



Amache Preservation – National Park Designation Effort

Colorado Senator Cory Gardner is working on the designation of Amache as a national park site. A staff member who will be writing the two-part legislation enacting this goal has visited Amache.

Proposals for national park status may be submitted by public, state, and local officials; Indian tribes; Congress members; or the National Park Service. A proposed area must possess significant natural, cultural, or recreational resources; be a feasible addition to the system; and require direct NPS management, instead of protection by some other governmental agency or the private sector.

An act of Congress is required to add a site to the national park system. Prior to a Congressional vote, the National Park Service collects data to determine the area's level of significance, suitability and feasibility, and considers alternatives for management and protection. The National Park Service will suggest appropriate governmental or private actions should a site not qualify for inclusion.

Additional information from the National Park Service may be found at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/files/Criteria%20for%20New%20Parklands.pdf>

Amache Water Bottles for Sale

The Amache Preservation Society (APS) is expanding its fundraising efforts by selling two water bottles with special designs during the pilgrimage and at the museum. The white aluminum water bottles may be ordered with a screw or push top and cost \$15.00 each. There is a \$2.00 shipping charge per water bottle if you would like your order shipped.

Contact APS at amache@usa.com.

Amache Historical Society II (AHS II) Newsletter, Spring 2018

AHS II's mission is to:

- preserve the Amache site (Granada, CO)
- teach Amache's history and legacy by reporting survivors' stories
- communicate via the amache.org website
- support John Hopper and his Granada High students, known as the Amache Preservation Society, with maintenance of the Amache site and museum

2018 Amache Pilgrimage and DU Field School

Date: May 19, 2018

Pick-Up Locations and Times:

Simpson United Methodist Church – 6:00 A.M.

Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple – 6:30 A.M.

Cost: \$30.00 per person (non-refundable)

Contacts: Frank Miyazawa (303) 237-8641;

Hiroko Hung (303) 979-4127

The buses will arrive at Amache at 11:00 A.M., and the memorial ceremony will be held at the cemetery.

The University of Denver team is returning to conduct research at the Amache site and the Amache museum in Granada, Colorado, from June 12 to July 12. Archaeological research at Amache will be done in the morning, while work on Amache Museum collections will take place in the afternoon. A public open house will be held, with tours of both these sites, on Saturday, July 7.

Any former internees or members of their families are especially invited to an open house on Friday, July 6. Activities include an opportunity to see archaeologists at work, individual tours of the camp site, activities at the museum, socializing with other Amacheans, and a group dinner.

The DU Amache project is searching for an intern for the 2018 field season. If you are currently a high school student and your family was interned at Amache, please contact bclark@du.edu, or phone: 303-871-2875.



Amache Water Bottle for Sale

Book Review by Sumiko Higashi

Scott McGaugh, *Honor before Glory: The Epic World War II Story of the Japanese American GIs Who Rescued the Lost Battalion*
(DaCapo Press, 2016)



Using primary sources, statistical data, and interviews, Scott McGaugh writes a page-turner about the remarkable success of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team that rescued the “Lost Battalion,” pinned down by the Germans in the Vosges Mountains in France in 1944. The “Go-for-Broke” regiment, the most decorated wartime unit of its size, eventually earned a Medal of Honor, 7 Presidential Unit citations, 9,000 Purple Hearts, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 330 Silver Crosses, and 2,000 Bronze Stars. Some men won multiple awards. Perhaps most telling is the scarcity of Medals of Honor because heroic men like George Sakato, Barney Hajiro, and Jim Okubo received downgraded commendations (p. 201-2).

What strikes this reviewer is that the racist hatred motivating the imprisonment of Japanese Americans and nationals during World War II also existed in the U.S. military. Major General John Dalquist, who was incompetent and racist, used the 442nd as cannon fodder in suicidal missions. In less than thirty days of combat in the Vosges, the regiment lost an astounding 25 percent of its men (900 officers and enlisted men) (p. 191)!

McGaugh writes well and brings to life many individuals in quickly sketched portraits of Hawaiian and mainland soldiers with culturally contrasting backgrounds. And he also characterizes white soldiers and officers, and a savvy Korean fighter named Young Oak Kim.

