



PNWAS NEWS BULLETIN 129

WELCOME TO PNWAS 2017!!!!

Hope everyone is doing well. Last summer we had a wonderful fieldtrip to the Olympic College Yama archaeological site, a Japanese settlement on Bainbridge Island—the topic of our upcoming Winter Meeting!



August PNWAS fieldtrip to excavations of the Yama Japanese Settlement on Bainbridge Island. This Winter's program (below) will be given by Directors, Professor Floyd Aranyosi (right) and Dr. Caroline Hartse (Center, white pants). They are showing us bricks from a house fireplace.



Takayoshi's store in Yama; community center/Buddhist Temple in Background. He served ice cream at the store, using cream from a local dairy. These are probably his girls and a friend in a Ford Model T2 "Runabout." The wooden road is approximately 8 feet wide.

Mark these upcoming meetings in your Calendar:

WINTER Meeting:

Friday December 9th, 2016

Yama, Washington: A 19th and early 20th Century Japanese Transnational Community on Bainbridge Island

By
Dr. Caroline Hartse and Professor Floyd Aranyosi, Olympic College

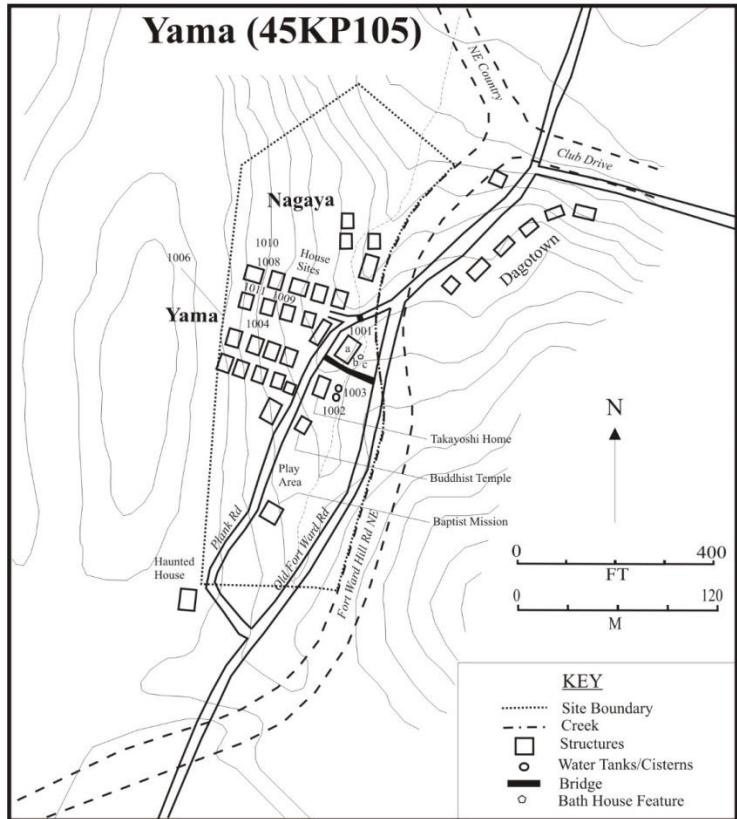
As part of a collaborative, multi-organizational archaeology project, Olympic College is conducting an archaeological field school at the historic site of Yama and Nagaya, on Bainbridge Island. This is thought to be the only archaeological fieldschool in Western Washington, and run by a Community College. The 2016 field season (July and August) is the second year of this three year project. Come hear project representatives discuss the project and the findings of the 2016 season and plans for the future.



Project Director Professor Floyd Aranyosi holding an ice cream churn that is probably from Takayoshi's store ice cream parlor in Yama (picture to left)!

Background History of Yama, Bainbridge Island

Following the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the Meiji Restoration of 1868, the Japanese government began permitting citizens to travel overseas for the first time, and within 15 years, Japanese bachelors began immigrating to the Pacific Northwest, where their labor was desperately sought by the region's booming lumber industry. The Port Blakely Sawmill hired many of the Japanese immigrants, and granted them use of a parcel of land to the southwest of the mill for their residences. The men called their settlement "*Nagaya*," which is a Japanese word meaning "*longhouse*," probably in reference to the types of shelter the young men built of lumber, donated by the mill for that purpose (see reconstructed map of town below).



R. Drolet 2014b (Modified from Adam & Goldsworthy 2011)

Preliminary field map of Yama and Nagaya by Anthropology Professor Robert Drolet.

By 1890, married men and their wives and children began arriving on Bainbridge Island, and constructed individual family homes on the steep slopes, south and uphill of Nagaya (see map above). They named this settlement "*Yama*," which means "mountain," in reference to the terrain.



