Summit Synopsis Part III

Every week **Nancy Marguerite Anderson** posts another episode about the Hudson's Bay fur traders on her website, nancymargueriteanderson.com. She is the great grand-daughter of Alexander Caulfield Anderson, who was the Chief Trader in charge of Fort Colvile from 1848 to 1852, putting her in a league with many of the other speakers with fur trade roots at the Fort Colvile Summit October 18th, 2025. Her books include: **Pathfinder**, A. C. Andersons Journey in the West, **York Factory Express** The Fort Vancouver to Hudson's Bay 1826-1849 and **HBC Brigades** The Culture, conflict and perilous journeys of the fur trade.



Nancy Marguerite Anderson

The Express journey across the continent to Hudson Bay was an enormous undertaking, and the HBC men made this journey every year, for twenty-six years. She writes "*I found all the York Factory Express journals I could find and put them together in a book.*" Currently she is writing stories about Governor George Simpson, the little Emperor. In 1841, Simpson rode across the Canadian prairies from Red River to the Rocky Mountains and arrived at Fort Colvile with clothes all tattered. But he carried on and would eventually cross the Bering Sea to Russia and cross the continent back to England. Those stories will be in a future book.



Ryan Booth

The next speaker was **Ryan Booth**, a professor at Washington State University and an Upper Skagit who's great, great, great grandfather, Keaho, was actually Kanaka who came to Fort Langley and worked there and then married into the local tribes. So again, Ryan Booth has the history of fur trappers and Native people in his blood. Besides that, he grew up in Chewelah and was educated in the Catholic Church. That put him in contact with the same Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests who arrived at HBC Fort Colvile and studied the Salish language looking for words

that might help them explain, God and Jesus. (The Jesuit archives used to be at Gonzaga but they're now in Saint Louis.)

Ryan informed us that if we were attending his classes at WSU, you would hear him say "Humans gonna human," "In all of its glory and in all of its ugliness, we're complicated. We make mistakes. We're mean. Sometimes we're really generous." He reminded us that those conflicting traits exist in each of us and all the characters of history. He was glad to be there with us trying to sort that out.

Tina Wynecoop started out her talk at the Fort Colvile Summit saying "I appreciate this summit being called a 'commemoration' of Fort Colvile's beginnings 200 years ago and not calling it a 'celebration' - in deference to the Indigenous people who have always been here (and still are here today) whose lives have been impacted by these 'visitors' who never left."

Tina came to inform us about an incredibly valuable resource: **The Fur Trade Families of the Pacific Northwest** by Gail Morin – a set of six volumes filled with information on 250 families. Most of the families included are the descendants of Northwest Company, American Fur Company and Hudson's Bay Company employees and their Native American wives. The books are available online from Amazon. (She recommends the soft cover as being easier to handle.)



Gail Morin

Morin used "*witnessed events, notes for baptisms, marriages, burials, employment history, censuses, BIA probate records, tribal council minutes, military draft and enlistment records, social and legal newspaper articles, obituaries, old and not so old biographies to flesh out these genealogies.*" So, they are not just lists of names and numbers but complete research into primary documents. You may need the complete collection since the names are listed alphabetically across all six volumes and virtually all Native families have ties to others with last names spread over many volumes.

The Inchelium Cultural Research Center has these books available in its library. Tina recommends that libraries and museums consider purchasing the full set. (The books are also available in Kindle format which is word searchable and less costly.)

Professor Tom Holloway could not be at the Summit in person. He explains "In March 2013, I fell down a flight of stairs at home in Portland and injured my spinal cord. Since then, I've been quadriplegic, paralyzed from the neck down. I do all my research and writing by

tapping the screen of an iPad with a mouse stick stylus." Despite these limitations, Tom, a retired historian and volunteer researcher for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, has been instrumental in research and writing to make us aware of one of the most iconic and critical products of HBC Fort Colvile, the Columbia Boat.



Tom Holloway

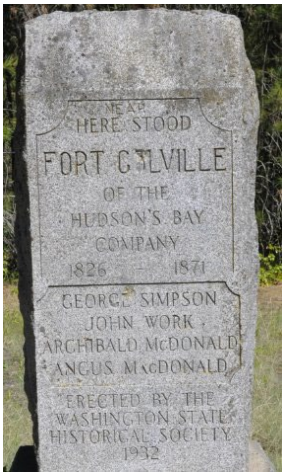
Holloway's research papers are on TheHeritageNetwork.org website under the articles tab. For the summit he sent images and text explaining the nature and use of these boats. Seagoing ships could bring cargo from London to Fort Vancouver near Portland. Two major roundtrip voyages occurred inland each year. One went up the river with heavy trade goods then back down with over two tons of furs in each of 9 boats. Another was an "Express" trip to Hudson's Bay and back that travelled 1000 miles up the Columbia by boat then over the Rocky Mountains on foot and horses, then across the continent on rivers and streams starting with 2 or 3 boats and hauling mostly passengers and correspondence.



by Sean Deller of the Northwest Fur Trade Historian

Fort Colvile built these boats for the whole of the Columbia District between 1825 and 1845 because it had a good supply of cedar and because "*Kettle Falls was the only obstacle on the Columbia that always required a full portage, where all cargo and boats had to be carried."* The original design by David Thompson mimicked the birch bark canoes developed by Native people in the East. They were 30 feet long and 5 ½ feet wide with a crew of 8. Sixteen men could carry the empty boats around falls and rapids. Holloway

detailed the contents of a typical boat as shown in an illustration by Sean Deller of the Northwest Fur Trade Historians.



Dylan High works for the Washington State Historical Society and has been working on this project to look at monuments that were placed in the early 20th century all around the state. One is located at Mission Point near HBC Fort Colvile. High emphasized the importance of having monuments reflect the complexity of historical events and inspire curiosity about those events. Given their typically small size and large importance, that is a tall order. Dylan and his team are looking for input from the Tribes on how to achieve that. He has a bumper sticker that says “I brake for historical markers.”

Warren Seyler helped us wrap up the event just as he helped start it. He recounted a story of the Spokane Indians first encounter with white men told by Sadie Boyd. “One day these girls were out picking berries away from camp. And as they're picking berries, they hear this loud rustling coming through. The girls think, well, that's got to be an animal because Indians aren't that noisy. So, they go up and they're going to see what kind of animal this is. They start peeking through the bushes and this girl goes, suyapi, suyapi, this scared tone in her voice and people in the village hear this. Well, in the Salish language, suyapi means upside down face.” Seyler looked over at Matty Ross, a descendant of Jaco Finley and Northwest Fur Trade Historian, who took off his red beret to reveal a bald head and a long white beard. This gave us a good laugh.

Warren went on to note that an Indian tradition after a big event such as a battle or buffalo hunt is to sit in a group and have each person there recount the event from their perspective. As with other benefits of oral traditions that could describe this gathering, it gives everyone a more balanced perspective.

His last story was about his younger brother who didn’t like going to the school near their house. One day his parents saw his brother out the window running home chased by the “hippy school teacher”. She turns out to be Tina Wynecoop who had just spoken to us.Last but certainly not least, we ate a full meal of salmon and buffalo prepared by Mistequa chef, Rebecca Perrin. (The whole talk with pictures can be seen on TheHeritageNetwork.org website under Fort Colvile Summit.)