



POST DISPATCH

UPDATES FROM THE FORT DOUGLAS MUSEUM

April 2009

Museum Calendar

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- April 8** – Special Forces Association Meeting, 6 p.m.
- April 11** – Begin excavation at Camp Floyd
- April 13** – Osher Western Film Series, 11 a.m.
- April 14** – FDMA Executive Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
- April 16** – Little Bighorn Trip Information Meeting, 4 p.m.
- April 17** – Quarterly Update for Volunteers and Board Members
- April 18** – Iraq War Exhibit public opening
- April 20** – Osher Western Film Series, 11 a.m.
- April 23** – Utah State History Fair

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This edition of the *Post Dispatch* covers a very active time for the Museum. We finally reopened on February 1st. Not every thing was ready, but enough to let the public back in. The first thing you will notice is the Utah War exhibit as you enter the gallery. This has been truly a collaborative effort. Ephriam successfully worked out a partnership with the LDS Museum of Church History and Art and the Camp Floyd State Park to display items from their collections that supplemented our own. In addition, the Office of Museum Services provided \$1,000 and the Utah Westerners \$500 towards completion.

We have been active with the state legislature by participating in Museum Day to support the Office of Museum Services programs and we also had our first Legislator's Family Evening to thank the legislators for their support of the Museum.

We were fortunate and avoided any 2009 budget cuts, but will have to take a \$10,000 cut for 2010. Obviously, fund raising from the private sector will become very important.

For the first time, we also partnered with the Hibernian Society to celebrate the Irish in Utah. The St. Patrick's Day parade was on Saturday, March 14 followed by a lecture series at the Museum on Monday the 16th, culminating in a special Irish celebration at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Tuesday, the 17th (the actual date of St. Patrick's Day). Colonel Connor was the father of Utah's St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the 1860's-1890's. For many years he was the parade marshal.

As you can see from the other articles in this monthly newsletter, we are very busy and are moving full speed ahead into 2009.

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS SOON

This month, the Fort Douglas Museum will be opening a temporary exhibition featuring the work of *Salt Lake Tribune* photographer Rick Egan. In the fall of 2005, Rick spent two months in Iraq documenting the lives of Iraqis and American soldiers at a time of great violence. Through his lens the readers of the *Tribune* were given a glimpse of the serious, severe and sometimes surprising realities of a war that has been controversial for many.

Rick Egan has been a staff photographer for the *Salt Lake Tribune* for more than two decades. He was named Photographer of the Year in 2004 by the Utah Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

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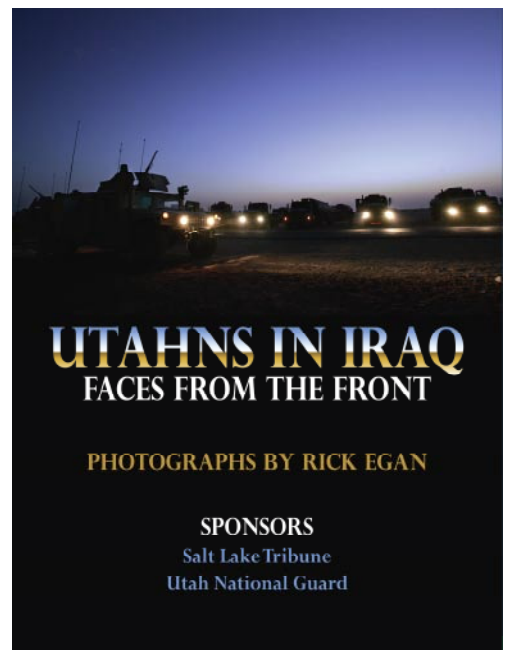
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UTAHNS IN IRAQ

FACES FROM THE FRONT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICK EGAN

SPONSORS

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UTAH WAR EXHIBIT OPENS

The arrival of the Army during the Utah War and the construction of Camp Floyd was an important part of the history leading up to establishing Camp Douglas. This introductory exhibit highlights the march of the Army to Utah and the building of the largest military post in the West.

Among the new artifacts on display is a sample of items recovered from the Army's campsite north of Camp Floyd, including gold coins presumably lost by soldiers after getting paid for the first time in Utah Territory. The exhibit also features a diorama of Camp Floyd illustrating the types of uniforms worn at the time. Central to this display is a rare original 1850 mountain howitzer.



