SCAN

The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter—Winter 2020

Highlights from the first National Site Stewardship Workshop By Mary Gerbic

On the mornings of October 14 and 15th, 2020, I attended a webinar sponsored by Partners for Archaeological Site Stewardship (PASS). The theme was Improving and Expanding Site Stewardship. Among the supporting organizations of this webinar is the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP), founded by Beth and Chris Padon. PASS, also founded by the Padons, and incorporated in 2018, now oversees CASSP as well. This new organization intends to continue the work of CASSP, but also to bring together similar organizations from across the United States that are dedicated to training members of the public as volunteer site stewards to perform tasks such as monitoring heritage sites, recording and updating site records, creating teaching curriculum, and educating the public about our cultural heritage.

Organizations in other states have their own origin stories and sometimes spring out of different needs, as in Florida, where the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) runs a program called Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) to locate and document forgotten cemeteries. The Florida Heritage Monitoring Scouts also monitor other sites, pre-, post-contact, on land, and underwater. An example of

their public education effort is this useful guide called "Archaeological Shells of Florida", which has some application on the California coast as well (see http://fpan.us/resources/shell_guide.pdf). If FPAN and Heritage Monitoring Scouts sounds familiar to you, it may be because I mentioned FPAN and their collaboration with researchers in Scotland and Maine as reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), issue 117 volume 15, in the summer 2020 issue of SCAN. For more information, here is a blog article on the subject written by the FPAN Executive Director William Lees: http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/blog/blog/2018/07/25/fpan-in-scotland-learning-from-loss-2018/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=fpan-in-scotland-learning-from-loss-2018 .

In Arizona and Utah particularly, much work is directed at protecting heritage sites from looting. In Arizona in the 1980s, theft of antiquities and damage by the uneducated public was a growing problem. Under Gov. Bruce Babbitt, a new advisory group met and started Arizona's first site stewardship program, and by 1988 when the program was rolled out, they had 50 site stewards patrolling about 200 sites. Since then, the program has gone through some serious growing pains and changes in funding, and as of 2020, they have trained 5000 members of the public, with 600 active stewards looking after 2400 sites across the entire state. The program is now funded by the Arizona Site Stewardship Program Foundation, and receives no state money. The Texas Archaeological Site Stewardship program was also founded in the 1980s and works with the Texas Historical Commission. They have divided the state into eight archaeological regions and have a stewardship network that works with landowners and the community. Texas has a unique situation for a western state, because most land is in private hands.

Land managers and archaeologists in the Southwest USA, working with Native American communities and volunteers, are stewards of a vast array of history, vistas, paleontological, and cultural sites spread out across an immense, mostly publicly owned landscape. Shana Diedrichs (Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, Inc.) presented on Cedar Mesa in Southeast Utah. Most of Cedar Mesa is within the newly created Bears Ears National Monument. Before the Monument's creation, there was growing visitation. Since then, the Cedar Mesa visitation is increasing exponentially, resulting in heavy foot traffic, graffiti and collection of artifacts. Utah's SHPO Elizabeth Hora admits that they were caught off guard by the huge increase. This area lacks the infrastructure to support the level of visitation now happening.

This phenomenon is not limited to Utah. There has been an exponential growth in off-road and heritage tourism other places as well. Increased tourism in popular places has resulted in wear and tear on resources, such as cliff dwellings and damage to rock art. There are many people visiting cultural sites who, having grown up in cities and suburbs, have little knowledge of backcountry etiquette. In order to get that iconic "selfie", people are willing to walk across or stand on anything, sometimes endangering themselves, and that something they stand on might be an old wall, or a sacred kiva. Sometimes, people on vacation forget that the site they are visiting (or bagging for their bucket list) is historic and fragile, and not an amusement park.

Land managers see the problem mostly as two–fold: First, there are looters who are damaging heritage places for profit. Then there is the uneducated public which doesn't understand that their selfie, or creating a short-cut trail or picking up sherds or flakes as souvenirs is damage and is not only probably illegal, but it is disrespectful and offensive to Native Americans, whose ancestors lived in those places. Even staying on a trail is a problem, when there are thousands of people who want to love a place to death. At the same time, these places are located on publicly owned land, so, the challenge is how to focus people's energy and interest in appropriate directions, such as education, volunteering and citizen science?

