

# CAMP FLOYD EXCAVATION UPDATE

as of May 6, 2009

## DIG SCHEDULE

With only 5 digging days left, we need your help. We still have several barracks to locate and have just begun work in the privy area of the site. The weather has improved greatly from this past month. Please volunteer to join us for one of these upcoming dates.

**Friday, May 8**  
**Saturday, May 9**

We will be taking a break on Sunday, May 10, and spending time with our mothers and wives!

**Friday, May 15**  
**Saturday, May 16**  
**Sunday, May 17**

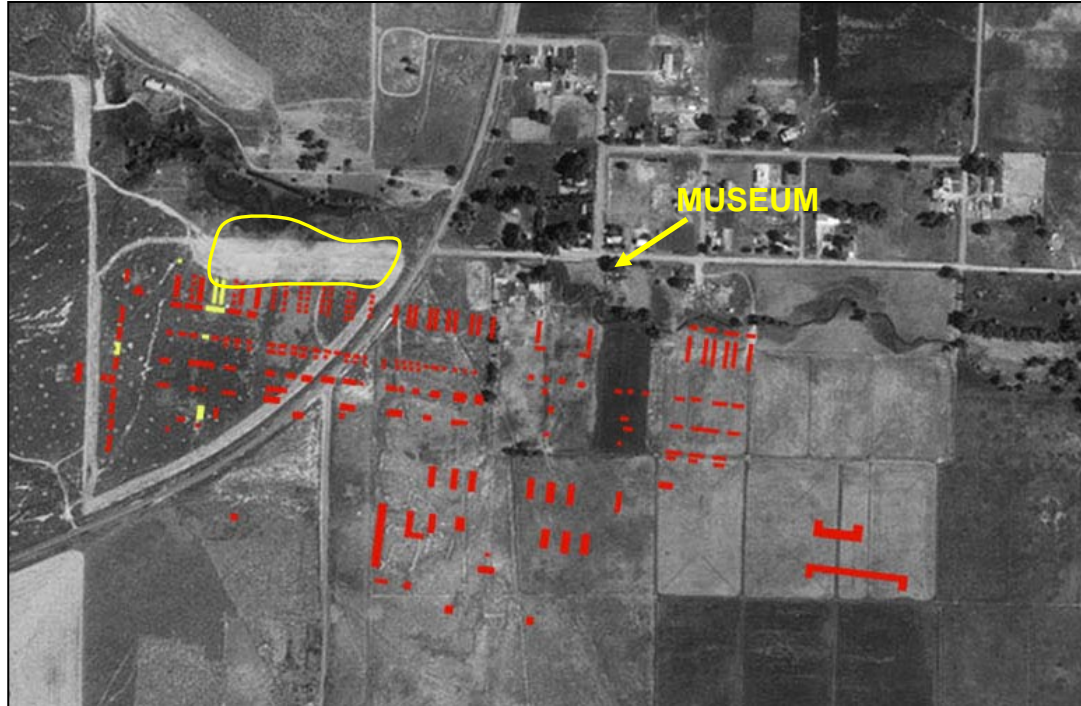
Please join us at the Camp Floyd State Park museum at 9 a.m. for an orientation to the site and paperwork. Camping is possible at the park. Restrooms are available, though we have no showers. There are no restaurants in the area so please bring your own lunch for the day.

## We Need Your Help!

If you would like more information or would like to sign up for a particular date, please contact us at:

**Ephriam D. Dickson III**  
Curator, Fort Douglas Museum

[edickson@fortdouglas.org](mailto:edickson@fortdouglas.org)  
(801) 581-1251



## OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

A private land owner in Fairfield, Utah, has decided to develop an RV park, the construction of which will potentially impact a part of an important historic archaeological site, Camp Floyd (42UT14). He has graciously granted permission for us to have access to the property to recover as much data as possible prior to construction activities and to be on site while the work is underway.

Established in 1858, Camp Floyd consisted of a large number of adobe, wood and tent buildings extending for nearly a mile along the south edge of a small stream. The general arrangement of the buildings (marked in red) are shown on the above map.

The RV corner will be located in the northwest corner of the site (outlined in yellow) which includes the enlisted barracks for the Tenth and Seventh Infantry, as well as their associated privies and trash dumps. Our work here will hopefully yield important new information about the construction of the buildings and the material culture of the

frontier army in Utah. Camp Floyd was abandoned in 1861 at the beginning of the Civil War. During its first two years of existence, Camp Floyd was the largest military post in the United States.

