: "…Sales put into kitchen to act as cook and steward." By February 1852, Sales was off on other jobs, and Thornhill was back in the kitchen, again without explanation. The months slipped uneventfully by, and in August Dr. Tolmie even took Thornhill along as steward on a canoe journey to Victoria. Again, nothing more was heard until December 6, when Thornhill announced his intention to leave the fort to reside in Victoria. A Snohomish Indian named Cush was appointed to take his place as steward.

As it turned out, Thornhill stayed on, performing a variety of tasks in the months that followed. In July 1853 he was caught stealing potatoes, but there seems to have been no consequences. He went on working about the fort, and the journal continued to be silent about activity in the kitchen. Since the few mentions of the kitchen generally pertain to changes in personnel, it can be presumed that Cush continued as cook. The journal entries continued prosaically along, as if the kitchen had never existed, and then on September 27, 1854 came a notation "George Palmer (a negro) engaged to serve the P[uget] S[ound] Company's service as cook, and commenced this day." No one expended any ink to tell us what became of Cush, but the Palmer era was destined to be short. On December 5, the journal noted "Cowie putting up shelves in kitchen. Sam or Auoha is cook at present. The negro Palmer having been taken and confined in the guard house at Steilacoom for selling liquor to the Indians."

The *Journal of Occurrences* tells us precious little about Sam. Someone named Sam shows up in the journal as early as 1849, but this appears to be a simple coincidence in names. Normally little or nothing would be known of a laborer's family. They were typically mentioned only if they died or interfered with work by committing some crime or running away. We have a rare trove of information on Sam and his family from an unexpected source. Early in the 20th century applications were being taken for membership in the Quinault Tribe. The Quinault Reservation was rather large, and natives born to other northwest tribes were allowed to apply to reside there. In January 1917, Ashel Simmons came forward to say under oath that she was "born in Nisqually on December 24, 1862 of full Nisqually and Yakima blood – one half…that her father was Sam Kaliloa, a native of the Hawaiian Islands, born about 1830 and came to this country in 1854. He was a cook by occupation, he died at Port Madison on – or during 1870." When asked about her mother, Ashael declared that "my mother was Mary Sam – a full Nisqually and Yakima Indian. Her Indian name was Mis-it-twa. She died at the home of my half-brother, Morris B. Charles – on Feb. 6, 1915…My mother's father was a full Nisqually Indian named P'hew-youyo-koop. The date of his birth and death are not known. My mother's mother was a full Yakima Indian, her name was Parsas-pup. She died at Steilacoom on May 15, 1878." Presumably Sam continued in the Fort Nisqually kitchen and discharged his duties in satisfactory style.

The great Brigade Encampment of 1855 came and went. The Puget Sound Indian war raged and passed into history, all with nary a mention of trouble in the kitchen. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, came the shortest cooking career in the history of Fort Nisqually. June 16, 1856…"Gwankey assisting Mrs. Tolmie in kitchen." That was the beginning and end of Jane Tolmie's culinary career biography. On the 25th there was an ominous note – "Sam cook today, but worse for drink." Thereafter both he and Gwankey appear attending to general chores in the fields. At about the same time, there were a few mentions of an Indian woman cooking for the large numbers of natives assisting with the crops. Presumably this was taking place somewhere other than in the fort's kitchen.

In September there was a memorable farewell to Richard

Thornhill. On the 21st Edward Huggins noted in the *Journal of Occurrences* "Went out to Muck - found all hands drinking. [William] Grieg not with his sheep for two days – ordered Thornhill about his business and he would not go, defied me to make him leave the house, tried to put him out – when he struck me on the face – I gave him a good thrashing – Thornhill is a useless mess and is adept at swearing and lying." It is possible that Cush continued to take turns as a cook at intervals, for the journal makes several notations of his drunken state without describing his work activities. The most glaring entry came on November 12th – "Cush drunk, which makes three days this week! Gwankany the cook" The mention of the two names in the same sentence suggests Gwankany may have been pressed into service as cook when Cush was too drunk to carry out his duties.