The Utah Public Archaeology Network initiated a program dedicated to educating the public about archaeological vandalism, and why it is important to stop it. Utah Friends of Cedar Mesa, working with the World Monuments Fund Project with the support of the people of Hopi, Zuni, Acoma and Laguna, has also created a pro-

gram called "Visiting With Respect" to overlap with their site stewardship program. For more information on this program, visit the website friendsofcedarmesa.org/tips-for-visiting-with-respect/ . Here you will find a helpful list of things that will enrich your visit without doing damage. They have also produced videos explaining each item on the list. Another initiative is to get volunteers out into the field to interact with and act as docents and stewards through the "Visit with Respect Ambassador Program". This is a terrific program, but it would have been difficult to make this progress except that the BLM, the Utah governor, and other elected officials have unanimously supported it and the state has budgeted for a full time statewide coordinator. Another goal for statewide site stewardship was to create state standards so that a steward can work on state, local, private and federally owned land, and have a single process and reporting structure to learn. Utah's Public Archaeology Network and the Utah Division of State History have created five educational posters. They are very interesting, and I am including one of the posters with this article. I think they may be a first draft, because I found several errors in the texts. If you can overlook the errors, there is good information here. Elizabeth Hora, SHPO, encouraged the conference participants to get copies of the posters (they come in four formats) at bit.ly/ArtifactGuides, and get them out into the public. We were encouraged to put our own logos on the posters as well.

Utah's goal is to change visitor behavior. Working with Native American tribes, and other descendant groups, they call for a paradigm shift in tourism. Tourism is a desirable activity and visitation is encouraged, but it has become necessary to create rules and limits on visitation. The visiting public, when educated about the significance of a place, is more likely to treat a location with respect.

Native Americans, consulted about the activities at these popular places, have stated their desire that the rock art panels, cliff houses and other ancestral sites should undergo natural cycles of erosion and decline, but they support the repair and conservation of sites subjected to tourist damage. Stewards and agencies are documenting sites so that damage is mitigated with natural materials and indigenous techniques, rerouting trails and removing trails that damage. A visit to the BLM's Cedar Mesa website shows that a lottery system for day use visitors, campers and backpackers is in effect.

I will mention just two other presentations. The first, was by Cory Wilkins of The Archaeological Conservancy (TAC). Many archaeologists are familiar with TAC, because of their magazine, American Archaeology, and at least two members of SCAS have been site stewards for a TAC property for several years. TAC is a nonprofit that secures properties of archaeological significance for long-term preservation. They have 550 sites nationwide. They also (pre-COVID) conducted tours in the Americas for members. For more information about TAC, see www.archaeologicalconservancy.org.

Cory and Deanna Commons, who worked for TAC at that time, came to a Society for California Archaeology meeting of CASSP volunteers a few years ago, and asked if CASSP would be willing to provide site stewards for TAC. Cory reports that this arrangement has benefited TAC. In his presentation, he described two sites, very different from each other that CASSP monitors for TAC. The first is near Barstow, in southern California, called Willis Wells, which is a bit over two acres and has both pre- and post-contact features. This site was probably important for Native Americans living in the desert because of the water source. There is a midden and many petroglyphs across the rock outcrop. There are also rock walls, constructed without mortar, built by Mildred Willis, who with her husband George homesteaded the site in 1915. The other site, Hotchkiss Mound, located east of Oakley on the Sacramento Delta, was purchased by TAC in 1993. Cory said that J.A. Bennyhoff described the mound as the last remaining midden mound in the West Delta Area. The mound is open to researchers upon request. TAC has a burial avoidance policy and allows unrestricted access at TAC sites to Native American tribes.