The heroism of the Go-for-Broke regiment speaks volumes. Despite limited options in a prejudiced stratified society, Japanese American parents had raised their sons well. But they had to make heart-rending sacrifices in losing so many of them in fierce combat not only against Germans and Italians abroad, but also against racist Americans at home.

Thanks to McGaugh, the bloody Vosges episode in the history of the “Go-for-Broke” regiment enables us to assess the staggering cost of its achievement. As a survivor, Kenji Ego wrote that the horrifying brutality of war should prompt us to work for peace (p. 210).

50 Objects/Stories Digital History Project, Amache Dog Carving by Nancy Ukai

As beloved as a family member, yet uncounted in the tally of over 110,000 people exiled from their West Coast homes, were the thousands of pets left behind. With little advance notice, owners had to make arrangements quickly for their cats, dogs, birds and other animals. Pets were often hurriedly deposited with strangers or friends. Many were simply abandoned.

The carvings and drawings of animals that were made behind barbed wire may have been a personal and even communal expression of these sudden and cruel separations. An example is a dog carving that was sculpted from a log at the Granada prison camp, more popularly known as Amache, in eastern Colorado. The object, made from a local tree, has dimensions measuring 16 3/4" x 11 1/2" x 3.". The unknown carver captured a scene that feels like a storybook moment. A playful pup, a frog, and a small crevice act as portals into a world far removed from confinement. The carving is currently on display in Denver at the History Colorado Center, dedicated to the history of the state, but is part of the holdings of the Amache Preservation Society in Granada, Colorado.

It should be noted that six months after the opening of Amache (on August, 27, 1942), formal permission was granted for dog ownership, as indicated in the rules agreed to by the administration. Across the camps, regulations regarding pets were relaxed so that some families were able to obtain a pet. When the camps closed several years later, however, the internees again had to leave their beloved pets behind.

Amache Chronology by Gary Ono

When I began research for a video documentary about my father, Sam Ono, who was released from Amache to become a translator in Denver, I visited UCLA Special Collections in the late 1980s. The library collected data and artifacts relating to the evacuation and incarceration of West Coast Japanese Americans and nationals following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A bound booklet, with a familiar cover design that had been used on the Amache directories in 1943 and 1944, was a real find.



WRA Granada Project, Chronological History Booklet

The booklet listed important daily events in its 43 pages. The first page, with the title “War Relocation Authority Granada Project, Chronological History,” began by referring to the “Construction on Granada Relocation Center Started by Army Contractors” on June 29, 1942. Amache administrators maintained this chronology, and the staff of the Amache newspaper *Pioneer* published it. An excerpt below provides a good sample.

Among other information, the chronology provided useful data about the number of internees and arrival dates for my essays. And I used an entry, dated December 7, 1942 and titled “Mercury falls to 10 Degrees F,” for an essay that I wrote about my mother’s first birthday in Amache. That date, ironically, was also the first anniversary of the Pearl Harbor bombing.

Access to this chronology, which I digitized, is available through the Amache Preservation Society in Granada. Please credit or footnote UCLA Special Collections if you use any data from this document.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GRANADA PROJECT
CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

June: 1942

29 Construction work on Granada Relocation Center started by Army contractors

August: 1942

27 First group of 212 evacuees arrived from Merced Assembly Center
27 Temporary hospital clinic opened at barrack building
31 Community Council selected to serve as liaison unit between evacuees and project director

September: 1942

1 Distribution of baby food started
2 557 evacuees arrived from Merced Assembly Center
4 First recreational event for residents, social and dance
4 First small fire in barracks (faulty installation of chimney flue) proves efficiency of Center fire department
5 2 groups of 557 and 550 arrived from Merced
7 4,588 acres of hay, pasture, and cultivated land made available for project use
8 553 evacuees arrived from Merced Center
9 527 evacuees arrived from Merced Center
16 Two groups (529 and 527) arrived from Merced Center
18 481 evacuees arrived from Merced
18 First wedding of Center residents at Presbyterian Church, Lamar
19 495 evacuees arrived from Santa Anita Assembly Center
20 Center church services inaugurated--Baptist, Methodist, Christian, Roman Catholic, Seventh-Day Adventist, Buddhist
21 524 evacuees arrive from Santa Anita
22 First baby (girl) born in Center
24 514 evacuees arrived from Santa Anita
25 500 evacuees arrived from Santa Anita
27 452 evacuees arrived from Santa Anita
30 457 evacuees arrived from Santa Anita
30 Total evacuee inductions into Granada Project--7,434
30 Approximately 1200 residents employed in basic services at Center
30 Total of 527 leaves granted for outside employment
30 Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups organize