A long train of events propelled Cush into a moment of stark tragedy. It began with a fierce knife fight between a group of Snoqualmies and Nisquallies that left several dead and others badly cut up. The grudge festered, and in the spring of 1858 some of the same Snoqualmie survivors were back, landing on the beach below the Nisqually encampment, and apparently looking for vengeance. A struggle broke out in the night and a Nisqually named Gohome, who had figured prominently in the earlier fight, shot one of the Snoqualmies dead. Gohome was stabbed twice, and a female relative who tried to protect him was badly wounded as well.

Volunteer Lawrence Bradley often portrays Richard Thornhill in the period kitchen. Courtesy Fort Nisqually files.

Edward Huggins, Chief Clerk, and later Chief Trader at Fort Nisqually recalled the aftermath in a 1900 newspaper article: "The surviving Snoqualmies made their escape in the timber and it was supposed gained their canoe, and soon placed some distance between themselves and the Sequalitchew.

"But the Nisquallys were woefully mistaken in thinking themselves safe, as they soon found to their sorrow. The cook at the fort, or one of the cooks, for there was generally more than one, was a Snohomish Indian named Cush, whom I think I have before mentioned in one of my stories. However, he was a jolly, good-natured Indian, full of fun, when not full of whisky, and was liked by every one whites and Indians. "On the day after the fight and after a hot time in the kitchen, Cush, feeling tired, went to the corner house of a row standing upon the north side of the fort and in which some of the workingmen lived, and threw himself upon a bed, with the intention of sleeping. There was no one else in the house which was about twenty five or thirty feet from the veranda of the newly erected principle house (the tyee house). Mrs. Tolmie, the wife of Dr. Tolmie, the gentleman in charge of the establishment at the time, was standing on the veranda and saw Cush enter.

"The place was exceedingly quiet, as almost all of its inhabitants were lying down, taking it easy. It was the custom of the place to rest for two or three hours in the middle of the day during the heated term, and make up for it by working as soon as daylight appeared in the morning.

"Mrs. Tolmie noticed an Indian, a stranger to her, sneak through the open postern gate, on the north side of the fort, and gun in hand quietly creep along the side of the house in which Cush was sleeping. Not for a moment thinking of the purpose of the Indian she remained quiet until she saw him peer into the window, raise his gun, already cocked, and point at something in the room. She then, fearing the intruder meant no good, screamed out just as the gun was

discharged. Poor Cush was shot, fatally, and died a day or two afterwards.

"The murderer immediately ran out of the fort, and after him a young half breed Iroquois, named Ignance, with a gun. He fired, and it is supposed hit the escaping Indian, but the latter didn't fall; with his three or four companions who were awaiting him at the beach with a canoe he succeeded in getting safely away. They gained their own country down the Sound where our up Sound Indians dared not follow them.

"Cush was regretted by all with whom he was acquainted, for he was really a remarkable Indian, possessing a fund of humor, and powers of mimicry, seldom seen among Indians. He had a way of speaking broken English, which was irresistibly funny, and the poor fellow's tragic death was a loss hard to replace, and some of us had serious thought of perpetuating his memory by the erection of a little monument or headstone; but like the generality of such good intentions, this was never done.

"It was afterwards learned that the killing of Cush was a mistake. The Indian took him for Gohome, and I never learned how the feud ended. Gohome strange to say was not killed but died a natural death, accelerated, no doubt, by the many wounds he received during his lifetime."

This would seem to be enough madness, crime and murder for one kitchen, but a long forgotten letter by Edward Huggins suggests that one more cook gained notoriety in later years, adding massacre to the list of crimes associated with the fort's kitchen. In the P. S. to a post script to an October 14, 1903 letter to historian Clarence Bagley, Huggins wrote recalling the October 1855 massacre of 8 settlers in the White River Valley near present day Auburn at the start of the Puget Sound Indian War: "I can't bring myself to believe that Nelson (Pilchen) Chief of the Green River Indians was present at the White River Massacre. He was a good kind hearted fellow when I knew him. When he was 15 or 16 years of age he came to us and worked about the fort as an assistant steward. He looked after my room, and assisted in the kitchen. He didn't remain long tho."