Community houses of Yama, Japanese for mountain, since community is on a steep hill. The Washington Hotel on left.

At its peak, the twin "neighborhoods" of Yama and Nagaya consisted of over 50 houses (see map), and 200-300 residents. The village was home to a hotel and restaurant, a barbershop, a general store and ice cream parlor, a photo studio, an informal tea garden, a community center which served as a part-time Buddhist temple and school for Japanese language and culture, and a Baptist mission (see maps and photographs). In the early years of the 20th century, Yama became a popular tourist destination for visitors from throughout the Pacific Northwest, many staying at the Washington Hotel (see picture above), while the Blakely Sawmill was hailed as the largest sawmill in the world.



Brick that fit together found in two separate pieces by PNWAS member. It reads BONNIEBRIDGE, which is a foundry in England! The Director, Floyd, believes these were ballast bricks in ships that left them on dock when loading lumber and the Yama residents got them for building materials.

After World War I, the Blakely Sawmill began to lose revenue, and the mill closed its doors for the last time in 1922. The residents of Yama/Nagaya moved elsewhere in search of employment, and by 1925, the village was virtually abandoned. People even dismantled their houses and took the lumber and window glass with them to rebuild elsewhere. The steep terrain made the site unappealing to developers, so as the surrounding area of Port Blakely became the location of luxury homes, Yama remained undisturbed and eventually came under the aegis of Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District. This fact is significant, since all of the other known “*Nihonmachi*,” or “Japanese settlements” of the late 19th and early 20th century in the Pacific Northwest have been significantly altered by subsequent development. Yama, alone, has remained relatively intact.

The Yama Archaeological Project

Today, more than 90 years later, Olympic College has the opportunity to research this formative chapter in the history of Washington State, and the early years of the formation of Japanese-American identity. Our multi-disciplinary team includes archaeologists, ethnographers, and historians.

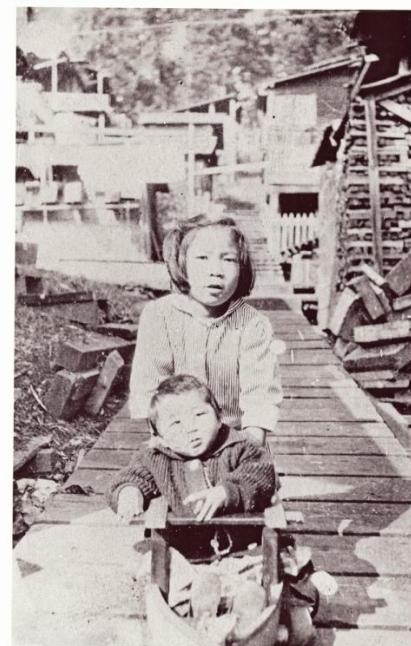


Olympic College Field School Students begin excavating a new surface during the 2016 season



A 2016 Olympic College student with a recent find of a Japanese bowl.

We hope to reconstruct and understand “daily life” at Yama, and to shed light on the formative period of Japanese-American culture. We also have the opportunity to teach students the techniques of archaeological, historical, ethnographic, cartographic, and museum studies, while we explore the details of this “hidden chapter” in Washington State history.



Children playing in small wagon on the streets of Yama.

DATE: Friday, December 9th, 2016

TIME: 7 pm to 9 pm

PLACE: Mountaineers Seattle Program Center, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 in the Cascade Room

COST: FREE to members, \$10.00 to non-members, \$5.00 for Students (**please renew membership for 2017 and these programs at <http://www.pnw.org> and now through PayPal**)

Refreshments provided (Please bring cookies/snacks to share with the beverages).

Friday March 17th, 2017

An Ancient Coast Salish Canoe from the Green River: A Project Update

By

Peter Lape, Warren KingGeorge, Laura Phillips, and Sven Haakanson, University of Washington, Burke Museum

The Burke Museum's collections include a wooden dugout canoe that was found eroding out of the banks of the Green River in Kent, WA in 1963. With support from a John Gardener grant from the Traditional Small Craft Association, Burke and Muckleshoot Tribe scholars are creating a detailed 3D model of the canoe, radiocarbon dating of the hull and fiber repairs, creating a custom storage cradle, and recording histories of Coast Salish river canoes from tribal elders. We will present our results to date.



The S.deXwit being recovered from the banks of the Green River in 1963. Photo courtesy Muckleshoot Tribe Archives, #2006.40.03.

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Pacific Northwest Archaeological Society

1219 Irving Street SW Tumwater WA 98512

Join at <http://www.pnwas.org>



Metal cookware found in the 2016 summer excavations of the Yama Archaeological site

Join us Friday December 9th, 2016 for

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