

11/30/21

9:50 am

Rod Murray

OPPOSED

- he has lived here since 1954 & his kids played there their whole lives & it never was a problem until now

12/1/21

10:46 am

David Kohli

YES

11/30/21

11:52 am

James Kuncaid

YES

- suggested naming after Jeddiah Smith (biblical) who was influential in this area & spread the Christian word to the people

- Perhaps provide a short bio about him w/ the name suggestion

FW: Kit Carson Park

Pete Johns <[REDACTED]>

Wed 12/1/2021 3:04 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

Parks Advisory Board,

Please keep the park named as it presently is, Kit Carson Park. Carson did fight Indians and killed some, as did most of the Mountain Men of his era. But he also lived with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes and had Indian wives. He served as Indian agent for many years with the Utes and was their advocate, seeking to protect the Utes from aggression by hostile Whites and providing for the tribe's general welfare.

I am tired of people who deny our/their heritage and take offense at past events, whether real, perceived, or imagined. I feel the Gentrys and certain other tribal members have done more damage to harmonious relationships in our community than any other individuals or groups. We all need to walk in the shoes of historical people to better understand them and not judge them by 21<sup>st</sup> century mores, morals, and opinions.

Thank you.

Peter A. Johns  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Please let me know if you receive this email as the address was incorrect.

## Proposed name change of Kit Carson Park

Mark Ager [REDACTED]

Wed 12/1/2021 5:36 PM

To: [admin@klamathfalls.city](mailto:admin@klamathfalls.city) <[admin@klamathfalls.city](mailto:admin@klamathfalls.city)>

I am opposed to the name change of Kit Carson Park. I favor keeping the name as it is.

Marshall Ager  
[REDACTED]

Fwd: Kit Carson Park

Matthew Hurley [REDACTED]

Wed 12/1/2021 4:44 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matthew Hurley** [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 8:43 AM

Subject: Kit Carson Park

To: admin@klamathfalls.city

I am not a big fan of many of these name changes, first it does nothing to change history good or bad and secondly the individuals behind the change, do they come out of this as happier people.\

With that said if it must be changed , why not call it Gateway Park as it is both the Gateway to the City of Klamath Falls and to the north Crater Lake .

What really would help is if the Community and the Klamath Tribe would participate together in all facets of our daily lives. To me the Tribe does not want to be part of a White community and that is not healthy for anyone.

Good luck.

Matt Hurley



General Carson

Sam Henzel [REDACTED]

Wed 12/1/2021 7:04 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

General Carson was a renowned explorer of the newly acquired western lands that become the future states comprising the current United States of America. The condemnation of past exploration accomplishments in light of new think is ridiculous as the entire USA has experienced the same acts of exploration resulting in conquest.

Reality is accepting that our relatives have killed each other throughout all recorded time. The hope is that we will not continue those regrettable actions while accepting that they took place.

Sent from my iPad

December 1, 2021

City of Klamath Falls  
Parks Department  
226 South Fifth Street  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Re: Public Input on Name Change for Kit Carson Park

In response to your request for public input on the proposed name change for Kit Carson Park, I **do not** favor a name change for the following reasons:

- It is said that Kit Carson did not treat the Native people kindly. The Native Tribes have been known to be hostile toward one another and were often hostile toward 'white' settlers. Perhaps this is the reason he responded the way he did with them. There are two sides to every story.
- Kit Carson had a change of heart toward his dealings with the Native Tribes. There were actually measures he did brought about to help them.
- We should not take a negative action and emphasize it to drown out all the other good deeds that were done by him.
- We have all made mistakes and choices that we cannot undo. He made a change in his attitude and actions toward the Native Tribes and I think that should be acknowledged.
- We have leaders of our country who have made mistakes, but we still honor them.

I do not wish to sign my name to this public input due to the extreme political and racial nature of the subject. I fear retaliation from the Native Community.

Parks Dept.

RECEIVED DEC 01 2021

By John H. Honi, [REDACTED]

Land line phone: [REDACTED]

To: Parks Advisory Board, 500 Klamath Ave, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

email: admin@klamathfalls city

Admin  
541-853-5316

Alfred B. Meacham (Col. A.B. Meacham) Buried at the Congregational Cemetery Washington, D.C. His headstone reads: "who devoted his life to the cause of justice to the red man. Passed to his reward. Feb. 16, 1882. Aged 56 years. where easily found."

Bibliography of Alfred B. Meacham [Extracted from "The Life of Alfred B. Meacham," by T.A. Bland.] pp. 240-249 in Biographies, Correspondence, and Official Documents at back of Jeff C. Riddle's book "The Indian History of the Modoc War, And the Causes That Led To It" by Pine Cone Publishers, Medford, Oregon, 1973. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 73-82646.

The Thought:

1. Klamath Basin needs a figure, an Oregon resident (Salem), who rose above the conflicts of his day to set a path to greener pastures.
2. He died, in a sense, with his boots on, carrying out duties asked of him by the President of the United States, and others.
3. If you change the name of the park at the entrance to Klamath Falls, you had best select a person with greater involvement in the issues of the same period, or at least the period closely following the exploration of the west.
4. Summer Lake, north of Paisley, Oregon has a presentation in the wayside of the Fremont expedition's descent from heavy snow atop Winter Rim to Summer Lake, with a listing of many names, including Kit Carson.
5. The California-Oregon state line wayside park beside US Highway 97 has a theme of reconciliation with Van Landrum's views.
6. Why not transform the motif, or theme for development, along US Business 97 (State Highway 34) by the redesignation of Kit Carson Park as Col. A.B. Meacham Park.

## References

Kh. Co. Lt.

5587

Ref ore

9795

I  
Glass case

An Illustrated History of Central Oregon, embracing

Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Crook, Lake and Klamath Counties

State of Oregon. Western Historical Publishing Co. Spokane Wash 1904  
Part VIII Klamath County Chapter III The Modoc War p942-955  
Ch IV Continuation of Modoc War pp 956-966

ore.

973.82

Murray

The Modocs and Their War by Keith A. Murray

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press 1959

ore.

973.82

Riddle

The Indian History of the Modoc War, Orion Press

Set by C. Riddle

First printed 1914 First Orion Press edition 1971

"This book is presented exactly as it was first published in ~~1914~~ 1918,  
except for..."

ore.

973.82692

Meacham, A.B.

Life of Alfred B. Meacham, together with his lecture,

The Tragedy of the Lava Beds (1883)

By Thomas Augustus Bland

T.A. and M.C. Bland Publishers, Washington, DC. 1883

*The*  
**MODDOCS**  
*and Their*  
**WAR**

BY KEITH A. MURRAY



NORMAN: UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS



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*The Author and Wife  
Jeff C. Riddle & Mauda*

THE  
INDIAN HISTORY OF THE  
MODOC WAR



By JEFF C. RIDDLE

UNION PRESS



**BIOGRAPHY OF ALFRED B. MEACHAM.**

[Extracted from "The Life of Alfred B. Meacham," by T. A. Bland.]



