

Photographic Report #3:  
October 28, 2023 SJ&S Umpqua Memorial Stone Dedication

Bob Zybach, Chair, ORWW 1828 Umpqua Memorial Committee  
David Gould, Coos Bay Timber Operators  
Larry Hager, Bronzecraft Memorials  
Stu Richardson, Richardson Masonry  
Cathy Schneider, Northwest Canine Resources



Bob Zybach, Oregon Websites & Watersheds Project, Inc. and David Gould, Coos Bay Timber Operators and the Smith, Jackson & Sublette 1828 Umpqua Memorial Stone. Mission accomplished! Photo by Stu Richardson, Richardson Masonry, Reedsport, Oregon, October 18, 2023.

The final completion and formal dedication of the 1828 Umpqua Memorial Stone took place, as scheduled, at sunset on October 28, 2023, the 195th anniversary of the burial of the remains of the 15 men killed near here on July 14, 1828. The burial was likely accompanied by both Methodist and Catholic prayers from both American and British members of the returning party. This location now marks the entrance to the Smith, Jackson & Sublette 1828 Umpqua Memorial, officially recognized as an Historic Cemetery by the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries, March 29, 2023.

# Smith, Jackson & Sublette Beaver Trappers

— *In Memory of* —

Thomas Daws  
John Gaither  
John Hanna  
Abraham Laplant  
Joseph Lapoint  
Emmanuel Lazarus  
Toussaint Marechal  
Martin McCoy  
Joseph Palmer  
Peter Ranne  
John Peter Ranne  
John Robeseau  
Harrison G. Rogers  
Charles Swift  
Thomas Virgin

— *Died July 14, 1828* —

**Dedicated October 28, 2023**

Oregon Websites & Watersheds Project  
Jedediah Smith Society  
Oregon-California Trails Association

This is the artistic rendering of the proposed bronze draft created for the Umpqua Memorial Stone. It was created by R3 Engraving & Designs of Corvallis, Oregon with the assistance of Kiersten Shettlesworth. Larry Hager, Bronzecraft Memorials, then sent this copy to Creative Bronze Design in Huntington Park, California to manufacture the polymer template used for the final bronze casting.





Here is the "set-up room" for Bronzecraft Memorials in Wamic, Oregon, where patterns are lettered and set before moving to the foundry floor.



Mike Holloway, son and partner in Bronzecraft Memorials and the business's "Head of Production."





Phil Hager and father Larry at Bronzecraft Memorials, Wamic, Oregon. Phil has nearly 50 years' experience making molds and castings and "no one is better." The black sand across the floor was originally green and soaked with water before being impressed by the polymer template. It turns black from the heat of the melted bronze, which is poured onto the mold at 2300 to 2400 degrees F.



Larry Hager, Bronzecraft Memorials, Wamic, Oregon, holding the finished bronze plaque for the Umpqua Memorial Stone, October 17, 2023. Photos by Bob Zybach.





(L) Stu Richardson, Richardson Masonry, Reedsport, Oregon, cutting patterns into Umpqua Memorial Stone with diamond grinding wheel to house bronze plaque. (R) Stu chiseling sections from stone made by grinding wheel. Photos by Richardson Masonry apprentice, Jason Richer, October 15, 2023.



Stu Richardson, Richardson Masonry, putting finishing touches on Umpqua Memorial Stone for bronze plaque; observed by David Gould, Coos Bay Timber Operators, October 18, 2023.





Bronze plaque from Bronzecraft Memorials, Wamic, Oregon, and Memorial Stone with finished engraving by Richardson Masonry, Reedsport, Oregon, October 18, 2023.



Completed Umpqua Memorial Stone with bronze plaque from Bronzecraft Memorials, Wamic, Oregon, following engraving and installation by Richardson Masonry, Reedsport, Oregon, October 18, 2023.



## DOUGLAS COUNTY

## New memorial to slain trappers marks a turning point in Oregon history

No one knows for certain what triggered the killings by members of the Quitch Tribe of the lower Umpqua.

**Lori Tobias** *For The Oregonian/OregonLive*

One hundred and ninety-five years ago, a trapper arrived in Fort Vancouver with news that 15 of his colleagues had been slain by members of the Quitch Tribe in what is now Oregon's Douglas County, their horses, furs and personal belongings stolen; their bodies left to rot.

