

History: Tongue Point almost became a British stronghold before the War of 1812

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Over the past decade, the foundation has been working toward recognizing the site. Work sped up over the past year with the help of the U.S. Coast Guard, Tongue Point Job Corps, the Clatsop-Nehalem Tribe and the National Parks Service.

Tom Wilson, a former teacher at Astor Elementary School and a heritage foundation member, spoke to the crowd Saturday about the history of the campsite.

Before reaching Tongue Point, which they called Point William, the Corp of Discovery was barely surviving at Dismal Nitch on the other side of the river. They decided to cross the river in hopes of hunting an elk for the first time west of the Rocky Mountains, Wilson said.

The interpretive sign unveiled Saturday has a quote from William Clark describing the scene.

“Joseph Fields came home with the marrow bones of an elk which he had killed 6 miles distant. I sent out 6 men in a canoe for the meat, the evening being late they did not return this night, which proved fair moon shining night,” Clark wrote. “This is the first elk we have killed on this side the rocky mounts. A great deal of elk sign in the neighbourhood.”

At that time, Wilson said,



Mary Johnson, left, Lyn Trainer, center, and Mark Johnson, right, reveal the Point William interpretive panel and bench near the Alderbrook Lagoon.

the expedition’s decision to cross the river was looking good.

Wilson went on to describe how Tongue Point almost became a British stronghold before the War of 1812, and how the U.S. Coast Guard has increased its presence there since the early 1900s. In recent history, the Tongue Point Job Corps Center opened in 1965 as one of the first centers in the country.

“What an amazing history right here,” Wilson said. “We are very honored and proud to have this site.”



The bench, built with purpleheart wood, is dedicated to Keith G. Hay.

Johnson: He still works with the Oregon National Guard

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The biggest project Johnson helped finish this year was an 85-foot-long rock wall at Middle Village, the park’s property across the Columbia River.

Johnson is also proud of the maintenance team building a stage in one day for a naturalization ceremony

at Fort Clatsop that was attended by U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici.

“We are behind the scenes, but it effects every visitor that comes here,” Johnson said. “They can see and feel what we get to do. It’s quite nice to have that impression on somebody.”

Since leaving the Army, Johnson could not complete-

ly give up the service uniform. He still works once a month with the Oregon National Guard at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center.

As for returning to his community, Johnson also coaches fifth- and sixth-grade football in Knappa and volunteers with Olney Wal-luski Fire & Rescue

While he is settling into his life in Knappa, he sometimes misses his time in the Army. His transition is ongoing.

“I miss it a lot in many ways, but it is nice to work that 40-hour week now,” Johnson said. “I have a work-life balance. I’m not use to that.”

— Kyle Spurr

CREST: Commissioner questions Fulton’s motives

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February and the Warrenton City Commission in April. The project was delayed in May after CREST pulled a permit application with the city, concerned the \$1.2 million project would not get approved in time for the summer construction window.

Denise Löfman, director of CREST, said the group’s engineering consultant needed additional time to address questions raised by the city’s engineering expert, adding that if all goes well, the project could move forward next summer.

Hostile to CREST

In his letter, Lee said Fulton has been noncollaborative, threatening and aggressive to CREST staff and the organization as a whole. He pointed to several supposed actions taken by Fulton or the Nygaards last spring:

- A meeting of Fulton and his employer, John Nygaard Jr., with the head of the BPA’s estuary program April 6, asking the agency for mitigation money and demanding guaranteed development rights on lands upstream of the dam before the project moves forward;

- A Warrenton Planning Commission meeting April 9, at which Lee said Fulton slapped away the attempt at a handshake by Matt Van Ess, a habitat restoration project manager with CREST, before telling him, “We’re coming after you, Matt.” Van Ess on Friday confirmed the incident occurred.

Lee said Thursday he had not taken action last

spring because he thought Fulton had been replaced by Commissioner Robert Mushen. The two both attended the April 23 CREST council meeting, at which Lee said they informed fellow counselors that Mushen would replace Fulton. But by September, Fulton was back on the council, which Lee said surprised CREST, given his actions.

Disagreement at the Port

Fulton’s issues with CREST boiled over at an August Port Commission meeting, when commissioners were deciding their various committee assignments.

Mushen said he needed a year on the CREST council to help repair the Port’s relationship with the organization. Fulton said he wanted the job, arguing he has the expertise in wetland mitigation issues.

“I’m not sure your motives are honorable,” Mushen said to Fulton at the meeting, adding there was confusion with CREST over whether he was representing the Port, the city of Warrenton or Warrenton Fiber and the Nygaards.

Fulton bristled at the comment. The appointment of a Port representative to CREST was tabled until later in August, when Mushen agreed to let Fulton stay on the council, cautioning him to be more cognizant about potential conflicts of interest.

Fulton didn’t show up to the CREST council’s latest meeting last month. If he comes to the next meeting Jan. 28, Lee said, he would make a motion to ask for Fulton’s resignation.

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