Col. A. B. Meacham, Chairman of the Peace Commission

Alfred B. Meacham was born in Orange County, Indiana, April 29, 1826. His ancestors were Quakers on one side and Methodists on the other. His parents removed to Indiana from North Carolina about 1818. One of the chief reasons that caused them to leave their native State was their abhorrence of slavery, and their desire to raise their children under

the influence of free institutions. The father of Alfred, Hon. Anderson Meacham, was elected to the Legislature of Indiana about 1820, and a few years later to the State Senate, and his strong common sense and unflinching integrity, made him a most influential factor in shaping the policy of the young State. He was a farmer by profession, and he also built and managed a combined grain and lumber mill. The terrible financial panic of 1837 crippled his enterprises, and in 1841 he sold his mill, property, farm, etc., and paying his debts to the last dollar, he removed with his young family to Iowa, locating in the vicinity of Iowa City, where he continued to reside until his death, April 16, 1882, two months to a day after the death of his oldest son, the subject of this sketch. The father knew naught of the death of his son Alfred until he also passed to the higher life, his surviving children fearing that in his feeble state the sad news might hasten his own departure from their midst.

At the age of fifteen Alfred, at the request of his mother, signed the pledge of the Washingtonian Temperance Society, which he kept in letter and spirit to the day of his departure from this world of appetential temptation. In 1845, though but nineteen years old, Alfred assisted in removing the Sac and Fox Indians to the reservation assigned them after the Black Hawk War. This was the time of the beginning of his interest in the Indian, and his admiration for his character. From about this time to 1850 he followed the toilsome business of breaking prairie. He would go with his team of eight to ten stalwart oxen and enormous sod plow from place to place wherever he could secure a contract for work, and many hundreds of acres of virgin soil did he upturn to the fructifying rays of the genial sun. The money thus earned was almost wholly devoted to paying the mortgage on his father's farm, and when the debt was lifted, and his father and family secured in the enjoyment of a productive home, Alfred started with his ox team, accompanied by his brother Harvey, for the land of gold, the far-away California. His constitution was sound, his frame well-knit, his habits good, and his hopes high. The brothers reached the mines safely and were fairly

successful, and at the end of two years Alfred returned to Iowa for the sweetheart he had left behind him, Miss Orpha Ferree. The wedding festivities over, the newly-married pair set out for Oregon, where they built a home and reared the children which were born to them in the years that followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Colonel Meacham received but a limited education when a boy, but he was a reader of books and a student of human nature, and he had a vigorous mind of comprehensive and quick grasp; hence he was a man of superior intelligence and force in the arena of business, law and politics, and his powers of eloquence were extraordinary. In this respect he had perhaps but one superior in Oregon, Colonel Baker. Descended from anti-slavery stock and raised a Whig, it was but natural that Colonel Meacham should have been an enthusiastic Republican from the birth of the party. He was not a seeker of office, but he was an active and popular speaker, whose services were constantly in demand during campaigns. He was put on the Republican ticket as candidate for elector at large in 1868 and again in 1872, and in each of those campaigns he made a thorough and able canvass of the State. He was successful the second time, and had the honor of representing Oregon in the electoral college in 1872, and casting the vote of that State for President Grant, and he was one of, if not the first, to congratulate him in 1869 on his bold announcement of a policy of peace and justice toward the Indians. Colonel Meacham and General Grant had a long conference on the subject of Indian management, and at the close the President tendered him the responsible position of Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the State of Oregon. Colonel Meacham had not asked for this, nor for any other office, but he accepted it, and faithfully discharged the duties it involved. He did all in his power to purify the service, and put in force and perfect wise plans for advancing the Indians in the arts of civilized life. Learning that Ki-ent-poops (Captain Jack) had left the Klamath reservation with his entire band of Modocs

and returned to his former home on Lost River, Superintendent Meacham visited the chief in his camp at the peril of his life, and after a council which lasted three days, Ki-ent-poops said: "I believe that you are my friend, and I will do as you tell me." The result was that the Modocs returned quietly to the reservation, and war was for the time averted.

In the autumn of 1872, after Meacham had retired from office, and gone into the Presidential campaign as candidate for State elector, Captain Jack left the reservation a second time. Superintendent Odneal did not visit him, but sent him word that unless he returned at once to the reservation, an army of soldiers would be sent to compel his return. The soldiers followed this insulting message before the Modocs had time to duly consider the matter and decide what they should do. War ensued, and although Captain Jack had but fifty-three fighting men, he whipped our army every time he was attacked. In the spring of 1873 the President sent for Colonel Meacham (he being in Washington, as a member of the electoral college), and said to him: "I want you to accept the chairmanship of a Peace Commission, and go out and tender the olive branch to Captain Jack."

Colonel Meacham at first declined, but the President pressed him to accept, on the ground that he had the confidence of the Modocs, and could, probably, save hundreds of lives and millions of money; and also save the Modocs from extermination. Then he yielded. But my readers will find a history of the tragic result of this effort of Colonel Meacham's at peace-making, in his lecture printed with this sketch; hence I need not repeat it here. In April, 1875, I went with a friend to Cooper Union Hall, to hear the story of the Modoc War from the lips of Colonel Meacham, Scar-Face Charley, and Wi-ne-ma. But our personal acquaintance began in June, of the same year, on Boston Common, where we met in an accidental way, and were introduced by our mutual friend, Dr. Dio Lewis. Within an hour we were fast friends, and a few months later he became an inmate of my home in New York. He had written and published a book of 700 pages, "*Wigwam and War-Path*," besides delivering many lectures, during the

past five months, although still suffering seriously from the effects of the wounds received in the Lava Beds. His nervous system, shattered as it had been, so nearly gave way, that he must have rest and skilful treatment, or he would die. My wife and myself, both being physicians, as well as friends, it was but natural that he should come to our home. For months he lay on the border-line that divides this transient world of visible shadows from that invisible realm of eternal realities. But his work on earth was not completed; he was not then to die. In the spring of 1876 he was invited by the pastor of Hedding M. E. Church, Poughkeepsie, New York, to visit that city and fill his pulpit, in the morning or evening, or both as he should elect, and lecture on the Indians. He earnestly desired to accept, but doubted his ability to stand up long enough to give a lecture, or speak with sufficient force to do his subject justice. Mrs. Bland and myself, however, gave it as our professional opinion that he could, and that the brief journey and the pleasurable excitement would prove beneficial to his health, and on our saying, "We will go with you," he resolved to go.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the summer of 1877, we made a joint lecturing tour through the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. On our return to the East, about the first of November, Colonel Meacham resolved to commence the publication of a paper devoted to his great theme, the Indian, his rights and wrongs and the advocacy of a true Indian policy. In pursuance of this plan he issued on the 20th of December, 1877, the first number of "*The Council Fire*," bearing date January 1, 1878. During the succeeding winter he visited the city of Washington and gave a number of lectures, both in the leading churches and the public halls of the city. His lectures were largely attended by members of Congress, Senators, army officers and other public men, as well as citizens, and attracted great attention. He became fully convinced that he ought to reside in Washington, and issue his paper there, as he would thus be able to have vastly