On Saturday, local history buffs will gather near Reedsport to dedicate a monument to the men who were part of the business partnership of a Smith, Jackson and Sublette trapping party led by Jedediah Smith. Recently listed as the Smith, Jackson and Sublette Burial Site, it is believed to be the oldest cemetery in Douglas County recognized by the Oregon Commission on Historical Cemeteries and among the oldest in Oregon.

The Quitch Tribe of the lower Umpqua were among the communities devastated by disease brought by white trappers and traders starting around 1820. Survivors were rounded up and removed from their lands starting in 1860.

For the people behind the Umpqua Memorial Project, the trappers' burial site is important not only for memorializing the deceased men, but for what it represents in Oregon's history, said Bob Zybach, historian and program manager of Oregon Websites and Watersheds Project.

"It's one of the key reasons we're the U.S. and not Britain now," Zybach said, explaining that after the incident Smith "rediscovered" South Pass on his way to the Missouri River. Smith, Jackson and Sublette in turn promoted the route to top government officials as a possible wagon route for American emigrants to the Willamette Valley, Zybach said. "A decade later, Americans were following this opportunity for 'free land' and the Hudson Bay Company soon moved their operation to Vancouver Island."

In the 1820s, Native Americans were trading goods with the Hudson Bay Company, either directly or through trade with neighboring tribes, said Patricia Wheeler Phillips, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and whose late father Don Wheeler wrote the 2010 book "Our Culture and History," on local tribal history. They were also going through "social upheavals from introduced diseases like smallpox, for which they had no effective treatments. By 1828, they were already suspicious of the white men and their intentions, which in the end were borne out: more deaths and loss of one's home lands."

### ESTABLISHING A MEMORIAL

The effort to establish a memorial was started by Wayne Knauf, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in Washington and also of the California-based Jedediah Smith Society. Others, including Don Westcott, a historian for the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, soon joined in the research. Eventually, Zybach took up the project under the auspices of the Oregon Websites and Watersheds. David Gould, whose family pioneered the Elletts-



A new memorial marking the 1828 killings of 15 members of a fur trapping party is about one mile north of Reedsport on Smith River Road, the area where it is believed the killings took place. Courtesy of Bob Zybach

Stone Forest, selected the stone from a local quarry and donated it for the monument.

"These people were buried and forgotten about," said Knauf, who first learned of the deaths about 30 years ago. "Bodies of fur trappers in the West, in my personal opinion that's horrible. ... The memorial is honoring history and people and it's also when we can do that."

A tribal linguist, Phillips recalls hearing stories passed down by family elders. In the Chinook language, white Americans were called "Bostons," and the British trappers, "King George's men," she said.

"Smith's party didn't make themselves popular on Coos Bay," Phillips said. "There was an older man who felt he'd been mistreated by Smith's party. He went up himself to tell the Umpquas that these people were rude. Smith's party had a number of unpleasant run-ins with Native people."

### STILL A MYSTERY

No one knows for certain what triggered the killings by members of the Quitch Tribe (pronounced Quetch) of the lower Umpqua. A letter dated Aug. 16, 1828, by John McLoughlin, head of the Columbia District at Fort Vancouver, suggests that it may have involved an altercation over an ox days before the killings. What is known is that of 19 in the trapping party, only four survived. No resources indicate deaths among the Quitch. Smith escaped with two others in a canoe and a fourth fled on foot. Twenty-eight days later, "an American by the name of Black," according to McLoughlin's letter, reached Fort Vancouver with the news. A party of men returned to the site to bury the dead, of which 11 were found, and to reclaim their property.

There are numerous opinions about what happened between the trappers and Native Americans leading up to the killings, Knauf said. "I don't want to give an opinion. I don't have the facts or the knowledge and history isn't good. I can imagine when Jedediah's group got there and not being able to talk to the people. ... In my opinion that added to the conflict."

The site is about one mile north of Reedsport on Smith River Road, the area where

it is believed the killings took place. A cadaver dog recently signaled that remains were found at the site, Zybach said. The memorial will include a monument with the deceased's names, along with a sign featuring historical reports of what occurred, including the 1828 account by Umpqua Chief Stormoose.

"No one knows there was a burial there," Zybach said. "These were 15 men who were adventurers trying to make a living and explore. They were beaver trappers working for an American business and we are the Beaver state. The men deserve a memorial."

### MIXED FEELINGS

Not everyone agrees.