## MYSTERY ARTIFACT

Can you name this artifact? It was found this past week in Room A of Barracks #5, occupied by enlisted soldiers of the Tenth Infantry.



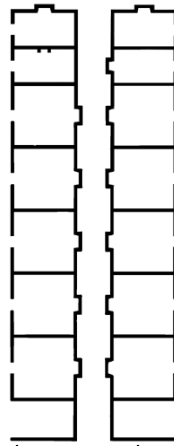
Answer on page 5

## CURRENT FINDINGS

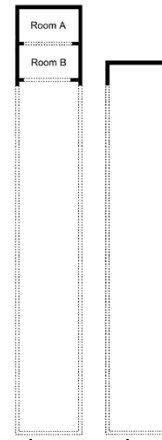
So far, our excavation work has focused on identifying the northern boundaries of the enlisted barracks near the area to be developed. The land owner has expressed a willingness to redesign his proposed RV camp to avoid impacting these structures.

A map of Camp Floyd, drawn in early 1859, shows that barracks for two different regiments were located in this area. On the map below, the area of the Tenth Infantry is outlined in blue, with sites previously excavated by BYU highlighted in yellow. We began by digging two shallow trenches across two slight hills and discovered Barracks 5, 6 and 7. An outline of what we have uncovered is shown in black at right.

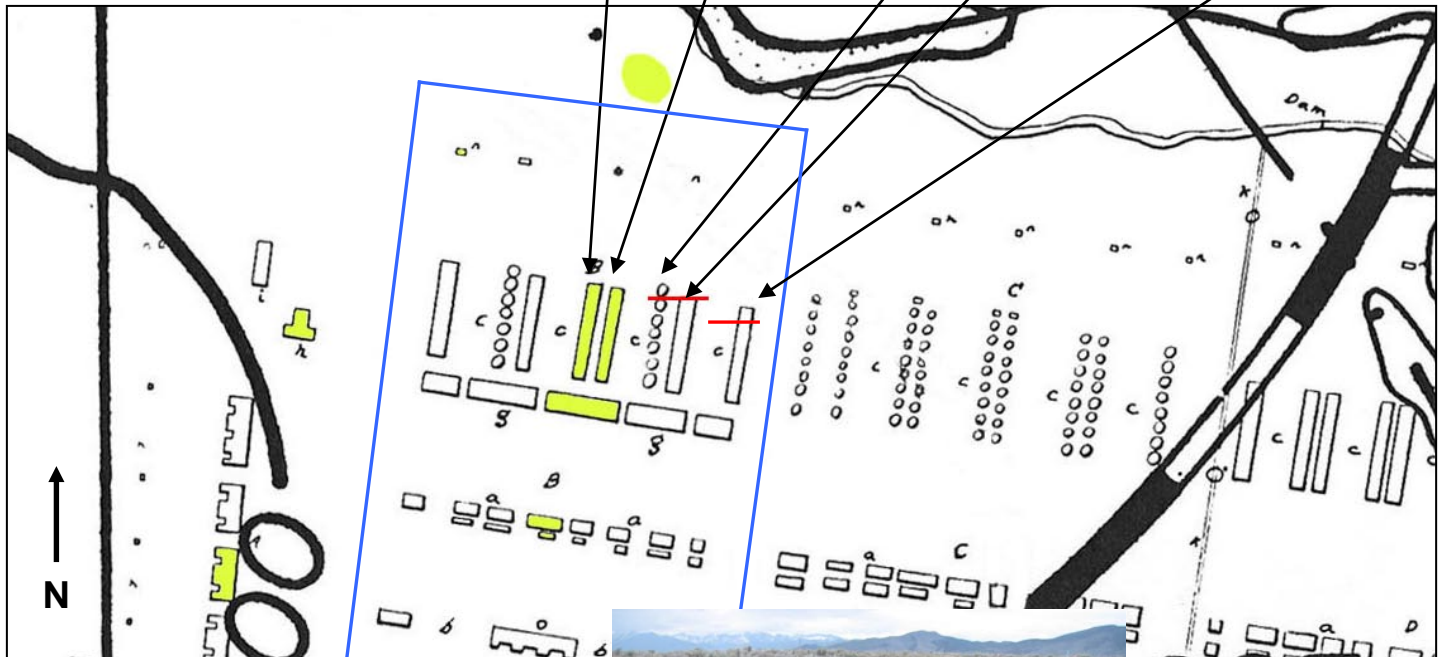
Barracks 3-4



Barracks 5-6



Barracks 7



The 1859 map shows that there were two types of barracks constructed at Camp Floyd. The first was a long adobe building, divided into individual rooms. Each room was home to probably twelve soldiers, sleeping on bunk beds. The round structures on the map were actually Sibley Tents, mounted on top of a four foot high adobe wall. We are very interested in learning more about these round barracks.

