



Strait History

VOLUME XVII SUMMER 2023 NUMBER 3

MISSION STATEMENT

We connect the future, through the present, with the past.

2023 NOHC Meeting Dates

NOHC Board Meetings: Second Monday of the month at noon on Zoom and in the ASF conference room.

Membership Committee: Second Monday of the month at 2 PM on Zoom and in the ASF conference room.

Collections Committee: Last Tuesday of the month at 11 AM in the Research Library.

2023 NOHC Program Dates

Learning Our Landscape Presentation Series: Second Thursday of the month at 3 PM on Zoom (link on website and Facebook page).

2023 Other Dates

Wednesday (through October) - Street Market, 5-7 PM

October 7 - "Sluicing the Hogback" Van Tour of Port Angeles

November 7 - Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Research Library - 931 West 9th Street, Port Angeles 360-452-2662

Open - Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 am - 2 pm or by appointment

More on our website www.northolympichistory.org
Remember to "Like Us" on our facebook page www.facebook.com/northolympichistorycenter

Volunteers at Work!



Clallam County Fair



Numerous volunteers were needed to staff the booth at the Clallam County Fair on its four day run. Executive Director David Brownell takes a shift. Booth was well received by the public with lots of interest in NOHC.



Maritime Festival

Executive Director David Brownell and volunteer Paul Gleeson man the booth at the Maritime Festival on the wharf in Port Angeles.



Archive Storage

Volunteer Steve Hargis hangs the display of the tools used at the Elwa Dam in the archive storage building.

Underground Heritage Tours

NOHC's Steve Hargis is one of the guides for the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce that leads a 2-hour tour passing through parts of the downtown buried when the city streets were raised in 1914 as well visiting other historic building.



Downtown streets being raised

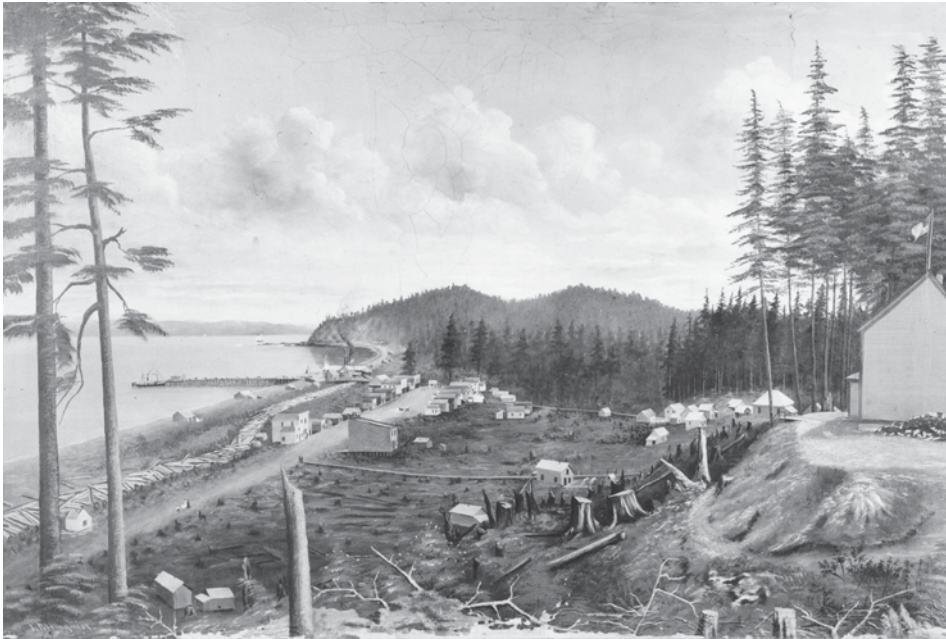


Steve begins the tour with a slide show



It All Started With An “Unknown Artist”

This year in the spring Karolyn Burdick, the de facto historian Sekiu, Clallam Bay, and the communities along the northern coast of Clallam County, wrote an article about Early Clallam Bay for the *Local Sunset Times*. Her article had a photo of a sketch of a painting of early Clallam Bay, circa late 1880s, and listed the artist as unknown.