Phillips has mixed feelings about the memorial, she said. While she has no objection to the cemetery being marked and protected, the period in history is a delicate one for Native Americans. "It's complicated. On one hand, it is great when you are trying to solve a history puzzle and find an answer and have it recognized," Phillips said, referring to recent access to data that helped home in on the location of the killings. "On the other hand, depending on what stories you believe, some of the men who worked for Smith were not very nice people. For Native people, that fur trading era was not a pleasant time. It's all tied to all the very bad things that happened. Whether these guys intended it, they brought diseases, colonization, forced displacement, violence. It's just tied up with a lot of very bad things."

Doug Barrett, vice chair of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Tribal Council, said he will not attend the dedication. "I don't support this," Barrett said, noting he speaks for himself and not the tribe or tribal council. "They don't mark the mass graves all over the coast where our ancestors are buried. Everybody wants to glorify Smith and all he did and the same with Lewis and Clark, but really, the damage they did to the tribes was irreversible."

Article regarding the Umpqua Memorial Project by Lori Tobias; published online by *OregonLive* on October 26, 2023 and on Page 4A the following day in *The Oregonian* newspaper.





Zybach family at completed 1828 Umpqua Memorial Stone a few hours prior to formal dedication on October 28, 2023. (L-R) Grandpa Bob, Tyler Michael, Kendal Scott, and Aaron Tyler. Family dogs (L-R), Pepper, Bella, and Roger. Formal dedication began with discussion of site and project history, followed by presentation by Cathy Schneider, Northwest Canine Resources, Oakland, Oregon, of cadaver dog training methods. Cathy's talk was followed by a short walk to the location in which Max, her trained cadaver dog, had indicated human remains earlier in the year. Max's alert closely conformed with US General Land Office Surveyor Harvey Gordon's 1857 field notes of the October 28, 1828 burial location. The names of the 15 men killed near this location on July 14, 1828 were then read at sunset and a moment of silence observed in their memory. Sunset was just a few minutes after the rising of full moon on this date. Photo by Amy Ritenour, Aaron's life partner and mother to Tyler and Kendal.



## Tiny-home village at The Salvation Army moves forward

By DAVID RUPKALVIS  
The World

Another small step to find housing for those struggling was achieved last week when the Coos County Board of Commissioners voted to give \$480,000 to The Salvation Army to build eight tiny homes to get families off the streets.

The money was part of a grant awarded to Coos

County and the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend as part of a pilot program aimed at addressing homelessness in the county.

Combined with funds from the Coquille Indian Housing Authority, The Salvation Army will have financial support to cover the cost of construction and operations through the end of 2025.

Major David Kauffman presented his proposal to the

county commissioners less than a week after presenting it to the Coordinated Office on Homelessness.

He said the goal will be to have construction begin in March with the first families moving in around June. Construction costs are estimated at \$703,500 with operating costs running \$350,000 yearly.

The vote by the supervisors will fund the construction

of the actual tiny homes themselves.

Under the plan released by The Salvation Army, the eight homes would measure 400-square feet with an emphasis on families and couples. Individuals would only be accepted if there were not enough families in need.

In partnership with the Coquille Indian Housing

Please see **TINY HOMES** Page 3

## Oregon, U.S. history brought back to life

Memorial recalls journey that ended tragically near Reedsport

By DAVID RUPKALVIS  
The World

More than 195 years ago, 19 men embarked on a journey from California that would reshape both Oregon and American history and end with most of them dead near the mouth of the Smith River just outside of Reedsport.

The men, led by Jedediah Smith, started their journey in San Diego, moved through what is Del Norte County, California, continued through Curry County and Coos County. In July of 1928, they founded themselves near what is now Reedsport, when their trip came to a sudden and disastrous end.

While camped out near the mouth of the Smith River, later named after Jedediah Smith, the group broke up briefly. Smith took two men to scout a route into the Willamette Valley, while the remaining 16 waited. While waiting, the men decided to trap for beaver along the river.

After a successful trapping venture, the men sat out their furs to dry and camped out. What they didn't know was a much larger group of Native Americans, members of the Coquille Indian Tribe, were watching.

"The men were drying out their materials from a rainstorm," said Bob Zybach, a local historian and a member of the Umpqua Memorial Committee. "On a

signal, 110 Indians attacked the men, killing 15 of them and one escaped."

Zybach said the Natives were angry for several reasons — one being the beavers that were trapped — and they destroyed the men, leaving only their bodies behind.