more influence on Congress and the Indian Department. Mrs. Bland and myself being much pleased with the capital, resolved also to locate there and make it our permanent home. We were influenced in this matter, also, by our desire to continue to furnish our friend, Colonel Meacham, a home with us, that we could still look after his health, and assist him in his work. But we were of opinion, also, that Washington would prove a pleasant place of residence, and as good a field as any in which to pursue our professional and literary labors.

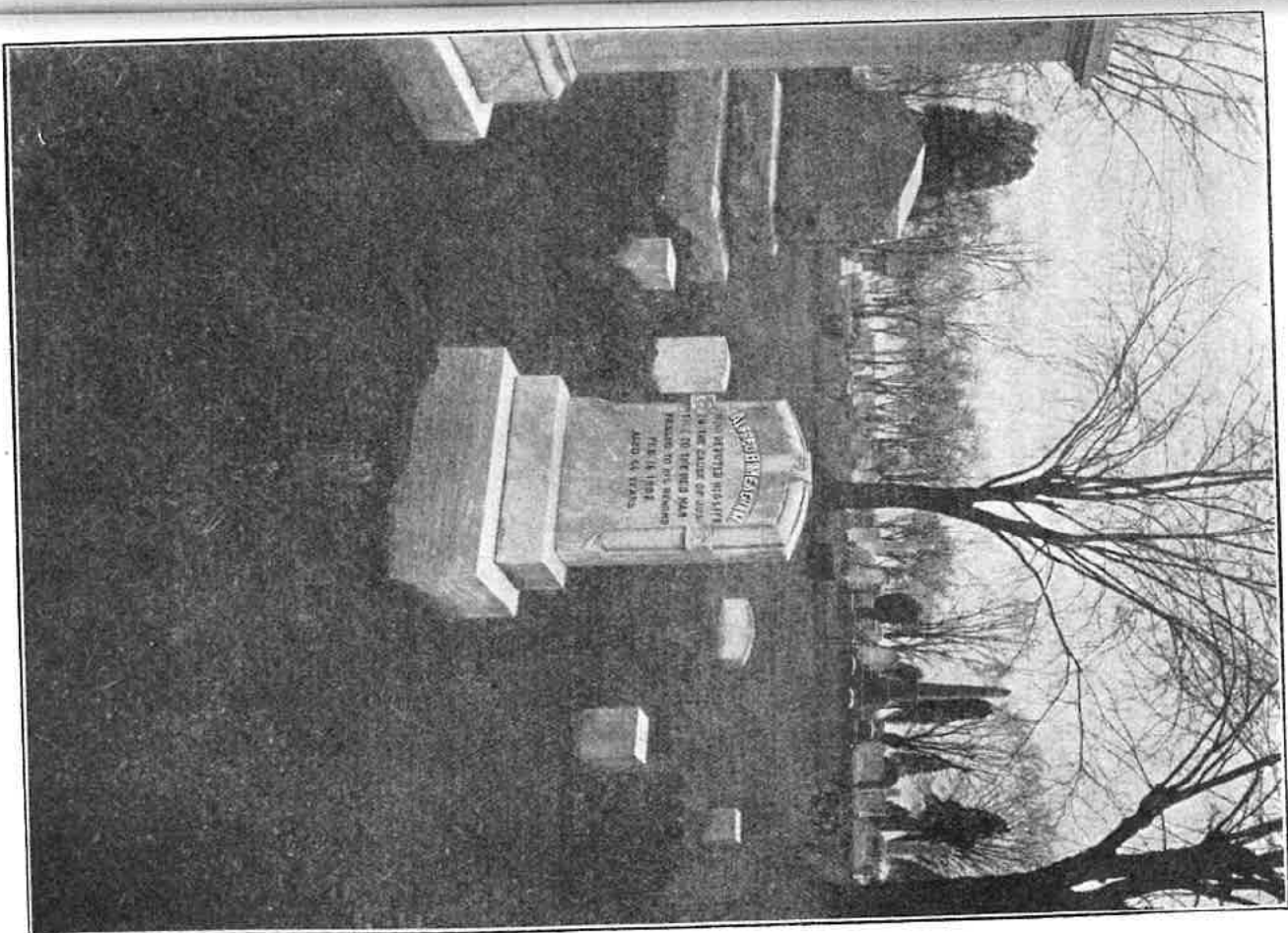
\* \* \* \* \*

In the summer of 1879, the Secretary again sent him to Indian Territory to pay the Indians the annuities due them. This time he was gone but six weeks. During his absence on these occasions, Mrs. Bland and the writer had charge of his paper. In the spring of 1880, the Ute Commission was organized, and recognizing his eminent fitness for the position, Secretary Schurz, without solicitation, placed Colonel Meacham upon it. Again leaving his paper in the hands of his assistants, he left Washington for the Los Pinos Agency, Colorado, the home of the Uncompaghere Utes, the largest division of the Ute Nation. On meeting here and holding a preliminary council with the Indians, the Commission divided, four members going to the Southern Ute Agency, and leaving Commissioner Meacham to manage the Uncompaghres alone. He had about completed the work of enrolling the Indians, and securing the number of signatures to the agreement required by the act of Congress, when the whole country was thrown into a frenzy of excitement by the wanton murder, by a drunken white man, of Johnson, one of the most popular of the young Ute chiefs, and the lynching of the murderer, Jackson, by a party of Indians and white settlers.