Here at the History Center, we are avid readers of Karolyn’s articles, and it prompted one of our research librarians to say, “I think we have a photo like that.” That led to a search of our photo archives (which BTW are currently being cataloged and uploaded our online catalog at <https://nohc.catalogaccess.com/home>). Not only did we have the photo and could see that it was signed by John Blomquist, but it had a wealth of information about the photo on the back including the size of the painting (3’x5’), who has it (a relative of the artist) and pointing out buildings, what they were used for and where they were located in relation to present day.

We did a little more online searching and found that a number of his notebooks, and sketchbooks including the one that he did of East Clallam Bay for the painting, are housed in the archives of the American-Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN.

We sent Karolyn all this information. She was thrilled. That led to many fruitful phone and email conversations with the director of that institution. And Karolyn received several JPEGs showing other early photographic images of Clallam Bay, Slip Point in the late 1880s, and a photo of Blomquist and his family taken in Seattle prior to 1890.



With all of this information, Carolyn and Larry Burtness, put together a fabulous history presentation for the Clallam Bay Sekiu Fundays on July 9, 2023, “Clallam Bay - the Early Years.” Besides what NOHC was able to provide, it included Clallam Bay Friends of the Library photos with “East Clallam-1892,” information from H. Clement Fairservice (the son of early Port Angeles settlers), and the 1952 Clallam Bay High Senior Class graduation speeches related to different aspects of the local history.

If you have questions about a photo, the house where you live, what it was like when timber was king in Clallam County, lighthouses along the northern coast, cedar puncheon trails or anything else related to our area, drop our research librarians a line at artifact@olyphen.com, drop by and see us at 931 W 9th Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm or call us 360.452.2662.

Van Tour of the Port Angeles Regrade Project



“Sluicing the hogback” changed the physical and economic footprint of Port Angeles. Join us as we tour the city and use historic images and maps to understand the scale of this project that created the city we know today. Thousands of feet of dirt fill was sluiced from the “hogback,” a ridge of glacial till on the east side of the city, and channeled between bulwarks to raise the street level by 10 to 14 feet in some areas. This greatly improved transportation and odor issues, but also buried the first floor of most of the early buildings in Port Angeles. The North Olympic History Center has partnered with NW Local Escapes to bring you this fun excursion! We will depart at 10 AM from the NOHC parking lot at 933 W. 9th Street, Port Angeles. The tour should last about 3 hours, with time for a restroom break. Tickets cost \$35 and can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sluicing-the-hogback-tour-of-historic-port-angeles-tickets->



Dungeness Lighthouse Display



Exhibit at the Dungeness Lighthouse containing the lens and display boards. A new sign has been added giving credit to NOHC for the display.



Ancient Stones Get New Homes



One of our priorities this year has been cataloging and rehousing our collection of Native American lithic artifacts. "Lithic" is a term archaeologist use for any artifact made from stone. Some of our lithic artifacts include hand mauls used for splitting cedar and pounding hides, pecking stones and abraders for making tools, and net weights and canoe anchors. One artifact that stands out amongst the rest is a zoomorphic (shaped like an animal) stone bowl, possibly used for grinding tobacco or another substance. The bowl was recovered from a beach on the west end of the Peninsula, but stylistically resembles bowls found around the Fraser River delta in British Columbia. NOHC volunteer Jan Whitlow, who is cataloging our lithic artifacts, recently examined the bowl with the assistance of NOHC Director and retired archaeologist Paul Gleeson and local historian and Native art expert Jeff Mauer. All of our lithic artifacts have been reboxed in new boxes with ethafoam padding for added protection.



New Signage for NOHC



Signs have been added to the NOHC campus to help guide the public to our centers. Also a new sign will be added to the research library as well as the administration center.