If the old kitchen could talk, it might speak to us of much more than stews and steaks and crusty bread. Small wonder that John Taylor observed, as far back as 1630, "God sends meat, and the Devil sends cooks."

Works Cited

Dickey, George, ed. *Journal of Occurrences at Fort Nisqually,* published by Fort Nisqually Historic Site, Metro Parks Tacoma, May 1990.

Edward Huggins, correspondence, c. 1900, from transcribed copy. Orginal letters are located in the Manuscript Collection in the Clarence B. Bagley Collection, University of Washington.

Some of the many kitchen utensils noted in Fort records

"Sept. 25th, on account of P S. Cos" 1854
(Nisqually Papers, Reel 7)

1 mincing knife	"For pantry use"
1 B. M . Tea Pot 8 gills	"For pantry use"
1 tin kettle #1	"For pantry use"
½ lb Pepper	"For pantry use"
1 lb Soap	"For pantry use"

"October, on account of P.S. Coy" 1854
(Nisqually Papers, Reel 7)

2 lbs Mot. Soap	"For kitchen use"
1 hand saw file	"For pantry use"

(probably used for sharpening knives)

"For Fort Use" 1854
(Nisqually Papers Reel 10)

2 Earthenware quart bowls Nt. Tint	Cost .10 each
1 Earthenware quart bowl White	Cost .04
1/6 doz Scrubbing Brushes	Cost .96 for all
1 doz Cups & Saucers Nt. Tint	Cost 1.15
3 Earthenware Dishes #18	Cost 5.25 for all
2 Earthenware Dishes #16	Cost 2.68 for all
5 Vegetable Dishes	Cost 5.75 for all
4 lustre Jugs 2 pints	Cost 2.54 for all
2 lustre Jugs 1 pint	Cost .52 for all
3 Tin Kettles #1	Cost 3.45 for all
2 Tin Kettles #5	Cost 1.34 for all
½ doz forebuck Table Knives & Forks	Cost 1.92 for all
1 ½ doz B.M. Table Spoons	Cost 1.72 for all
2 ½ doz B.M. Tea Spoons	Cost 1.20 for all
1/6 doz B.M. Soup Spoons (2 Ladles)	Cost .77 for all
20 Earthenware luster Mugs	Cost 3.60 for all

Hands on History

Learning from the Past

Coat Tales: Chesterfield, Taglioni, and Paletot... what can we learn about men's top-garments at Fort Nisqually?

By Nancy Keller-Scholz ~ Historic Interpreter

Frances Anne Hopkins, "Shooting the Rapids" 1879, from the book, An Illustrated History of the Hudson's Bay Company, *pg. 111-112.*

Take a look at the voyageurs in Frances Anne Hopkins painting "Shooting the Rapids." Do you see what they are wearing? Now take a closer look at their colorful garments. Yes, they are each wearing at least two shirts, the top shirt's sleeves rolled up for action.[1]

Looking at paintings done during the mid-19th century can give us many clues as to what our population working here at Fort Nisqually was wearing.

It came to me as somewhat of a surprise that the men in these paintings are wearing multiple layers of shirts. I began a survey of many genre paintings (paintings of the mid-1800s which show people in their everyday life.) It became clear that men wore multiple layers of shirts and top-garments for their everyday attire. The type of garment would vary with the climate as well as the occupation of the wearer.

When you think about the general weather conditions of an outdoor lifestyle in North America, and consider that the homes of the nineteenth century were not usually well heated and insulated as in our modern world, this makes sense. Anyone who has lived in our Pacific Northwest with its changeable weather knows that dressing in multiple layers works best. The cut of our clothes then, as well as now, are chosen for safety and comfort while working.

Depending on their employment, men in the mid-1800s would have been wearing one or more layers, including a coat, over their vest for daily attire. This might be a working man's over-smock, for occupations such as animal care/shepherding, or cart driving, woolen over-shirts for cool

damp days, or it might be one of a variety of coats that were available, some for specific purposes such as hunting.