Samantha Rubinson, the Nevada Site Stewardship Program Coordinator presented: Why do we want to record

our site like a crime scene? Archaeologists and site monitors can learn from forensic investigators. Citing data from The Innocence Project, she says that eyewitness testimony is the single greatest cause of wrongful conviction in the United States. This leads her to say that our memory of a site that we visit can also be faulty, so it is important to collect information in a systematic way to put the site into a context while we are on site, and make sure we collect all the information we need to write a site report or a monitoring log. First, look over the site, photograph the site, sketch the scene, search for evidence (if you are monitoring damage) and, although forensic workers collect and secure the evidence, site stewards leave everything as it was found.

The goal, if one is assessing damage to an archaeological site, is to form a picture of the damage and put the evidence in context. Damage could occur through natural processes like erosion or a fire. There are also cases of vandalism or looting. It is not the site stewards' responsibility to confront people damaging an archaeological site. As part of their training, site stewards learn that their safety comes first. In either case, it is important to document the changes to the site.

Be sure your photos can tell law enforcement or land owners where to find the damage. Put it in context by using wide, middle range and close up photography. First photograph the entire scene (wide angle), then the site loci, then the site features, the important artifacts (close up photography), preexisting damage from previous visits, and then document any fresh damage. It is important to know which damage is new and which is old.

Samantha suggests that a full recording of a site should be performed every two years to keep up to date. Always keep a photo log of the pictures you have taken. Include the date and time of the photo, the direction you are looking, a GPS point of where you are standing (if you have a GPS tool) and a description. Samantha also suggests drawing the site. Your drawing does not have to be a professional-grade illustration, but if you can manage a one-page drawing with a north arrow and the relevant features, you will be helping whomever will be using your report to investigate the damage. GIS mapping is also recommended. If you take GPS points while doing your photography, this can be very helpful to someone trying to figure out where you were standing when taking the photo. Relocating a site reported by someone else, especially after a period of time has elapsed, can be challenging. If you do not have a Garmin GPS unit (the preferred GPS tool for nonprofessionals) sometimes, you can use a GPS app on your smart phone.

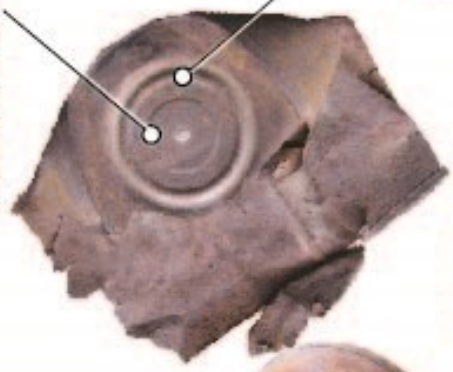
Don't assume that there is a site report for a site and that it is a good recording. Many sites have sketchy site reports created in the 1970s or 1980s and have not been updated since. It is very useful to have "before" and "after" pictures for comparison. The photos and your drawing help you remember what you saw, and helps law enforcement and land managers explain what happened. In the case of deliberate damage or looting, your site assessment may become evidence. Samantha used rock art as an example. Some graffiti is so old, that it is considered part of the panel and not damage. Sometimes vandals are so bold as to carve or spray their entire name onto the panel. Do not touch or apply anything to a rock art panel.

The webinar covered many topics besides how to enhance visitor experiences and protect archaeological resources, and I hope this report will give you, the reader, a taste of what it is like to be a steward of our shared heritage. If you are interested in becoming a site steward, (and are in California), contact cassp.org. If you are in another region, check with your state's historical office, or visit PASS's website (sitestewardship.org).

What Artifacts Can Tell Archaeologists:
Tin Cans

Closure
The finish, or top of the bottle, was the last part of the bottle made and tells archaeologists a lot about the age of the bottle, and even what it contained.

Vent Hole
A vent hole was a technological advancement that prevented tin cans from exploding during heating. Vent holes help archaeologists know the date of the site, and can often reveal what was in the can.



Embossing
Embossed cans typically were made in the 20th century, but they can help archaeologists determine the exact date of the site and help reconstruct historic trade and travel patterns.

Side Seams
Side seams are sometimes the best method that archaeologists have to date tin cans. As manufacturing changed, so did the kind of seam visible on the can.