From the President

It is supposedly a Chinese curse that says, "May you live in interesting times." The NOHC is definitely experiencing exciting times. I see huge strides in digitization of our collection, great progress in reviewing our total artifact inventory, addressing a backlog of physical plant maintenance issues, and preparing for addressing our challenges related to the Lincoln School building. We have kept our membership informed on your Board's intent to eliminate or shift the major burdens related to this sadly deteriorating building. Negotiations with external organizations are guiding us toward a Best Solution as we evaluate our options while adhering to our Strategic Objectives. Stay tuned. Post-Covid progress is racing forward at an exciting pace.

W. Brighden

Northwest History in the News: SS Pacific

The wreck of the *SS Pacific* in 1875 is back in the news. The ship was a side-wheel passenger steamship which was lost off the coast of Cape Flattery after colliding with another ship the *Orpheus*. The tragedy, the deadliest at the time for western states, took 325 lives with only two survivors. The ship was sailing from British Columbia to San Francisco with a reported \$180,000 in gold (now worth millions). The wrecks location has remained a mystery until recently being found.

Text from Curiosity website "The boat holds great historical value and has been the interest of the president of Rockfish, Inc – Jeff Hummel for more than 30 years. Hummel along with Northwest Shipwreck Alliance President Matt McCauley and Northwest Shipwreck Alliance Director Duane Engle made the discovery and have plans to begin recovery on the wreckage as early as 2023.

Rockfish, Inc has been granted sole salvaging rights for the wreck. The discovery team used ROV's to take samples and film the wreckage to determine that it was indeed the *SS Pacific*."



Illustration of the *SS Pacific* a side-wheel passenger steamer built in New York in 1850. Wikipedia



Photo from Rockfish website



Back When



Photo: Damaris Rodriguez



Looking West on Front Street to the intersection with Lincoln

Recent demolition of an old building on Front Street near the corner of Lincoln has revealed a long lost sign painted on the adjacent building wall. The research library at NOHC was able to find a photo of the sign dating from between 1900 to 1910. Shown is a photograph from a publication "Back When: On the Olympic Peninsula column" (undated). It mentions that in 1929 the Garvin Auto Company was situated on the "imposing corner" now occupied by Matthews Glass, (currently vacant). Mr. Garvin was involved in real estate, rental properties and, apparently, the automobile business.

For two decades leading up to the war, Lincoln between Front and 2nd was known as "Auto Row." Due to a lack of war-time inventory, some of the auto businesses went out of business. Those that did survive left for other locations.

It is a little sad to hear of the old building that was removed just referred to as "the Derelict building"!!

Back in July 1928, when it was dedicated, it was the busy home of the Salvation Army. The newspaper says "Constructed of concrete and tile with a handsome brick front, the new home of the Salvation Army in Port Angeles is not only an attractive structure but is a building made to endure and serve for countless years.



Building that was removed, photo from the 1960s

We Need Your Help!

We need the help of our readers to identify the location in this photograph. Our research library at NOHC has it cataloged as a bridge over the Elwha, but it doesn't match any other images we have of the historic Elwha bridges. If anyone has more information on the location of this bridge and who these men might be please contact the NOHC.

Research library is located at
931 West 9th Street, Port Angeles
Open Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 2 pm
360-452-2662.
Or email us at artifact@olypen.com



Gossett Cart Transferred to Joyce Depot Museum



Loading the cart onto the trailer for the move to Joyce



Route that the cart would take shown in the Joyce Depot Museum



Myrtle & John Gossett



Margaret Owens

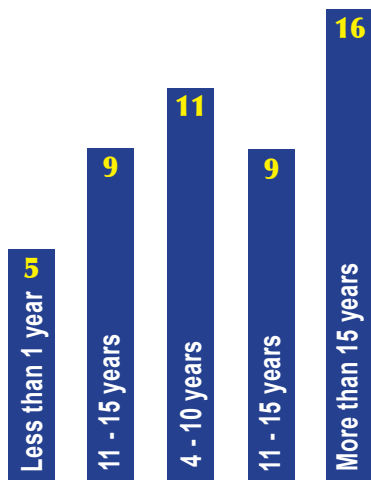
In an effort to open up some much-needed storage space, the NOHC recently transferred a 2-wheel Studebaker Cart to our friends at the Joyce Depot Museum. From Margaret Owens at the Joyce Museum:

“John Benjamin Gossett was born in Port Crescent in 1909. His wife Myrtle was born in Joyce in 1918, both were the children of pioneers. John served as a SeaBee in WWII. After the war, they settled back in Joyce, operating a sawmill on Gossett Rd. In 1960, using their own milled lumber, they built a restaurant called the Atlasta Burger in Joyce, where the Family Kitchen now operates.