Commissioner Meacham had no connection with the affair, save that at the risk of his life he urged the Utes to let the law take its course, and not execute summary vengeance on Jackson. His efforts were successful with the Indians then present, but another party who had not been in the council took the prisoner from the officers who had him in charge, and killed

## THE INDIAN HISTORY

him by shooting him in the same manner that he had killed Chief Johnson. The adventurers who were hanging around the Uncompaghe valley (Colorado) waiting for an opportunity to get possession of the valuable lands of the Utes, knowing that Colonel Meacham would stand by the legal rights of the Indians, were anxious to get him off the Commission. Having little hope of this they now proclaimed throughout that country the incredible and infamously false charge that Colonel Meacham had conspired with Agent Berry, Captain Cline and the Utes, to have Jackson killed. The object of this was to have Colonel Meacham and Agent Berry hanged by a mob of ruffians. The mob was organized for this purpose, but although it comprised perhaps 300 armed men, and the officer in command of the military post declined all protection, yet the ruffians failed in the accomplishment of this hellish purpose, for the very good reason that the Utes volunteered to protect their innocent friends, and their vigilance overmatched that of their foes. After enduring four weeks of deadly peril Colonel Meacham and Agent Berry were escorted by Indian guides over a wild and dangerous route, never before trod by white men, to White River Agency; from thence they proceeded to Denver. Colonel Meacham came at once to Washington, and held a conference with Secretary Schurz. These Utes were entitled under the agreement to some forty thousand dollars in money, and Colonel Meacham had pledged his word to them that he would return with this money before two moons had passed. He therefore procured an order for the disbursing officer of the Commission. Colonel French, to meet him at Rawlings, Wyoming Territory, with a military escort, and at once started back to his post of duty. As he stepped from the train on reaching Denver, an officer arrested him on a warrant sworn to by a ruffian, to whom perjury meant nothing save the price he got for it. The charge was that he had conspired with Agent Berry and others to procure the murder of Jackson. The object of this arrest was to delay, if not prevent, his keeping his promise to the Indians to pay them their money, with the hope of forcing an outbreak which would give the conspirators an excuse and an opportunity to



Grave of Col. A. B. Meacham. Buried at the Congregational Cemetery, Washington, D. C.



## THE INDIAN HISTORY

rob the Utes, and also make money through army contracts. The Judge before whom he was arraigned disappointed the villains by allowing Colonel Meacham to give bonds for his appearance for trial six months later, instead of sending him to prison; hence he was detained but one day by this arrest. He proceeded at once to Los Pinos, paid the Utes the money due, according to promise, and returned in safety to Washington about Christmas. He reported for trial in April, 1881, but the prosecution was not ready. (The villains who started this prosecution never dared to let the case go to trial, and it was finally dismissed by orders from the Department of Justice, at Washington).

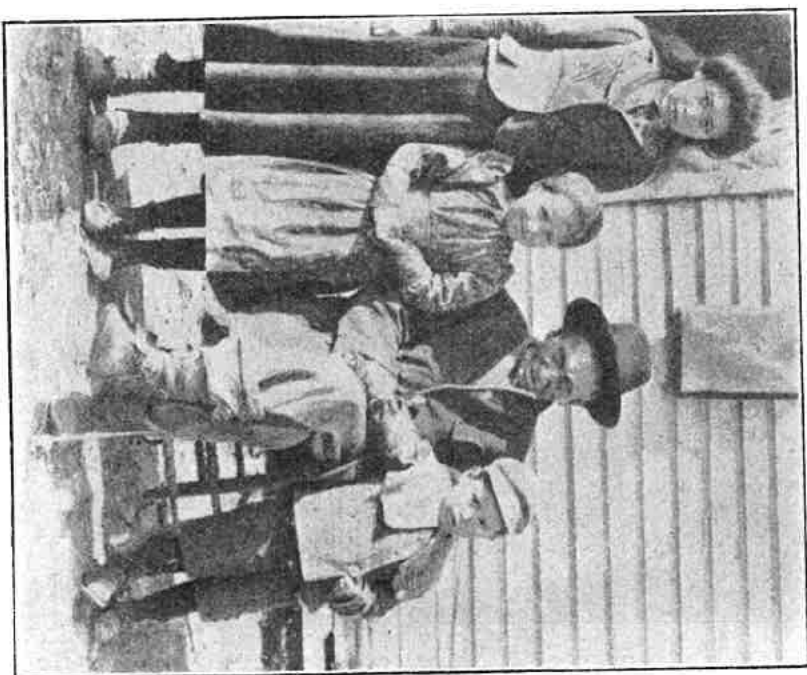
He then proceeded, under orders from Colonel Manypenny, Chairman of the Ute Commission, to White River Agency, charged with the difficult and perilous duty of getting these wild and rebellious Indians, who had killed Agent Meeker two years before, and who had no agent since, to sign the Ute agreement, and surrendering their old home, move on to Uinta. He succeeded, but the perils, excitement and privations incident to his year and a half of service as a Ute Commissioner, had so exhausted his already shattered constitution that he returned to Washington, October 15, 1881, in very feeble health. He was not confined to his room save for a day or two at a time, occasionally, but continued to edit "*The Council Fire*," and visit the Indian office on public business; but despite the most skilful medical treatment, the best nursing, and good social influences, he continued to lose flesh and strength. His physical body was slowly but surely sinking to the grave, and his spirit plunging its pinions for an immortal flight. He had premonitions of the approaching change, but when it came it must have been a surprise to him, as it was to his physicians and other friends. The final summons came at 3 P. M., February 16, 1882, in the form of a stroke of apoplexy, as he sat beside his editorial table in his chamber. He was buried at the Congregational Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

\* \* \* \* \*

His family consists of his widow, a son, George F., a young man of twenty-five, educated in the Willamette University.

## OF THE MODOC WAR

who has chosen the law as a profession, and two daughters, Clara M., wife of Dr. J. N. Prather, of San Francisco (now of Adams Springs, California), and Nellie, the youngest child, widow of the late Captain Throop, of the Oregon Steamship Line, who died in October, 1882, at San Jose, California. Mrs. Meacham, Nellie and George reside in Portland, Oregon, and Clara in California\*



U. S. Grant, a Modoc warrior, and his grandchildren. He was blind. Indian name A-ke-kis, meaning "Running Feet." Died April 15, 1906, 86 years of age, at the Quappaw Agency, Oklahoma. Photo taken in 1903.

\*The family at present lives in Seattle, Wash.

## Renaming Kit Carson Park

David Mckay [REDACTED]

Tue 11/30/2021 7:48 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

I am opposed the the renaming of our beloved park. It can only lead to more divisiveness and fragmentation in our community and will not address any underlying communication problems. It is not the right tool for addressing the elapants in the room.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Kit Carson Park renaming

Tawnya Garrison [REDACTED]

Wed 12/1/2021 9:07 AM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

 1 attachments (361 KB)

Screenshot\_20211108-182917~2.png;

As a lifelong member of this community, give or take a few years for school outside of the county, I feel that changing the name of the park is detrimental to the people in the community whether they be native, white, black, Mexican, Asian...