Barracks #5 is shown to be a row of seven such structures. However, our excavation revealed that at some point, the army had dismantled these structures and replaced them with a more traditional long adobe barracks. Over the last several weeks, we have been able to identify the northern edges of Barracks 5, 6 and 7 within the Tenth Infantry area.



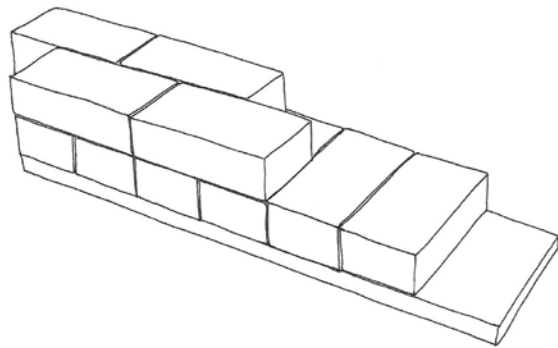
John Eldredge (at right) proudly shows off our first evidence of adobe walls for Barracks #5. Dave Jaybusch is assisting.



*Lines mark the faint outline of the adobe wall in Barracks #5. (Photo looking south)*

Further excavation revealed the length of the western wall of Barracks #5. One of the interior walls, also built of adobe, can be seen in this photograph, extending to the left. This barracks also had a long stone walkway paralleling the building on the west.

The excavations of Barracks 5 and the adjacent Barracks 6 provided some details on about the structures were constructed. Walls were built upon a wood footing, measuring 12 inches wide. The first layer of adobe bricks (each measuring 12 inches long by 6 inches wide and 4 inches tall) were laid upon the board crosswise. The next row of adobe bricks were laid lengthwise, the bricks alternating to give the wall maximum strength. We also found evidence of interior plaster or "mud" applied to the walls, probably white washed to make the rooms more habitable. Each room had its own fireplace and door. These details were revealed by the careful excavation of each barracks.



*So far, the surviving barracks' walls have only preserved the first two layers of adobe brick but have provided some construction details. (Drawing by E. Dickson)*



*A stone walkway was discovered just outside the western wall of Barracks #5. Perhaps soldiers constructed this feature to help keep mud from being tracked into their rooms. (Photo looking north)*



*Bob Voyles and his wife Margaret uncovered the eastern wall of Barracks #7, the last of Tenth Infantry barracks. The adobe walls clearly show up in the trench. (Photo looking north)*



## SIBLEY TENT BARRACKS FOUND

This past weekend, with the weather finally improving on Sunday, volunteers began work with the area of the Seventh Infantry Barracks (outlined in blue below). The 1859 map of Camp Floyd suggests that all of the barracks here were the round adobe structures with Sibley Tents mounted on top. The question was whether or not any evidence of these structures had survived. In the case of the Tenth Infantry, the round barracks had been replaced by the more traditional rectangular adobe building.

On Sunday, we were very excited to discover the first three of the round barracks. None of these structures have been completely excavated yet, but they appear to have doors facing towards the open areas on the east or west of each row. They are placed very close together, with lime mortar and gravel packed between. This coming weekend, we will continue to explore these unusual barracks and expand our work into the privy zone of the site.

*Louwane VanSoolen is shown here beginning work on one of the unusual round barracks.*