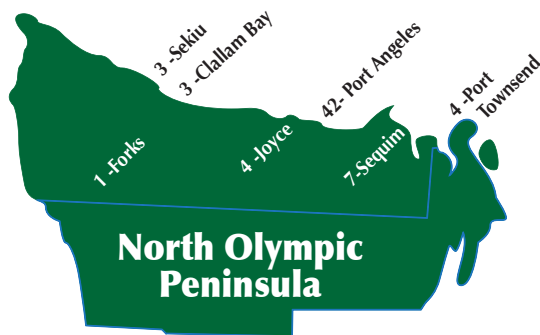
The Gossetts were loved by the community that they helped build. They were very interested in the preservation of local history and were great supporters of the Clallam County Historical Society, and the Joyce Depot Museum. It is very fitting to have the cart that they donated to the CCHS decades ago, back in Joyce in the John and Myrtle Gossett Annex to the museum.

Membership Survey Results

A huge THANK YOU to all our members who completed the 2023 Membership Survey! The results of the survey and the feedback we received were incredibly valuable. We will use what we have learned to inform our strategic planning and future programming. Your input and support are helping us envision the next 75 years of the History Center. Some results from the survey:



If you are a NOHV member, for how many years?



What North Olympic Peninsula Community do you identify the most with?

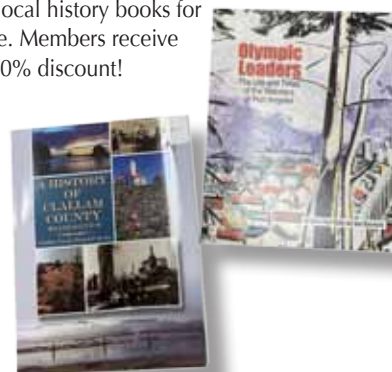
Hands on History

Hands on History is an educational program of the North Olympic History Center. Students in 6th through 12th grade choose a subject of Clallam County history to research, write a paper about, and present at a public event. The best work is awarded a scholarship which is held in escrow pending attendance at a post secondary school. Coaching in research and writing is provided by NOHC volunteers.

Applications are due the last Saturday in October. October 28, 2023. <http://www.northolympichistory.org/hands-on-history.html>

Book Sales at Our Research Library

In addition to the extensive research services offered to the public we have a nice selection of local history books for sale. Members receive a 10% discount!



Laurie Davies

NOHC Member Chosen for State Panel

Laurie Davies, long time NOHC volunteer and Board of Directors member has been chosen to serve on the Washington State Fairs Commission. Her 19 years on the Clallam County Fair Advisory Board and 22 years of experience as a 4-H volunteer club leader and several other leadership rolls made her a prime candidate for the state panel. Davies will serve a three year term.

Executive Directors Report: July 2023



“Year Two” at the History Center has flown past, and we are steadily picking up steam on many fronts. We have made solid progress moving towards a resolution for the Lincoln School building and hope to have a path forward in place by the end

of this year. Our many hours of outreach and communication efforts have brought us some worthy proposals for the building and property. While working to resolve the school issue, we have moved ahead by “leaps and bounds” in our collection’s digitization and cataloging work. We have continued to build partnerships and relationships with organizations around the North Olympic Peninsula and expand our programs and offerings to the public. We have consistently recruited new members and volunteers to our organization. Our newsletters and interpretive materials are some of the best in town. Our campus, collections, and volunteers are safer than ever.

While we certainly still face some tough challenges, the History Center is clearly moving in the right direction, and as an organization we have done an impressive job of building on last year’s progress by taking a systematic approach to addressing each goal outlined in our strategic plan. We are at a crucial point in the transition to a more fluid and broader organization than the Clallam County Historical Society of the past, and well on our way to an inclusive, interesting, and involved History Center that is focused on more than just exhibits and research. Finding a resolution for the Lincoln School building will broaden our perspective and allow us to begin thinking “big picture” on the future of the History Center.