In this day and age of the "covid wokeness" and erasing history, the future of Klamath Falls and the future children of Klamath Falls would suffer. Erasing history negates forward progress for growth! Tearing down statues, changing names, erasing history, etc., satisfies only the needs of one in a woke moment of a power grab. There was a comment on KOBIs page from this post from a female named Myra Maines, which oddly was removed not by her, stating that the Klamath Tribal people raped and murdered and sold her people to Spanish explorers. It seems that only one group gets to the woke at one time. I'm pretty sure as a people, as a community, we have all evolved and can evolve past the hate. Life is a learning process, and if we don't learn from it then we are doomed to repeat the downfalls of the past!

Thank you for your time.

Tawnya Garrison

COMPOSE

SEND



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Add Your Name

To: admin@klamathfallscity,

Subject: Kit Carson park name

Stationery

## Park Advisory Board:

Ken Coffman

My thoughts on the renaming of the Kit Carson park due to complaints concerning the actic  
Teddy Roosevelt, Audie Murphy, David Kingsley , or numerous others had committed vari

Who is to decide? And how are they to decide? It would be much easier to judge contemp  
people of their time say...verbal reports ...written reports.. (Kit Carson, Geronimo, Chief Jo  
contemporaries

If we are going the change the park's name...who decides what to change it to...I hope we

thank you for your time...

this did not go through the published email address





## KIWANIS CLUB OF KLAMATH FALLS

PO Box 1507

Klamath Falls, OR 97601

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

November 30, 2021

Parks Advisory Board  
500 Klamath Avenue  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

Re: Kit Carson Park  
Proposed renaming

Gentlepersons:

Please accept this letter as a response on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Klamath Falls with regard to the possible renaming of Kit Carson Park.

As the parks advisory board may be aware, the Kiwanis Club of Klamath Falls was instrumental in the creation of the park as evidenced by the current signage. Photos of the current signs will be found attached hereto.

The Kiwanis Club of Klamath Falls strives to avoid taking a position on what might be perceived to be political issues. Thus, while this survey is intended in part to determine the community position with reference to renaming of the park, the Kiwanis Club of Klamath Falls does not take a position on whether or not the park should be renamed.

**However**, should a determination be made that the park should be renamed, then we would respectfully suggest that the Kiwanis component of the park's name remain in place.

Since the park is far more than a neighborhood park, the club respectfully suggests that an appropriate name for the park would be **KIWANIS COMMUNITY PARK**.

From the perspective of cost savings, it might also be suggested that, if the park is renamed, the current signage could actually be reused by removing only the existing portion of the current signage that refers to Kit Carson Park with an attached metal sign component reflecting the new name (if that determination is in fact made).

Thank you for your consideration of our input regarding the matter.

Sincerely,

President



# KIT CARSON PARK



DEVELOPED BY KLAMATH FALLS  
KIWANIS CLUB

DEDICATED TO THE  
CHILDREN & YOUTH  
MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> 1964

G. G. VLAHOS - KIWANIS PRES.  
R. E. VEATCH - MAYOR







Nov. 30, 2021

Dear Parks Advisory Board,

The proposed name change for Kit Carson Park has generated much discussion even over coffee amongst my retired friends.

I have lived here a good part of my nearly 70 years. Until I adopted a daughter who is a descendant of the Tribes, I was not aware of the difficulties they experience. The losses are really not that far back.

But my hope in writing you is that you will decide to change the name of Kit Carson Park. It's an important issue for the Tribes, and it isn't that difficult to effect the change.

- \* The Tribes have done a lot for our entire community lately. It seems like they are going to work together. They offered Covid vaccines to many non-tribal members (when shots were hard to come by.) They
- \* run a support center that shares food & services with non-tribal



- \* members. They are offering their consultants for planning forest restoration after the Bootleg line.
- \* In short, they are doing many things to support & strengthen our entire community.

I am very grateful for their generosity and hopeful that our city will reach out and meet them to work together. We have many challenges now in front of us. We need each other, need good will to bring us together. Thank you for considering this.

Best Regards,  
Julianne Murray



P.S. A number of older people I know agree the name is best changed, but they are unlikely to submit an online survey response or letter.

18:29



VLTE 82%



Klamath Falls seeks public's input about prop...



kobi5.com



NBC



KOB-TV 5 Klamath Falls KOB-TV 2 Klamath Falls

## Leave a Comment:

*Note: By commenting below you agree to abide by the KOB15.com commenting guidelines. View the KOB15.com Comment Board Guidelines »*

1 Comment

Sort by **Newest ▼**



This thread is closed



**Myra Maines**

As a pit river Indian the name Klamath falls containing the name of the Klamath tribe. Is equally offensive. As they are the tribe that raped murdered enslaved and sold my people to spanish explorers. Being we are canceling history please change the name of Klamath falls and all other names associated with the

...and an other names associated with the  
Klamath tribe. For my people.

Unlike · Mark as spam ·  4 · 3d

---

 Facebook Comments Plugin

 Like 175

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## Kit Carson Park

Rhea Bastian [REDACTED]

Tue 11/30/2021 1:30 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

It is my hope that the advisory board is aware of the event that provoked the attack that Kit Carson led on the Klamath village. Klamath Indians conducted a nighttime stealth attack on John C. Fremont's camp where they killed three members of his mapping expedition. Basil Lajeunesse was murdered in his sleep when a tomahawk split his head. The other two who died were Delaware Indian scouts and another Delaware was wounded. One Klamath was killed as he attacked the camp. In daylight, he was identified as the individual that had presented Lt. Archibald Gillespie with the gift of a salmon the day before. Lulled into believing that he was traveling through friendly territory, Fremont had not set a guard the night that the Klamaths attacked.

More details of the incident and those that followed can be read in *Fremont, Explorer for a Restless Nation* by Ferol Egan, reprinted by University of Nevada Press, 1985.

While I don't condone revenge killing, I also disapprove of labeling Kit Carson as a "genocidal murderer" which leads people to believe that he indiscriminately killed natives. According to published accounts, the expedition's Delaware Indian scouts were Carson's highly respected friends. And in a letter that Fremont wrote to Senator Thomas Hart Benton, he noted that Kit Carson considered the Klamath warriors to be even braver than the Blackfeet.

I would like to see history preserved, along with the current name of the park. Thank you for accepting public input on the question.

Rhea Bastian  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Renaming Kit Carson Park

Tue 11/30/2021 1:51 PM

To: [admin@klamathfalls.city](mailto:admin@klamathfalls.city) <[admin@klamathfalls.city](mailto:admin@klamathfalls.city)>

I have lived one block away for over 40 years. Totally against name change. I still refer to Crater Lake Parkway as Kit Carson Way. Changing names to doesn't change history but tries to hide it.