Amache Interactive Directory Map

You are now able to search an interactive directory by name or barrack number to find out where an internee lived in Amache. The map is based on internee directories compiled at Amache in 1943 and 1945. Some individuals who were not interned at Amache when the directories were created may not be listed.

Are you not sure if internees were at Amache? Give the directory a try, or check out the National Archives Database of Japanese American Evacuees.

The following link is for the Amache.org website.

<http://amache.org/amache-interactive-directory-map/>

Click on the map to access the interactive directory.

The following link is for the National Archives Database of Japanese American Evacuees

<https://www.archives.gov/research/japanese-americans/wra>

HELP! JACS Grant Funding Status Cancelled!

The 2018 federal budget included funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grants Program. Such funding, however, **has been omitted from the 2019 budget proposal** and would lead to the loss of \$17 million still remaining in the fund. **Please contact your legislators in the House of Representatives and the Senate** to ask them to sign a letter to the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, written by Senator Brian Schatz (Hawaii), to request \$2.905 million for the JACS program. Go to contactingcongress.org for the names and phone numbers of your legislators. It's easy!

The JACS Grants Program, administered by the National Parks Service, was established in 2006 with bipartisan support and allocated \$38 million to preserve Japanese American internment sites. Preservation was intended to facilitate historical research and educate the public.

"Confinement Sites" is an umbrella term used to specify the various locations where Japanese Americans and nationals were interned during the war. It may refer to a temporary assembly center, like the Santa Anita Racetrack in California, where Japanese were held before being transported and incarcerated elsewhere. Confinement sites also include the 10 concentration or prison camps, where most citizens were surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers; internment camps for Japanese nationals such as those at Santa Fe, Bismarck, Seagoville, and Missoula; army internment camps including those at Angel Island, Lordsburg, and Ft. McDowell; and prisons like those at Tule Lake, McNeil Island, Tucson, and Ft. Leavenworth.

Grant money has been awarded to projects that preserve physical sites as well as to projects focused on archeology, academic research, collecting and digitizing oral histories, producing documentaries, compiling online databases, building museums and memorials, educational materials, and artistic projects like graphic novels and a video game involving the experience of a Japanese American boy and his incarcerated family.

Moving Recreation Hall 11-F Back to Amache

The plan to move a recreation hall back to Amache is still in progress. Dates are tentative and depend on a number of factors that involve the approval of the State Historical Fund (SHF) and National Park Service (NPS). Colorado Preservation Inc. (CPI) has a contract with Wattle & Daub Contractors to restore the foundation at 11F as suitable preparation during the week of April 16. The move is scheduled for April 27. CPI plans to document the process with a media crew in order to share the experience.

The rec hall project also includes fencing for the water and guard towers. Also on tap for the guard tower are protection against lightening and a searchlight.

The following questions are being posed to former internees and the Amache group:

- 1) Do you recall the color of the guard tower searchlight? Was it copper-toned, black, or some other color?
- 2) And how was the searchlight operated? Was it done with a pole from the interior?

Historic photos of the guard tower have been helpful. A searchlight has been located, but CPI would like any information regarding color and operation. Please contact Jane Daniels at jvrosecky@gmail.com.

Smithsonian Institution is Collecting Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration

Do you have a memorable keepsake that inspires a commentary about your family's experience in the history of wartime incarceration? The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History is partnering with American Public Media Reports to launch a new podcast series, "Order 9066." To learn more and to contribute your stories, visit APM's submission page.

<https://www.publicinsightnetwork.org/source/en/insight/700653543735/what-object-reflects-your-family-experience-of-the-japanese-american-incarceration-during-wwii>

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