Shape
A tin can's shape can tell archaeologists a lot about its contents. Round cans often held vegetables, fruit, and juices. Large rectangular cans could be potted meat, crackers, and if it has a spout could be vegetable oil or even kerosene.

Location
The most important aspect of a tin can is something you can't find in this picture: where it is from. Archaeologists need to know where a projectile point was found in order to give meaning to the information above. **If you find a tin can,** it's ok to pick it up, photograph it, and admire it! Please put it back where you found it when you're done so that it can help us all learn about our past!

Together we can Stop Archaeological Vandalism

Learn more and get involved at bit.ly/StopArchaeologicalVandalism

> history.utah.gov

UTAH PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK

Utah Division of State History

Bonny Doon Site: A Brief history from Memory

By Rob Edwards 10-12-2020

I was hired by Cabrillo in the Fall of 1971 as Anthropologist and Archaeologist. January 1972 was the first Intersession and I taught a field class in archaeology. A prehistoric site east of Palm Springs was threatened by development, so I arranged with a colleague at UC Riverside to bring our students there. Cabrillo President Bob Swenson found funds to provide the necessary equipment. The course was highly successful and received a lot of publicity. We were filmed by a TV crew who were finishing a program on Archaeology. In March of 1972 the program aired. We had stenciled our archaeological screens, and they showed clearly across the TV screen flashing "CABRILLO COLLEGE".

Due to viewing that TV show, Allen Brown of the Brown Bulb Ranch properties contacted me and asked me to come and visit the Bonny Doon site. He had "been exploring" it with a bulldozer as an Archaeologist from UC Berkeley had assured him it was not important. He had also signed a contract to have a lawn developer take the top soil (archaeological midden). Upon my first visit I was blown away as the site seemed very rich to me and there was no archaeological site in the Santa Cruz region that had been professionally excavated and reported upon. I asked if he would wait on his contract and allow me and my students to sample the site in the Summer of 1972. He agreed and generously provided us camping and field office space on his acreage nearby.

During the Spring I had helped organize an archaeological society of local citizens (the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society) and many of them enrolled with the more typical students to make up a wonderful field crew for the excavation class. For the next 40+ years Cabrillo students were active with the SCAC community and SCAS members regularly enrolled in Cabrillo's archeology courses. The excavation class was a great success and the findings outstanding. The Bonny Doon site ("CA-SCR-20" also known as the Allen Brown site) was very rich and had a one of the highest return of artifacts per unit I had ever seen.

While Brown's bulldozing had impacted the west and north edges of the site, the greater part of the site was undisturbed. The recovered artifacts allowed us to date the site to the Late Period (500 AD to 1200 AD) and it became the type site (the major site for comparison) for that time period for the Monterey Bay area.

I was able to convince Allen to discontinue his dozing and to allow Field classes from San Francisco State and UCSC to add to the sample in the Spring of 1973. The combined collections were used as the basis for a Masters' Thesis at San Francisco State. There have been a number of other student thesis and papers done on materials from this site. Based on the findings from first M.A. thesis, I was able to convince Allen the site was worth saving. He withdrew from the contract to sell the site soil to a lawn developer.

Allen was first and foremost a business man and land meant profit. However, the county had put a 10-acre minimum on home development in that area of Bonny Doon and the parcel the site was on was 17+ acres, so he split the lot, 10.5 and 7.5, and was willing to donate the site and 7.5 acres to Cabrillo in 1976.

The site was nominated (1979) and accepted (1981) to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of prehistoric importance for California. I had hoped that designation would allow us (archaeologists at SF State, UCSC and myself) to give it a valuation that would allow Allen to donate the property for a good tax deduction which it did.

The question then was who would receive it? The University would not receive it as the lot was too small. State Parks also need a larger site and was at that time not accepting isolated parcels. There was no Archaeological Conservancy as there is today. Cabrillo College President Bob Swenson, realizing the Brown family was a significant donor to Cabrillo and because he was sympatric to the saving of such a site, agreed to have Cabrillo accept the property and I was charged with its supervision.