Re: Renaming Kit Carson Park

Tue 11/30/2021 1:57 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

I am totally against name change. Changing names doesn't change history, just deletes it. I have lived one block away for over 40 years. I still refer Crater Lake Parkway as Kit Carson Way.

On Nov 30, 2021 1:42 PM, garich@charter.net wrote:

I live one block away and have for over 40 years. Totally against name change and any other that is trying to delete history. I still refer to Crater Lake Parkway as Kit Carson Way.

## Kit Carson Park name change

Tue 11/30/2021 2:03 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

I am totally against the name change. Changing the name doesn't change history, just tries to delete it.

I have lived one block away for over 40 years. I still refer to Crater Lake Parkway as Kit Carson Way.

## Kit Carson Park name change

[REDACTED]

Tue 11/30/2021 2:14 PM

To: Kristina Mainwaring <KMainwaring@klamathfalls.city>

I am totally against the name change. It doesn't change history, just tries to delete it. I have lived one block away from the park for over 40 years and still refer to Crater Lake Parkway as Kit Carson Way.

Homer Garich

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kit Carson Park

Raechelle/Jerry Beals [REDACTED]

Mon 11/29/2021 7:09 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

I do agree that the name of the park should be changed and I think that the tribes should be able to vote as well. After all, it was their land first

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Kit Carson Park

Miss Ellanea [REDACTED]

Mon 11/29/2021 11:41 PM

To: [admin@klamathfalls.city](mailto:admin@klamathfalls.city) <[admin@klamathfalls.city](mailto:admin@klamathfalls.city)>

Dear Parks Committee,

I'm in favor of re-naming Kit Carson Park.

We live, work, and play on the ancestral homelands of the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin-Paiute people.

Kit Carson was responsible for the death of countless Indigenous People throughout what is now known as "the United States." The objective was the complete extermination of our Indigenous People in order to make way for colonization. How do you think Klamath Tribal Members Feel when we see a city that so tightly clings to a park named after a person tasked with exterminating our people?

If Klamath Falls is unwilling to change the park name - we can no longer deny that Klamath Falls and Klamath County is a community that upholds racism, white supremacy, settler colonialism, and anti-Indigenous hatred. Renaming the park is such a simple gesture to acknowledge the injustices of our Klamath Tribes - genocide, forced termination, and land dispossession.

It is absolutely frustrating that this has become such an ordeal, and that we're surveying the community. We are a community that struggles with white supremacy and settler colonialism. The fact that the community is in debate whether to change the name, exemplifies these very struggles! I anticipate the majority of the responses you receive from the survey will oppose the park name - that is the problem.

The Equity Task Force asked for us to become a city that is actively anti-racist. The City Council unanimously approved the Equity Resolution that pledged equity as a guiding principle in all decision-making.

Please do not cosign and tolerate the racism that our Indigenous People have dealt with since colonization. Please stand up, be actively anti-racist, and recommend to the City Council that we move forward with re-naming Kit Carson Park. We should not be a community that continues to uphold systems of white supremacy and settler colonialism. We should not be a city that celebrates genocide. We should not be a city that continues to perpetuate Anti-Indigenous hatred.

Clinging to the "Kit Carson" name, now that the city is aware of the harm this name is causing our tribal members, is an overt act of racism and anti-Indigenous hatred. It will be viewed as nothing less than blatant white supremacy and racism.

From your historical investigation, I would imagine you've already learned more of the genocide committed by the likes of Kit Carson and John C. Fremont, but here's an excerpt from a Wikipedia entry on the Klamath Massacre, and one about Kit Carson:

KIT CARSON:

Carson was 19 when he set off with Ewing Young's expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1829. In addition to furs and the company of free-spirited, rugged mountain men, Carson sought action and adventure. He found what he was looking for in killing and scalping Indians. Carson probably killed and took the scalp of his first Indian when he was 19, during Ewing Young's expedition.<sup>[25]</sup>

#### EXCERPT FROM AN ENTRY REGARDING THE KLAMATH MASSACRE:

In 1845, Captain Frémont was sent by the War Department on an expedition to survey the Great Basin and Alta California, a possession of Mexico.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Upon arriving in California, Frémont and his men moved about the northern half of the state for several months, provoking the Mexican authorities and building up patriotic sentiment among Americans who had settled there.<sup>[4]</sup> On 5 April 1846 Frémont and his men committed the Frémont massacre on the banks of the Sacramento River near present-day Redding, California. They then proceeded north up the Sacramento River Valley and into Oregon Territory.

### Incident [ edit ]

Frémont and his band had taken to killing Native Americans on sight as they traveled. Expedition member Thomas S. Martin stated in his memoirs, "We followed up the Sac. river killing plenty of game, and an occasional indian. Of the latter we made it a rule to spare none of the bucks."<sup>[5]</sup> Expedition member Thomas E. Breckenridge said that the men "had orders while in camp or on the move to shoot Indians on sight. While on the march the crack of a rifle and the dying yell of a native was not an unusual occurrence."<sup>[6]</sup>

On the night of 9 May 1846 a band of 15-20 Klamath natives retaliated and attacked Frémont's group under cover of darkness, killing 2-3 members of the party. Frémont now "determined to square accounts with these people."<sup>[7]</sup> His scouts killed two Klamath warriors on 11 May 1846, but Frémont considered that inadequate.

On 12 May 1846, Frémont's assistant Kit Carson led an assault on a Klamath village named *Dokdokwas* on the shores of Klamath Lake. The assailants destroyed the village and killed at least 14 villagers, without taking a single casualty themselves.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

### Repercussion

Neither Frémont nor any of his expedition members were charged or punished in any way for the killings. Orders from the U.S. government recalled Frémont back to California to participate in the war against Mexico, and he did not return to Oregon territory.

## Aftermath

---

Frémont and his band continued to kill Native Americans on sight on the way back down to California, and committed a "preemptive" attack on a rancheria (see Sutter Buttes massacre). John C. Frémont became Military Governor of California in January 1847, but was forced to give up the position less than two months later. In 1850 Frémont became California's first U.S. Senator. In 1856 Frémont was nominated as the Republican candidate for President, losing the race to James Buchanan. He later fought as a Union general during the Civil War.