"As they were attacked and killed, Smith and the others came back and saw what had happened, jumped into the river, swam to the other side and escaped that way," Zybach said.

The four escapees were

Please see **HISTORICAL** Page 3



Larry Hager shows off the memorial plaque he helped design that will forever remember the 11 men who were killed in July 1828 at the mouth of the Smith River.

Contributed photo



Bob Zybach and David Gould at the finished memorial stone, designed to remember 11 men who were killed in an Indian attack in 1828.

Contributed photo

## Boice eager to run for full term as state representative



State Rep. Court Boice was thrown into the fire after being appointed to his seat in the middle of the legislative session. With many lessons learned, he is eager to serve a full term representing parts of Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

By DAVID RUPKALVIS  
The World

After being thrown into the fire by being appointed in the middle of the legislative session, Court Boice is hoping voters will give him a full term as state representative in House District 1.

Boice, who moved the Legislature after serving six years as county commissioner in Curry County, said the lessons he learned during his first legislative session have prepared him to be an effective lawmaker representing parts of Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

Boice officially filed to run for election a few weeks ago, saying it was honor to serve.

"It was enjoyable to walk from the Capitol across the street to

the Secretary of State recently. I wanted to re-file for public office in a traditional way."

Boice said. "As we head toward 2024, I look for solid and continuing success as my job is to do everything possible to improve the quality of life for everyone I represent.

With all required, this past nine months has been very intense, which of course, included the summer fires. However, what a privilege it is to be a public servant for our three counties."

Boice said he is eager to move to the short session in the coming months and is ready to continue to fight for his district.

"I'm in the fight," he said. "I'm full of energy, I have health. I built the right relationships. I love people. I have eight to 10 Democrats I

work with. We need to save the state. We're in trouble."

One of the big issues facing the state is the homelessness crisis and an overall lack of housing. As a member of the Housing and Homelessness Committee, Boice said he is working with both parties to find solutions. "I'm on the opposite party, but the governor is doing a great job on this," Boice said. "She's got good people around here. She treats me with respect."

Boice said one of the toughest votes he made in the last session was in support of Gov. Tina Kotek's plan to provide funding to only the largest counties to battle homelessness. Boice said while most

Please see **BOICE** Page 3

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Article about the Umpqua Memorial Project by David Rupkalvis on the front page of the Coos Bay *The World* newspaper on October 31, 2023. Article was continued on Page 3 and included two additional photos. Article was also picked up by Google Search and included in the Yahoo! News and AOL online websites.



## NEXT: Photo Report #4:

### Construction and Installation of the ORWW 1828 Umpqua Memorial Sign Kiosk



Graphic artist Ellyn Mole and husband Troy Mole display full sized draft printing of Umpqua Memorial Sign in front of her office, Ellyn Amalia Designs, Creswell, Oregon, October 28, 2023. Printing by Eugene, Oregon FedEx Print & Ship Center the previous day, under the direction of Matthew L.



Draft print of full-sized Umpqua Memorial Sign temporarily taped to abandoned weigh station as first stop on dedication of Umpqua Memorial Stone on October 28, 2023. Photos by Bob Zybach.



## ORWW 1828 Umpqua Memorial Project Sponsors & Acknowledgements

Logo	Organization	Contact	Location
	Bronzecraft Memorials	Larry Hager	Wamic, OR
	Coos Bay Timber Operators	David Gould	North Bend, OR
	Douglas County Public Works	Steve Williams	Roseburg, OR
	Ellyn Amalia Designs	Ellyn Mole	Creswell, OR
	FedEx Print & Shipping	Matthew L.	Eugene, OR
	Jedediah Smith Society	Milton von Damm	Berkeley, CA
	K2 Consulting	Wayne & Tope Knauf	Lodi, CA
	Main Rock Products	Mike Main	North Bend, OR
	Mast Brothers	Josh Mast	Reedsport, OR
	Northwest Canine Resources	Cathy Schneider	Oakland, OR
	NW Maps Co.	Bob Zybach	Cottage Grove, OR
	Oregon-California Trails Association	Dave Welch	Independence, MO





**The Oregonian**

**Lori Tobias**

**Portland, OR**



**Pacific Memorials**

**Dale Hanson**

**Wilbur, OR**



**Phoenix Reforestation**

**David Katz**

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**R3 Engraving & Signs**

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**Richardson Masonry**

**Stu Richardson**

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**The World**

**David Rupkalvis**

**Coos Bay, OR**



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