VETERANS CURATION PROGRAM
NEWSLETTER

August 2025



A veteran technician processes a collection in the St. Louis lab. Courtesy of USACE St. Louis District

On the Ground: VCP News and Views

We welcomed 20 new technicians at the start of May. With less than two months left in our summer session, this group of technicians has the finish line in sight. A few of our technicians have graduated early and others have already accomplished their personal goals. We have been celebrating each and every one of their achievements along the way!

In July, we continued to launch new and refreshed session open house events with an ice cream social in San Mateo, an ice cream social/resource fair in Alexandria, a preservation showcase in Augusta, and a resource fair in St. Louis. Keep an eye out for new events next session!

Julie, Outreach Coordinator

VCP Staff Highlight: Alison



Alison Shepherd (MLIS, University of Oklahoma; B.A. in Anthropology, Emory University) is graduating from the VCP! Alison has most recently served as the Project Manager for the VCP. Alison has held just about every role available at the VCP including Satellite Project Manager, Archives Lab Manager, Artifacts Lab Manager, Administrator, and Assistant Project Manager. Rarely seen without an iced coffee in hand, Alison is a mom and military spouse and is excited to dedicate more of her time to those incredibly important roles (and finding fantastic independent coffee shops).

Thank you, Alison, for over ten years of leadership and service to the Veterans Curation Program!



Community Highlight: Objective Zero

Objective Zero Foundation is 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission of combating military and veteran suicide through a connected community of peer support and access to mental health and wellness resources, powered by technology. Founded by service members, veterans, and military spouses, and built for the entire military and veteran community, the Objective Zero App provides 24/7 peer support and curated resources for service members, veterans, families, and caregivers, all through a single app. The Objective Zero App is free to download and free to use in all 50 states.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Curation Corner: Fort Ellsworth

Fort Ellsworth was a Civil War-era frontier fort built in 1864 in central Kansas. It was primarily occupied by the 7th Iowa Cavalry until 1867 when the buildings were razed and troops moved to the newly built Fort Hacker. The remains of Fort Ellsworth are located near modern day Kanopolis Lake, which is owned by USACE, Kansas City District. Between 1995 and 2000, the site was excavated by groups including the Kansas Historical Society and Kansas Anthropological Association.

The resulting artifacts and associated paperwork made their way to the St. Louis VCP in 2015 where it's been sorted, photographed and digitized by over 120 veterans. In total, the collection consists of 57 boxes of artifacts – over 66,000 individual artifacts –and three boxes of archival and photographic records.

While many of the artifacts are typical of everyday life at a frontier fort, one artifact sticks out - a hand-made metal ID tag. The tag is stamped with the letters LPW and the number 7. The number 7 most likely refers to the 7th Iowa Cavalry – who established the fort – and the letters, the initials of the owner. Muster rolls list Lewis P. Wall of Burlington, Iowa as a Sergeant in Company H – the only known member of the 7th Iowa to have the initials LPW. While we can't definitively tie this artifact to Sgt. Wall, it could very well be his – and this sort of human connection is one of the things that makes archaeology so fascinating!





Pictured, top to bottom: A technician sorts artifacts in the St. Louis lab. A metal ID tag with the markings: "7 LPW" Courtesy of USACE St. Louis District and USACE Kansas City District

Upcoming Events

September
26 - Last day of summer session!
Interviews start for winter session.

October
3 - Applications close for winter session.

November
3 - Winter session begins!

Like and follow the VCP Socials for More Updates!