The Klamath peoples continued to be subject to violence from White settlers, including a long string of similar massacres and attacks. By 1855, the Humboldt Times reported that miners were "determined to commence an indiscriminate massacre of all the Indians" in the Klamath watershed,<sup>[10]</sup> while the Sacramento Daily Union reported that "people look upon it there as a war of extermination, and are killing all grown up males."<sup>[11]</sup> Judge Fletcher of Klamath County stated of fleeing natives that "whites are hunting them down like deer."<sup>[12]</sup> Captain H.M. Judah reported men advocating, "the total extermination of all the Indians in this section."<sup>[13]</sup>

In 1864 the Klamath people were forced to give up claims to twenty million of the twenty-two million acres they had lived on, with the remaining two million acres forming the Klamath Reservation. They became financially self-sufficient on this land, due to a profitable timber mill, cattle ranching, and other enterprises. In

1954 an Act of Congress (against the will of the Klamath people) terminated the tribal status of the Klamath, forcing them to give up their claim to the land and lose all federal services in exchange for a monetary payoff. In 1986 their tribal status was restored, but their land was not returned.

Please re-read this statement again. If we do not re-name Kit Carson Park, the people in power, our elected officials, are upholding this sort of anti-Indigenous hatred and racism:

"The Klamath peoples continued to be subject to violence from White settlers, including a long string of similar massacres and attacks. By 1855, the Humboldt Times reported that miners were "determined to commence an indiscriminate massacre of all the Indians" in the Klamath watershed,<sup>[10]</sup> while the Sacramento Daily Union reported that "people look upon it there as a war of extermination, and are killing all grown up males."<sup>[11]</sup> Judge Fletcher of Klamath County stated of fleeing natives that "whites are hunting them down like deer."<sup>[12]</sup> Captain H.M. Judah reported men advocating, "the total extermination of all the Indians in this section."<sup>[13]</sup>

Tolerating racism is racism.

Willful ignorance of racism, is racism.

Please recommend to City Council that we move forward with re-naming Kit Carson Park, so that we can be one step closer to building a community in which all residents feel safe and welcome, and where we can all thrive individually, and collectively.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Joey Gentry

[REDACTED]



Kit Carson park

Rick Walsh [REDACTED]

Tue 11/30/2021 6:22 AM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

I do not think it is necessary to rename the park. Carson is part of our history the same as Fremont is.  
Sincerely Rick

Sent from my iPhone Rick Walsh

Kit Carson park

Rick Walsh [REDACTED]

Tue 11/30/2021 6:36 AM

To: Kristina Mainwaring <KMainwaring@klamathfalls.city>

I could not locate admin email so I found your email. Could you please forward my response not to rename the park. The name kit Carson never has caused me to be racist. Thank you rick.  
Sent from my iPhone Rick Walsh

NOV 30 2020

H: CAROL

I have been a Born and raised in Klamath Falls Kid. I used to Read Books in the summer contest here at The library.

Any way I am very upset About the Change the name of Kit carson Park movement Put me down for a ~~great~~ very loud No.

Leave it the way it has always been

In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade I practiced Football with Sacred Heart because that Field was available.

IT should stay Kit CARSON PARK with a Bigger Sign

Ed MALONEY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

November 30, 2021

Don't change name

Alan Schmitt

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Alan Schmitt  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
DON'T change  
NAME

11/11/2021

Parks Advisory Board

500 Klamath Avenue

Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Subject: Kit Carson Park

It is impossible to change history. All that can be done is to make people remember something differently than what actually happened. This of course results in a lie.

Kit Carson was a man of his time, with actions not acceptable in our time. So leave it alone.

Rose Chapman

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED NOV 17 2021

Parks Advisory Board  
500 Klamath Ave.  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

My husband and I are opposed to changing the name of Kit Carson Park.  
This park is named for a person that contributed to the history of our community.

As a person, Kit Carson was not perfect. But those that are vilifying him should show that they themselves are perfect and able to throw stones. I can't imagine that there is a 'PERFECT' person that it would be more appropriate to have his or her name placed on Kit Carson Park.

When I read about some of the research supposing to prove that Kit Carson was an evil person, it seems there are a lot of inconsistencies in these statements.

In one paragraph it was said that Kit Carson was fluent in several native tongues. Well, he could not become fluent in a language unless he had spent time with members of these tribes. If he spent time with different tribes, he should have been able to identify a person as a member of a specific tribe. Additionally, Kit Carson had a reputation as a good scout. A good scout would be very good at tracking. Maybe the reason no one took credit for murdering the man in their camp was because he paid the ultimate price for his attack. There were many other inconsistencies that brought up more questions than answers that I won't dwell on.

Finally, as someone else pointed out in a letter to the editor. Before white explorers arrived here, native tribes did not live a totally healthy, idealistic, sharing, peaceful life. There was disease, fighting among tribes, stealing from neighboring tribes, murder, slavery. They acted just like humans have for thousands of years everywhere. None of us are perfect.

Betty and Dick Roberts  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Tried email but address not complete in  
news article*

RECEIVED NOV 17 2021



Jimmie C. and Peggy A. Thomas

Date: November 10, 2021

TO: Parks Advisory Board, 500 Klamath Ave., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

RE: Kit Carson Park name change. Please leave well enough alone!

I am not sure why the advisory board would consider changing the name of the park. Do you question the past members knowledge and their use of available resources regarding their decision to name the park after Kit Carson, an American Frontiersman? I don't recall when the dedication naming the park was or who the members were. Please make this information available to the public.

I don't understand how it is acceptable to create an adverse narrative of past events and attempt to rewrite history. I have enclosed informative histories regarding Kit Carson and John Fremont. Their lives intertwined during this timeframe and their contributions correlate in much the same way. Will our landmarks named after Fremont be the next in line?

It is wise to acknowledge that the landscape we see out our windows today varies a great deal from that time in history.

Is that Pelican I saw dining on an endangered fish going to lose its name status?

I should hope the intelligence benchmark of this community is not going to follow in the paths of the nonproductive individuals creating havoc to property that belongs to the American people. Do these people with their backpacks of destructive tools actually think with a simple paintbrush stroke they can invent a new scenario, rewrite history, and erase the lives of past generations?

Sincerely,

Peggy Thomas

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PS: I have also enclosed a quote from the sculptor of Mount Rushmore. Gutzon Borglum quoted in 1927, "We will build a monument so high and far away that it will not pay future generations to tear it down." Was this an omen?



# BIOGRAPHY



Photo: © CORBIS/Corbis via  
Getty Images

Kit Carson  
December 24,  
1809  
May 23, 1868  
Madison County,  
Kentucky  
Fort Lyon,  
Colorado

## Kit Carson

(1809–1868)

Kit Carson was an American frontiersman, trapper, soldier and Indian agent who made important contributions to the westward expansion of the United States.

### Who Was Kit Carson?

Kit Carson was an American frontiersman who became an experienced hunter and trapper by his 20s. After meeting explorer John C. Frémont in 1842, Carson was an active participant in extending the boundaries of the United States to its present size. He became a federal Indian agent in the 1850s and later served the Union Army in the Civil War. Carson is remembered as an icon of the frontiersman days of the American West.