For several years after the donation, Allen took care of the site and treated the site as a place he could bring friends and show off "his" archaeology. One of the students from that first summer's excavation was a man named Howard Bickford who, while not at all wealthy, donated $1,000.00 (equivalent to just over $6,000.00 today) to the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society to be used to ensure the maintenance and security for the site.

After a few years we were able to work with Allen Brown to allow us to refill the excavated units and the bulldozer cuts and return it to a more pastoral state. That was done with another Cabrillo field class (1995) where we increased the sample from the site and found older materials which dated the lower portions of the site about 1000 years earlier to about 500 BC.

This was an excellent field site to bring students to see, feel and even taste what a prehistoric midden was like. Every Introductory Spring and Fall class and every Summer Advanced class in archaeology from 1972 to 2008 utilized the class as a hands-on learning experience.

At some time during the early 1990s, Bob Swenson began to focus on expanding the resources of the Foundation. There was a matching grant program and Bob urged Faculty to generate donations to the Foundations to support scholarships and College programs. The Santa Cruz Archaeology Society was convinced to donate the $1000 dollars of Bickford money and add an additional $1500 dollars to be matched to create a fund to first, provide for maintenance for the Bonny Doon site, and then, funds beyond that to be given to an anthropology or archaeology student as the Howard Bickford Scholarship.

During the 1990s it was determined that small trees and brush was encroaching onto the edges of the site. I was able to work out a barter with the local Juvenile Justice/Cal-fire agency facility near Boulder Creek that allowed the inmates to thin the hardwoods around (and on) the site and cut it into firewood.

SCAS and ATP volunteers sold this wood as a fund raiser for the Archaeological Technology Program for a number of years. We also used these funds to strengthen the barbed wire fence along the east side (next to Bonny Doon Road) and put in place a new gate. There were a number of additional donations to support the Archaeological Technology Program. Since the 1990s the A.T.P. fund expanded which came from both various local families and some grants. I believe that Fund was in excess of $30,000 dollars by the time of my retirement in 2008.

As a result of the Bond election in 1998, funds were made available to make capital improvements to the campus. Those improvements made the Astronomy Department's observatory difficult to use due to increased light. Cabrillo proposed to relocate the observatory to a "dark sky" location, the Bonny Doon parcel. As part of the mitigation, the College would guarantee various long-term protection measures for the site.

The Archaeological Program carried out test excavations in 2000 to determine where the placement of such facilities would be least impacting, and how to mitigate the impacts of subsurface utilities and computer lines for remote use. The excavation and mitigation work was successfully carried out. One set of human remains were encountered, avoided and with local Native American assistance, reburied in place with a protective barrier to prevent any additional disturbance. Additional dating from the site now extended the occupation back in time to about 900 BC. The collections from all excavations are stored at Cabrillo.

However, after the summer excavations were over, there was a late summer evening visit from an enthusiastic

group of astronomy students to the site. This raised concerns among local residents, who spread the concern that loads of students would be partying on site. In response, the College decided not to go forward with the project at that time.

In 2004-2005, as I was approaching retirement, I was concerned about the long-term care of the site and looking for a way to make it less of a responsibility for Cabrillo. The Archaeological Conservancy was formed in the 1980s and is a national non-profit whose stated purpose is to acquire and preserve significant sites in the United States. I approached the Conservancy to see if they might be interested in the Bonny Doon site. They indicated they were. The Cabrillo administration checked with their legal consultants who said that the College could not donate land given to them to any other group. Whether this is still the case I do not know. And whether the Conservancy would still be interested is not known.

Over the years I had kept an eye on the site, visiting it at least three times a year with my classes and also other times during the year. I contacted a local Bonny Doon landscaper to cut and disk the site, usually once a year to keep the grasses and weeds down for fire protection. In a recent phone conversation, the landscaper said, "while the trees surrounding the site were affected by the recent fires, the site being mostly grass, was not significantly harmed."