This exhibit is made possible by the generous financial support of several organizations and the loan of artifacts from several sources. The Office of Museum Services and the Utah Westerners helped to underwrite the exhibit. Objects were borrowed from the LDS Museum of Church History and Art, Camp Floyd State Park, Duane Bylund, Roger Nielson, Jared Cornell, Bill Wheeler and Michael Anderson. Arlo Johnson painted the mural.

An infantryman and artilleryman display the uniforms typical of the frontier Army arriving in Utah in 1858.

EXHIBIT ON U.S.S. UTAH OPENS

The Fort Douglas Museum also helped create an exhibit at the State Capitol focused on the USS *Utah* (BB-31), in recognition of her keel-laying one hundred years ago this year. The exhibit features four cases, two large murals and a series of 36 framed photographs depicting the ship and life aboard a dreadnought battleship. The exhibit will remain open to the public through December of this year.



In a special ceremony at the state capitol, Governor Huntsman dedicated the exhibit and helped to cut the ribbon. William Hughes of Grand Prairie, Texas, was the special guest of honor. Hughes had been a radioman aboard the USS *Utah* on the fateful Sunday morning of December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and sank the ship.

LUNCH AT THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S QUARTERS

This past month, members of the Osher's Continuing Education class completed their study of the social history of Fort Douglas, led by curator Ephriam Dickson. As their final activity, the class learned about Victorian etiquette by participating in a lunch at the old post commander's home. Many of the participants dressed in period attire and everyone learned about calling cards and proper etiquette for the period.

Special thanks to the Eccles School of Business who allowed the class to use the newly restored 1875 post commander's home for the event. The Museum is also grateful to a several living history interpreters from This Is The Place who sat at each table to engage the students. A fun and educational time was had by all!



EXCAVATING AT CAMP FLOYD

A Conversation with Archaeologist Dr. Dale Berge



Established by the U.S. Army in 1858 to house troops sent to quell a suspected rebellion in Utah Territory, Camp Floyd became the largest military garrison in the West, housing nearly 3,000 enlisted soldiers and commissioned officers. The nearby town of Fairfield also grew quickly, reaching an estimated population of 4,000 people. Together, the post and adjacent town formed the third largest community in Utah Territory. The post was abandoned in July 1861 following the outbreak of the Civil War.

Recognizing that the site of Camp Floyd site (42UT14) was largely undisturbed and had the potential to yield important data about the economics and subsistence of the frontier Army, Dr. Dale Berge of Brigham Young University used his annual student Field School to begin excavations. Over the course of eleven years, from 1982 and 1993, he and his students systematically excavated nine structures representing different levels of the military social structure. These included enlisted barracks and mess house of the Tenth Infantry, an officer's quarters, camp headquarters, stable, ordnance workshop and two sutler stores. They also explored a privy and a trash dump.

In a recent conversation with curator Ephriam Dickson, Dr. Berge explained that having served in the army earlier in his life, he was very interested in military history. As a historic archaeologist at BYU, he excavated a series of sites important to Mormon history, including the site of Joseph Smith's log home in New York. He explored the Mormon community of Goshen, located on the southern tip of Utah Lake and then moved into the Cedar Valley to begin work at Camp Floyd.

