

Center for Columbia River History, Oregon Historical Society, National Park Service, Northwest Cultural Resources Institute, Columbia River Maritime Museum

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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NPS Historian and Maritime Museum Curator to speak on US Schooner *Shark* and Arch Cape Carronades

VANCOUVER, WA – On May 8, 2008, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. the Oregon Historical Society will host a free presentation entitled “Sympathy and Prompt Attention: the US Schooner *Shark* in the Oregon Country, 1846.”

Winter storms recently uncovered two short-barreled guns (carronades) on the beach near Arch Cape, Oregon. The source of the carronades has been the subject of much speculation and interest throughout the Pacific Northwest. Some believe these large objects may have belonged to the U.S. Schooner *Shark* and were torn loose from the vessel after it wrecked at the mouth of the Columbia River in September, 1846. The story has since garnered national attention, with the PBS television series *History Detectives* filming a segment exploring the relationship between the *Shark* and the carronades.

Using first-hand accounts, archival documents, maps, and private letters, Greg Shine, chief ranger and historian at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Northwest Cultural Resources Institute, will describe U.S. Schooner *Shark's* activities in the Pacific Northwest and its demise at the dangerous Columbia River Bar. His PowerPoint presentation will illustrate why the vessel was sent to Fort Vancouver and the Oregon Country, and how the schooner's officers interacted with Hudson's Bay Company officials, officers from the British sloop of war HMS *Modeste* and local residents. Their stories of cooperation, intrigue, shipwreck, rescue, and even horse racing will help create an understanding of the Oregon Country as it rose to international importance in the 1840s.

Following Shine's presentation, David Pearson, Curator for the Columbia River Maritime Museum, will deliver an update on the identification and conservation of the carronades, and answer questions.

Together, these historians provide a thoughtful, illuminating and provocative way to preserve and interpret the past.

This is a free public program co-sponsored by the Center for Columbia River History with the Oregon Historical Society, the National Park Service and the Northwest Cultural Resources Institute and the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

WHAT: Two-part multi-media presentation and lecture.

WHO: Greg Shine, chief ranger and historian at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Northwest Cultural Resources Institute, with David Pearson, curator for the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon.

WHERE: Oregon Historical Society, 1200 SW Park Ave., Portland, Oregon.

WHEN: Thursday, May 8, 2008, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

COST: Free to the public.

DETAILS: For more information contact the Center for Columbia River History, 360-258-3289.

WEBSITES: www.ccrh.org, www.ohs.org, <http://www.nps.gov/fova/>, <http://www.cmmm.org/>

BACKGROUND:

	<p>The Center for Columbia River History (CCRH) is dedicated to examining the hidden histories of the Columbia River Basin and to helping people think about the historical record from different perspectives through creative public history and direct engagement with Columbia River Basin communities. CCRH collaborates with other historical and cultural institutions, and offers its programs to schools, libraries, historical societies and public groups. CCRH offices are located on the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. www.ccrh.org</p>
	<p>The Oregon Historical Society's mission is to preserve Oregon's unique history and bring it to life through world-class exhibits in their interactive museum, publications and research library. From the Oregon Trail, to Native American culture, to nationally renowned Smithsonian exhibits, the Oregon Historical Society has educated and entertained Oregonians and out-of-town guests for generations. Learn more at www.ohs.org.</p>
	<p>Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service, is the heart of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. The Vancouver National Historic Reserve brings together a national park, a premier archaeological site, the region's first military post, an international fur trade emporium, one of the oldest operating airfields, the first national historic site west of the Mississippi River, and a waterfront trail and</p>

	<p>environmental center on the banks of the Columbia. http://www.nps.gov/fova/</p>
	<p>The Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon offers a variety of education programs for people of all ages. CRMM provides museum tours, outreach to teachers and learning opportunities for families. http://www.crm.org/</p>
	<p>The Northwest Cultural Resources Institute, a cooperative partnership based at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, is dedicated to fostering cultural resources research, education, and stewardship in the Pacific Northwest. The NCRI brings together National Park Service staff, university professors, and subject matter experts to facilitate research and training, provide expertise, and support other innovative educational endeavors using national parks as laboratories.</p>