Cabrillo College Archaeology students surveying the Bonny Doon site in the Fall of 2002. Pictured is Dawn Johnson and another (unidentified) student. (Photo by Mary Gerbic)

Frémont in Santa Cruz ♣ February 1846

By Albert Knight August 24, 2020

John C. Frémont and California Battalion Troops

Any serious student of the history of the region around Monterey Bay is aware that the once well-known American explorer John Charles Frémont (1813-1890), and his Third Expedition of Discovery, visited the Santa Cruz area in late February 1846. Although Frémont's military adventures in California are fairly well-known, there are two things about him and his Third Expedition that few people are aware of: First, about one-quarter of the Third Expedition was made up of American Indians, and Second, the Third Expedition *really was a scientific expedition,* at least at that time. It made the first large-area systemic collections of plant specimens in northern California. Indeed, Frémont's name, and the places and things he named, found across the western United States; including some 40 genera or species of plants were named by or for him based on his specimen collections (Welsh 1998). To this day, the Journal of the California Native Plant Society is the *Fremontia.*

The Pathfinder, as he became known, or Charley, as his friends called him, and his well-regarded wife Jessie, were both fluent in Spanish. He was a natural leader and liked people of all nationalities and types. He was the perfect man for the United States to send to explore California, otherwise then known as northern Mexico. A portion of his Second Expedition made the first winter crossing of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, during the winter of 1844-1845. Frémont's subsequent description of the Second Expedition, then not far from Lancaster, California, and in the process of leaving California, on April 12, 1845, could applied to the Third Expedition:

> Our cavalcade made a strange and grotesque appearance . . . guided by a civilized Indian, two wild ones from the Sierra; a Chinook from the Columbia; and our own mixture of American, French [i.e. French-Canadian], German, all armed; four or five languages heard at once; above a hundred horses and mules, half wild; American, Spanish, and Indian dresses and equipment intermingled- such was our composition. Our march was a sort of procession. Scouts ahead, and on the flanks; a front and rear division; the pack animals, baggage, and horned cattle, in the center; and the whole stretching a quarter of a mile along our dreary path. In this form we journeyed; looking more like we belonged to Asia than to the United States of America.

Following the Second Expedition's return to the United States, in mid-1845, and after being back only a few months, Frémont was given *official* instructions to form a Third Expedition, which was ordered to explore to, ". . . localities within reasonable distance of Bent's Fort, and of the streams which run east from the Rocky Mountains . . .". Note the key words *east from the Rocky Mountains*. At that time, the crest of the Rocky Mountains was the western boundary of the United States, and the *official* orders said, in so many words, *do not go back to Mexico*. President Polk, however, had told Frémont, (in confidence) something else,

and when they were ready, Charley and the Third Expedition immediately headed for Sutter's Fort. Note here that Frémont had been a protégé of Joel Roberts Poinsett, scientist, politician, and diplomat (and the man that had brought the beautiful Mexican flowering plant to the United States, that we still call Poinsettia), and although not a professional botanist, Frémont had been well-trained in identifying new species. The President was sending an armed force into a foreign country, under the guise of a scientific expedition, but if they *really could* do some science--why not?

Therefore, the Third Expedition consisted of +60 *civilian*s, who would explore, do science, including collecting plant and fossil specimens, take notes, and make maps. It was not an official military expedition. Still, the personnel included tough intimidating former American Army men, French Canadians, and frontiersmen of multiple nationalities, including several Métis, several Delaware, two Miwok, and one Chinook Indians. No one was going to mess with these people.

Frémont and an advanced detachment was back at Sutter's Fort on December 10, 1845. There they enjoyed Sutter's company and explored the surrounding area. On January 27, 1846, Frémont and his advanced detachment arrived at Monterey and met the commanding Mexican General in northern California, Don Jose Castro, and the United States Consul, Thomas Larkin. Frémont told Castro that the expedition was only, ". . . engaged in surveying the nearest route from the United States to the Pacific Ocean . . . the object of the survey was geographical . . . and was made in the interests of science and of commerce . . . the party were citizens and not soldiers." As soon as they could resupply, the expedition would return to the United States, via Oregon (then not yet part of the United States). At this point, Frémont did not have his entire command with him. Castro was no doubt unhappy about the situation, but lacked options (i.e. troops), so he gave Frémont permission to remain and resupply, which Frémont proceeded to do. When the rest of the Expedition arrived, now, with over 60 heavily armed men under his command, Frémont did not head for Oregon. Instead, Frémont led his *scientific* expedition on a scout of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