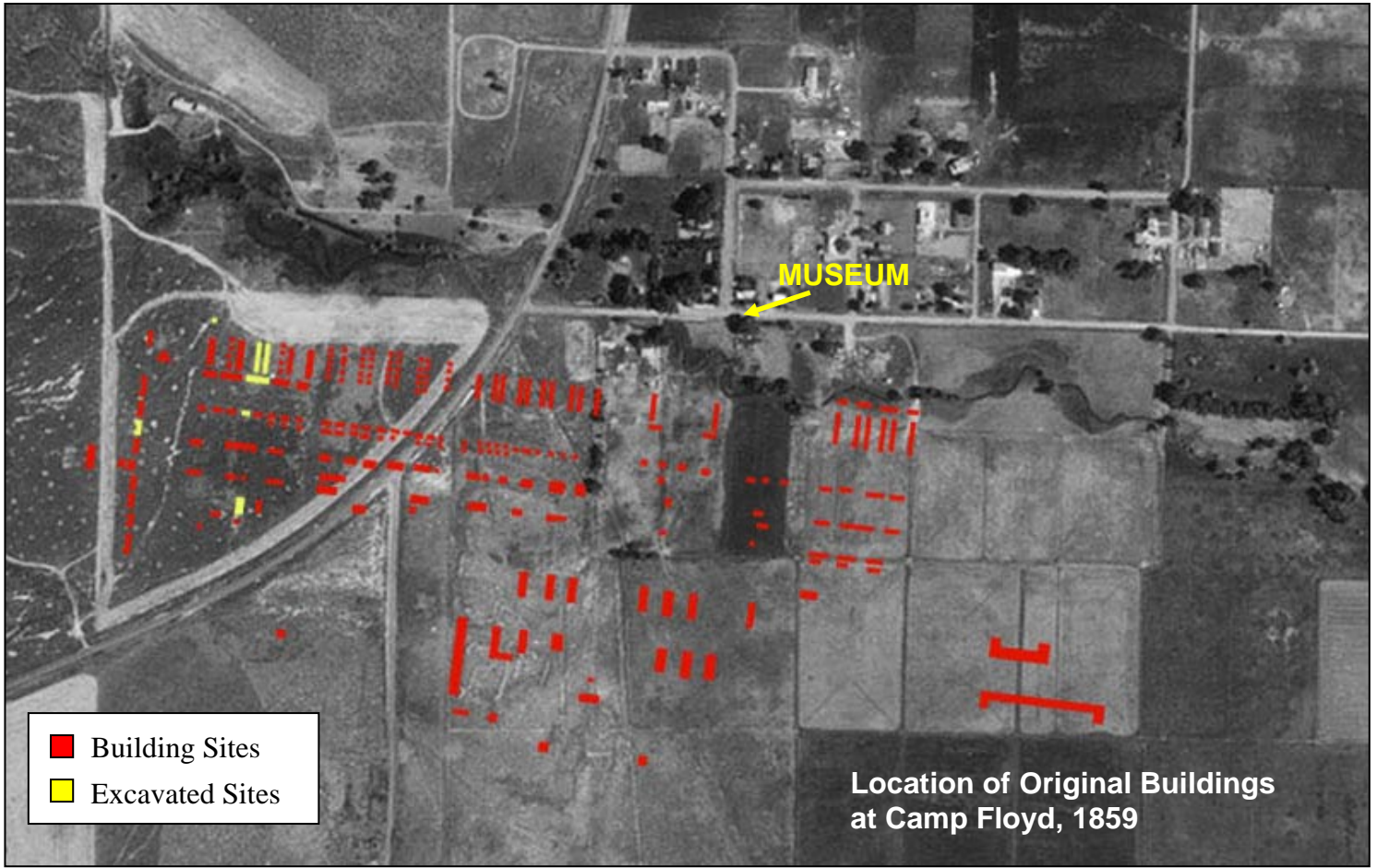
Dr. Berge recalls the highlight of his work at Camp Floyd being working with the many school children who came to visit the excavation. "You could just see their eyes light up," he recalled. "It was history outside of their textbooks."



Above: Dr. Dale Berge at his home in Provo. Retired from BYU in 2002, Dr. Berge continues his interest in Camp Floyd.

Below: Three of many bottles recovered from the site of a Tenth Infantry enlisted privy.





- Building Sites
- Excavated Sites

Location of Original Buildings at Camp Floyd, 1859



EXCAVATIONS TO BEGIN AGAIN

The Fort Douglas Museum, in partnership with Camp Floyd State Park, will be participating in excavations at the site once again. An area near the spring, once the home of the Tenth and Seventh Infantry, is about to be developed for an RV camp. Fortunately, the private landowner is allowing excavators to work on the property during the month of April in an effort to learn more about the structures and the material culture of the frontier Army.

If you are interested in participating in the excavation, please contact Ephriam Dickson at 801-581-1251. Weather permitting, excavations are planned for weekends beginning April 11.

Above: Outline of the adobe walls for one of the headquarters buildings excavated by Dr. Berge and students from Brigham Young University

Above Right: Detail of preserved wood from a collapsed ceiling in the Tenth Infantry Barracks.

Right: Near the spring, water filled the excavations, forcing the archaeologists to change methods. The mud was washed through the sluicer to retrieve any artifacts.