This year has been a balancing act between directing our energy within and outside of the History Center, with more effort going into securing our organization and our foundation (facilities, collections, staff) and less being directed outside of the Center for outreach and programming. We are also in the beginning stages of setting up a permanent endowment for the NOHC through the Olympic View Community Foundation. This solid foundation will give us something to build on over the coming years as we look to continue our growth.

Goal #1: MANAGE COLLECTIONS AND FACILITIES.

Our campus security has improved remarkably with the construction of the security fence

around our courtyard. The new Ring camera system and our Trespass Authorization Order with the Port Angeles Police Department have given us better control over what occurs on our campus, even after hours when there is no one on site.

We have made steady progress winnowing the artifacts and exhibit materials remaining in the east wing of the Lincoln School. Updating our Deaccession Policy and working with the Collections Committee, we have sped up the process of deaccessioning and we are almost caught up accessioning our back log of donated items that piled up during the pandemic. Our cataloging and digitization work has increased with the training of new volunteers like Becky Schurmann and Jan Whitlow. Hundreds of new records have been added to our online catalog, and thousands more have been updated. We are currently approaching the 20,000 artifacts, objects, and documents searchable online. The installation of the new wire art hanging racks has allowed us to reorganize our hanging artwork.

Goal #2: ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM.

The “Learning Our Landscape” presentation series in partnership with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe has continued to be successful. Our History Hikes with the Jefferson County Historical Society were sell-out programs with lots of positive feedback, and we are working on finding additional ways to work in synergy with our partners in Port Townsend. Outreach and presentations with/to the Dungeness River Center, Port Angeles Business Association, Daughters of the American Revolution, Clallam County School Retirees association and more have helped build connections with new individuals and organizations outside of Port Angeles. Our “History Minutes” broadcast on KONP radio regularly gets our message and organization “in the ears” of our local community.

Our efforts to connect with state-level organizations have also paid off with our \$22,623 WW5 grant applied for with the assistance of Inspire-WA. We received a \$500 stipend to present on a NAGPRA panel at the American Association of State and Local History Conference in Boise, ID this September.

Goal #3: CREATE VALUE IN THE COMMUNITY.

NOHC outreach and tours with the staff of the North Olympic Library System, Port Angeles Fine Arts Center and other local organizations have led to many ideas on potential collaboration. We are currently planning an exhibit of our collection of historic advertising and mercantile memorabilia with the Port Angeles Library. We

are also hoping to collaborate with the Fine Arts Center soon on an exhibit and/or publication of a comparison of Esther Webster’s sketches and paintings. We are an anchor organization for the Washington Maritime National Heritage Area and currently working with the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation to plan a launch event in Port Angeles this fall. Our Strait History newsletter is one of the best in town, thanks to the contributions of Bruce Murray and others.

Goal #4: DEVELOP A FINAL PLAN FOR THE LINCOLN SCHOOL.

The publication of the Lincoln School Request for Proposals this Spring has netted us some viable proposals for the property, including potential plans for saving the structure and demolition. These proposals will be reviewed by the Board this Fall and find a path forward for the Lincoln School property. We have conducted many hours of outreach, written hundreds of letters, and given dozens of tours of the school building following the process we outlined to make sure we perform adequate outreach and communication with our community. We are increasingly aware of the uphill battle that will be involved in saving the structure of the school, which has deteriorated in places to the point of being unsafe for public access.

Goal #5: EXPAND THE MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER BASE.

Our volunteer and membership base has continued to grow steadily, increasing by 11 memberships in the last 12 months including three “sponsor” level memberships. We have almost two dozen active volunteers spread between the Research Library, Collections, and Buildings and Grounds teams. Establishing committees to help organize and guide the efforts of our volunteers has helped streamline management, but we have reached the point of needing to train some volunteer managers to keep things on track. Becky Schurmann and Eve Datisman have been rock stars this year, getting the Center caught up on many backlog projects and accessions. Our 2023 Membership Survey provided some valuable insights and directions about our organization and the community we serve. The results will be summarized in an annual report to be included with the next newsletter.