More broadly, and more to the point, Frémont was reconnoitering the region between Monterey Bay and San Francisco Bay, which no American military man had ever seen. Therefore, during this trek, Frémont made a point of contacting many of the local American settlers (e.g. Isaac Graham), some of which had become Mexican citizens, and some who had not, to find out what they knew about the area. The Expedition also used their time in the area to examine the local flora, the most magnificent example of which was (and is) the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Frémont had seen the Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron*) in the Sierra Nevada, and he knew the two *Sequoia* species were both members of the Cyprus Family (*Cupressaceae*). The Expedition was near the top of the mountains by February 23, 1846, and it was during this period that Frémont made some of the earliest detailed scientific notes on, and made specimen collections of, this then little-known species. In his Geographical Memoir (cited in Welsh 1998:118-119), he wrote:

> The mountains were wooded with many varieties of trees, and in some parts with heavy forests. These forests are characterized by a cypress . . . of extraordinary dimensions . . . Among many we measured in this part of the mountain a diameter of nine or ten feet was frequent, sometimes even eleven; but going beyond eleven in only a single tree, which reached fourteen feet in diameter. Above 200 feet was a frequent height. In this locality the bark was very deeply furrowed and unusually thick, being fully sixteen inches on some of the trees. It was now in bloom, flowering near the summit, and the flowers consequently difficult to procure. This is the staple timber-tree of the country, being cut into boards and shingles, and is the principal timber sawed at the mills [the American settlers had built the first sawmills in California]. It is soft and easily worked, wearing away too quickly to be used for floors; but it seems to have all the durability which anciently gave the cypress so much celebrity. Posts which have been exposed to the weather three-quarters of a century since the foundation of the Missions, showed no marks of decay in the wood and are now converted into beams and posts for private dwellings. In California this tree is called the *Palo Colorado* . . . it is the king of Trees" (Welsh 1998:119).

By the morning of February 25, 1846, the Expedition was back at the coast at Santa Cruz; the men headed back towards Monterey via *El Camino Real*. This would have been a superb moment for the Delaware

were with him! Their ancestors had resided on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean when Europeans arrived, some 200 years earlier, and now a few of them rode along the shore of the Pacific Ocean, as members of an American Expedition. One can only wonder what they thought; this moment certainly would have been a story to take home to their families and friends!

By now the Mexicans had finally had enough, and on the afternoon of February 25th, a Mexican officer and a couple of his men intercepted the Expedition near Salinas, and officially, in no uncertain terms, informed Frémont that General Castro now ordered him to remove himself and his men from California, forthwith.

Frémont's subsequent escapades are beyond the scope of this short article. Briefly, war did not break out then, but it would come soon. When it did, the Third Expedition would morph into the California Battalion, which never fought a battle as a combined unit, although it did ride the length of California. On January 13, 1847, less than a year after it left Santa Cruz, Frémont and the California Battalion, which now included Delaware, Métis, Miwok, Ohlone, Walla Walla, Yokuts, Chumash, and one Chinook Indian - more than 10% of the command, accepted the capitulation of the last Mexican military forces in what is now the United States, at Campo de Cahuenga, in the San Fernando Valley.

Later in life Frémont would become California's first Senator. In 1846, he was the first Republican presidential nominee (He ran on an anti-slavery platform, and lost), he was for a time the fourth-highest ranking Union General in the Civil War, and he was California's first millionaire, but he spent everything on the good life and on lawyers. He died in poverty in 1890, having only a few days earlier finally been awarded an adequate pension for his service during the Civil War. He is well-remembered today because his wife Jessie saw to it that the journals of his Expeditions were published and widely disseminated.

Welsh, Stanley L.
1998 John Charles Frémont – Botanical Explorer. Missouri Botanical Garden Press. St. Louis, Missouri.

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