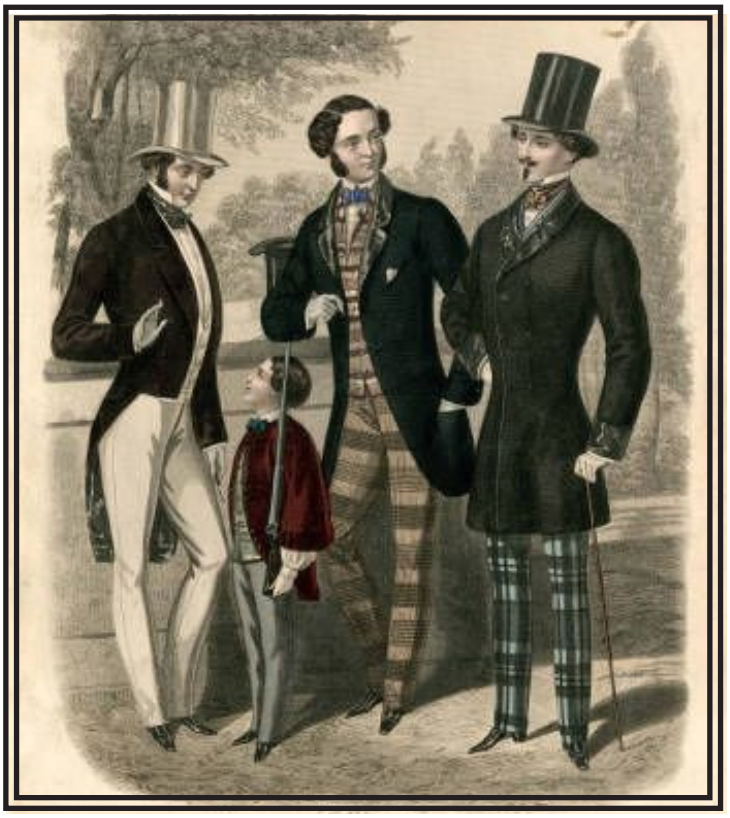
So what sort of coats and top-garments were available and being worn at Fort Nisqually in the mid-1850s?

In checking the records of the Sales Shop which account for Fort Nisqually employees purchasing, as well as accounts of incoming inventory for sale in the Sales Shop, I found all sorts of interesting names for coats. Taglioni? That's a heavy over-coat of wool, in a frock-coat style that was popular from the 1840s through the 1850s. Chesterfield? That's a wool overcoat of a less fitted style, often double breasted. Shooting Jackets also appeared to be very popular with both the administrators as well as the laborers. These were long unfitted coats with four large, flap-covered pockets for game and shooting accoutrements.[2] Paletot? That's a coat cut almost like a frock coat, the difference being that the paletot has no waist seam for the "skirt."

How about the "Oxonian Alpaca" coat listed on the inventory, and the other Oxonian coats? We discovered that "Oxonian" refers to a style originating on the Oxford University, England, campus. It refers to a particular cut of the coat, then the fabric choice follows. Another very popular coat with both the gentleman and laborers of Fort Nisqually was the Sack Coat. I believe that the many "Oxonian" and "Russic Cord" coats bought by fort employees would have been this type of coat. This was an unfitted overcoat, shorter than the frock coat. If the weather was extremely cold, a man might need a very heavy wool coat to wear over the other coats called a "great coat." In his journal, Dr. Tolmie talks about sheltering under his large tartan cloak with an inner layer of oilcloth as he traveled up the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver via canoe in the driving rain for his first taste of Pacific Northwest weather in 1833.[3]

A variety of materials were used for these coats. India rubber, linen, corduroy, alpaca and cachmerette wool, tweed, beavertine, and moleskin are just some of the fabrics noted as coat materials. In the inventory of goods bought by HBC employees ("Servants Accounts") we see that the "gentleman's tweed shooting coat #2" is purchased by both Edward Huggins as well as a number of laborers, including Charles Legacie.[4] There are also a lot of corduroy and "shepherd's plaid trousers" being purchased, but I will save that discussion for another article!