The addition of Ellie DiPietro, Mike Doherty, Steve Hargis and Bruce Murray to our Board this year have brought us some much-needed experience in several areas. As an organization we are more in-tune with what is going on in the community, what needs are out there and where we can work most efficiently to benefit the NOHC and the Olympic Peninsula community.

Slip Point Lighthouse and Klallam Tribal History on the Western Strait



Keepers' House at Slip Point Lighthouse. Large two-story house with child and woman in front by corner porch; flag pole at right; trees in background; grass and small bushes in foreground. "My mother Lillie M. Heins and myself. I was 12 years old then. Other keeper was H. P. Score & family. Mrs. Myrtle Score; children: Walter Score, son, Edna Score, daughter." Photo is marked as #479, Otto Heins, Tillamook, Oregon. 1907

Big changes are coming to the communities of Clallam Bay and Sekiu, the Clallam Bay Slip Point Lighthouse Keepers group is being re-energized. Its goal continues to be pressing for legislation and funding to get the land connected with the Slip Point Lighthouse and the Lighthouse Keeper's residence building into the communities' hands as a local park and museum. You are probably aware that this effort has been "in progress" for over 20 years, and has been stymied by the Coast Guard's failure to do the hazardous materials' (lead and asbestos) abatement that is required before they can



1892 John Blomquist sketch -- "East Clallam Bay sawmill with Indian houses in foreground", that is in the John Blomquist Collection at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN. Photo courtesy of American Swedish Institute.

turn the property over to Clallam County. The issue is money, of course, an estimated one million dollars. We are working with Derrick Kilmer's office on getting an appropriation into the next budget cycle, which means that, at best, no change of ownership will happen for at least several more years. However, our group would like to lease the property and ensure that it is appropriately cared for. It has been leased by the Sheriff's Department for about 40 years, and we have concerns about their use.

There is a Klallam grave site near the Lighthouse Keepers' building. Throughout the years, there has been concern (by various officials) that, if the information about the presence of the graves - and the Klallam village at that location - was widely known, there might be vandalism/destruction of Native artifacts, so public awareness has been discouraged. Numerous people in the Clallam Bay community have known about the graves, but it hasn't become general knowledge. However, this spring County Parks Director Don Crawford spoke about the Slip Point site to the commissioners, and talked about the graveyard, so it is not as "confidential" as before. The Lighthouse Keepers would like the graveyard to be acknowledged and honored.

All of this leads up to an effort by our group to inform people about Klallam history in our community. Marilyn Edgington, of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, will come out to Sekiu to talk, not only about the Slip Point story, but also about the tribe's other connections to this area. Marilyn was a resource for me when I wrote my book about Gertrude Stange Fernandes, who came to the Pysht area in 1890. She gave me a lot of information, not just about the Klallams who lived at Pysht, but at other locations along the Strait. She has done extensive genealogical research on her ancestors - one of whom is "Hoko Charlie," her great-great-grandfather. He actually lived at Slip Point, and was a noteworthy person there. Who could tell a more "authentic" story than Marilyn!



Slip Point Lighthouse: NOHC Archives



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Looking to Get Involved? Become a Volunteer! Join a Committee!

Serving as a volunteer or on a NOHC committee is a great way to learn about the NOHC, meet like-minded history buffs, and enjoy being part of our team. Volunteer position descriptions and an application form are available on our website. We are currently looking for members to serve on the following committees:

Membership/Events Committee – assists staff with developing the NOHC membership base, planning activities and events, and conducting outreach in our community. This committee meets monthly for 1-2 hours.

Lincoln School and Strategic Planning Committee – assists staff and the Board with outreach regarding future potential uses of the Lincoln School, conducting research and compiling feedback for the Board of Directors. This committee meets monthly for 1-2 hours.

NORTH OLYMPIC HISTORY CENTER