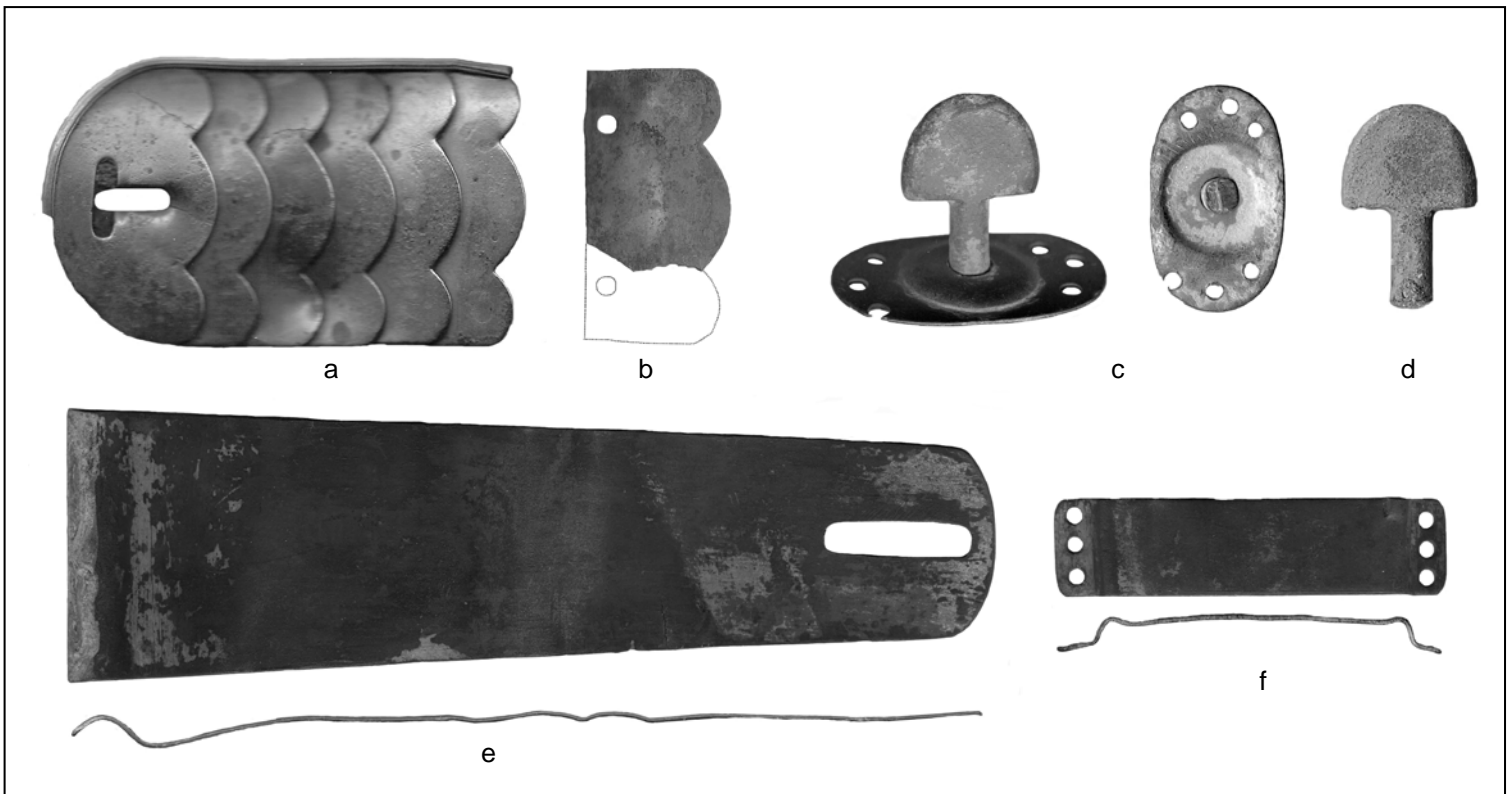
## MYSTERY ARTIFACT

The mystery artifact shown on page 1 is a clip or slide, used to hold the brass shoulder scales on to a soldier's uniform jacket. First introduced in 1833 to be worn by mounted troops only, the brass shoulder scales were authorized for all enlisted soldiers in 1854. This part of the uniform was worn as part of the dress uniform, such as at Guard Mount each morning or at Retreat each evening. They were not very popular. One soldier referred to the scales as "the abomination of a soldier" struggling to keep them shiny.



**Above:** A Tenth Infantry private shows off his dress uniform as worn at Camp Floyd about 1858. Notice the brass scales worn on his shoulders. (From exhibit at the Fort Douglas Museum).

**Left:** Shoulder scale as worn when the dress uniform was required.  
**Right:** The shoulder scales have been removed for regular duty about the post. Note the clip or slide sewn on to the uniform near the edge of the shoulder.



**Brass Shoulder Scales Recovered from West Creek Camp Site (WC) and Camp Floyd (CF):** a) segment of scales, CF, uncataloged; b) fragment of a scale, CF-83-36; c) key on base, side view and view of bottom base, WC; d) isolated key, CF-87-5; e) tongue, WC; f) clip or slide, top view and side profile, CF. Camp Floyd artifacts were excavated by Dr. Berge, BYU, during the 1980s. West Creek artifacts courtesy Duane Bylund and Roger Nielson. Photos by E. Dickson.