In summary of my venture into the world of men's outerwear at Fort Nisqually, I found that although it is easy to assume that "only gentlemen wore coats, and that coat was always a frock coat," this is not reflected in the records of the fort. By looking at the purchasing records, we see that both gentlemen and laborers at Fort Nisqually wore many types of coats, and almost certainly wore other outer garments for their specific jobs, not mentioned in the records. As Living



Courtesy of the Libraries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, fashion plate titled "Men's Wear 1850-1859, Plate 027". Note the variety of cuts of the coats.

History Clothing Coordinator, this has been my first step in improving our living history clothing available for the men of our volunteer corps. We will be adding new inventory of men's outer-garments in the coming year so that our volunteers may more accurately portray the original inhabitants of Fort Nisqually and Puget's Sound Agricultural Company.

As I recently told a group of ALHFAM conference attendees, the first step in getting accurate period clothing is always research, research, research! So look for new and more accurate men's clothing as it appears on our living history stage in the coming year.

Endnotes

1. Frances Anne Hopkins was an English painter who married a Hudson Bay Company man in 1858. She traveled with him on his work in North America and sketched the HBC voyagers as they carried the furs by canoe through the wilderness. Later, when she returned to England she painted the scenes she had sketched.

2. "Servant's Accounts, 1854" transcribed by Steve Anderson, Nisqually Papers, Soliday Collection, Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

3. William F. Tolmie, *Physician and Fur Trader: The Journals of William Fraser Tolmie* (Vancouver: Mitchell Press Limited, 1963), pg 166.

4. "Servant's Accounts, 1854" transcribed pages 7 and 27.

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Elaine Perdue Ramsey Fund for Fort Nisqually.
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Occurrences updates

Letter to the Editor

Thanks to our vigilant readers for providing intelligent feedback and some additional pieces of the historic puzzle! We'd like to publish excerpts from a letter we received, about our sidebar "**Profile of a Laborer: Richard Fiander**" from pg. 6 of the last issue. Historian and previous Curator/Fort manager Steve Anderson's comments are in italics, the regular text is from the article:

"an Englishman named Richard or "Dick" Fiander (sometimes spelled Fiandre), who sailed from England on the ship Troy in 1852..."

The letters have him arriving at Nisqually in May 1851

"....during his tenure Fiandre filed a claim with Washington Territory while signing a Company affidavit stating that he was doing so on behalf of the PSAC; decided he actually wanted to claim the land and unsuccessfully tried to take Muck station for himself..."

his affidavit is in the letterbook project - there he concedes that he does not claim the land at Muck - only that he wishes to once the PSAC's claim is gone. Kind of thinking ahead?

"Fiandre's Native American wife "Betsy" was listed on his 1853 land claim, filed on behalf of the PSAC. Later, Edward Huggins recalls that he married the widow of Scottish laborer Sandy Smith, and lived on the plains around Puget Sound in the 1860s."

Lyman "Sandy" Smith was not a PSAC employee, ever. Huggins and others believe that his wife Kate shot him dead, as he was reportedly very abusive to her and their children - the whole affair was written off as a gunshot accident. Hummmmm? Fiander married her after his death.

"....Descendants from both branches of the Fiander family tree can still be found in the Pacific Northwest today."

Some of those descedants are with Chaulifoux's group.

Thanks for the notes, Steve!

Reader Poll

In the spirit of good feedback, what do you, dear reader, think of changing the third issue of each year from "Fall" to "Winter" in name? Technically it is published in the Fall (that is, pre-December 21st and the first day of Winter), but it often is enjoyed and read during the winter months. Drop me a line at: ckellerscholz@gmail.com
I look forward to your e-mails!

2017 Calendar of Events

Jan, Feb, March	"Trapped" program
April 15, 2017	Sewing to Sowing
May 20, 2017	Queen Victoria's Birthday
June 24, 2017	Plough to Plate

2017 Museum Hours

October 1 - April 30
Open Wednesday - Sunday
11 am - 4 pm

May 1 - September 30
Open seven days a week
11 am - 5 pm

The Museum Store is open when the Fort is open.
The Fort is closed some holidays. Please check the website for more inforamtion.

The Research Library is open on Thursday afternoons.
1pm - 4 pm *or* by appointment.

Admission Charged
Free admission with
Fort Nisqually Foundation membership

*** Please check the Fort Nisqually website for hours and current admission fees.***

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