### Early Life

Born on December 24, 1809, Christopher "Kit" Carson became one of the most famous figures in the American West. He grew up on the Missouri frontier on lands bought from the sons of frontiersman Daniel Boone. From an early age, Carson knew both the beauty and the danger that this area possessed. He and his family often feared attacks on their cabin from Native Americans.

When Carson's father, a farmer, died in 1818, Carson did his best to help out his mother, who had 10 children to raise on her own. He gave up on his education and worked the family's lands. Carson never learned to read—a fact he later tried to hide and was ashamed of.

Carson was apprenticed to a saddlemaker in Franklin, Missouri, at age 14, but he longed for freedom and adventure. In 1826, Carson fled Franklin, breaking his contract with the saddlemaker. He headed west on the Santa Fe Trail, working as a laborer in a caravan of merchants.

### Western Trapper and Guide



Carson eventually learned the ins and outs of trapping in the sometimes hostile lands of the West, proving tough and durable despite his small frame. In 1829, Carson joined with Ewing Young to trap in Arizona and California. He also worked for Jim Bridger and the Hudson Bay Company at different times, as well.

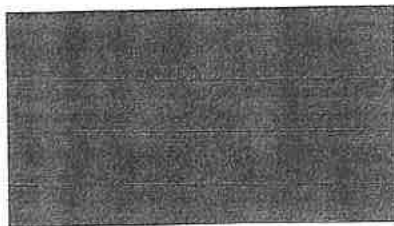
Along the way, Carson learned to speak Spanish and French fluently. Often immersed in Native American lands and cultures, he also learned to communicate in several of their languages and even married two Native American women. Unlike many other men in his profession, Carson was noted for his unassuming manner and temperate lifestyle, with one acquaintance describing him as "clean as a hound's tooth."

## Joining Forces with Frémont

In 1842, Carson met explorer John C. Frémont, an officer with the United States Topographical Corps, while traveling on a steamboat. Frémont soon hired Carson to join him as a guide on his first expedition. With his many years spent in the woods, Carson was the ideal candidate to help the group make their way to the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains. Frémont's reports from the expedition, which praised Carson, helped make him one of the era's most famous mountain men. Carson also later became a popular hero in many Western novels.

In 1843, Carson accompanied Frémont to survey the Great Salt Lake in Utah and then to Fort Vancouver in the Pacific Northwest. Carson also guided the 1845-46 expedition to California and Oregon. During this time, he found himself caught in the Mexican-American War. While in California, Frémont's mission changed into a military operation, and he and Carson supported the uprising by American settlers that became known as the Bear Flag Revolt.

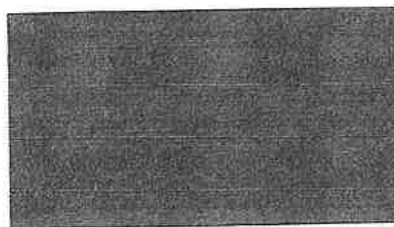
## READ NEXT



### Olivia Rodrigo

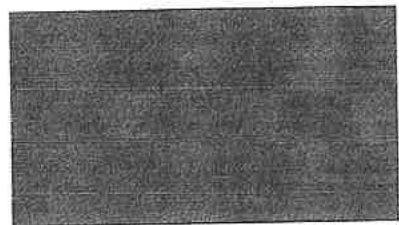
(2003-)

Sent to Washington, D.C., to deliver the news of the victory, Carson only made it as far as New Mexico, where he was directed to guide General Stephen W. Kearny and his troops to California. Kearny's men clashed with Mexican forces near San Pasqual, California, but they were outmatched in the fight. Carson slipped past the enemy to secure aid from American troops in San Diego. After the war, Carson returned to New Mexico, where he lived as a rancher.



### Megan Thee Stallion

(1995-)



### Bowen Yang

(1990-)

## Indian Agent and U.S. Military Officer

In 1853, Carson took on a new role, agreeing to serve as a federal Indian agent for northern New Mexico, primarily working with the Utes and the Jicarilla Apaches. He saw the impact of western migration of the white settlers on the Native Americans, and he believed that attacks on white people by Native Americans were committed in desperation. To prevent these people from becoming extinct, Carson advocated for the creation of Indian reservations.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the Union tapped Carson to help organize the First New Mexico Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Serving as a lieutenant colonel, he was involved in the bloody clash with Confederate soldiers at the Battle of Valverde in 1862.

Carson also led campaigns against Native American tribes in the region, most infamously the effort to force the Navajo to relocate to the Bosque Redondo reservation at Fort Sumner. Carson and his men destroyed crops and killed livestock, their onslaught paving the way for traditional enemy tribes of the Navajo to follow with their own attacks. Starving and exhausted, the Navajo finally surrendered in 1864, and were forced to march about 300 miles to the reservation. The journey, known as the Long Walk, proved to be brutal, costing the lives of hundreds of participants.

## Final Years in Colorado, Death and Legacy

Promoted to brigadier general in 1865, Carson moved to Colorado after the war and was appointed the commander of Fort Garland. He negotiated a peace treaty with the Utes during this time before resigning in 1867 because of declining health.

Carson spent his final months as superintendent of Indian affairs for Colorado Territory. Following a grueling trip to the East Coast in 1868, he returned to Colorado in terrible condition. After his third and final wife died in April, Carson followed approximately a month later, on May 23, 1868, reportedly delivering the last words, "Doctor, compadre, adios!"

An icon of the frontiersman days of the American West, Carson is remembered through the designation of such locales as Carson City, Nevada, and Carson Pass in California. Along with the dime novels that bolstered his legend while he was still alive, he was memorialized in Western-themed movies and TV shows like *The Adventures of Kit Carson*, which aired from 1951 to 1955.

Carson's life was reexamined in the 2006 book *Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West*, by Hampton Sides. In early 2018, he was featured in the History Channel's documentary series *Frontiersmen*.

## Citation Information

### Article Title

Kit Carson Biography

### Author

Biography.com Editors

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The Biography.com website

### URL

<https://www.biography.com/military-figure/kit-carson>

### Access Date

November 9, 2021

# John C. Frémont

**John C. Frémont**, in full **John Charles Frémont**, (born January 21, 1813, Savannah, Georgia, U.S.—died July 13, 1890, New York, New York), American military officer and an early explorer and mapmaker of the American West, who was one of the principal figures in opening up that region to settlement and was instrumental in the U.S. conquest and development of California. He was also a politician who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. presidency in 1856 as the first candidate of the newly formed Republican Party.



Frémont, John C.

John C. Frémont.

*Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*

*Brady-Handy photograph collection,*

*Library of Congress, Prints and*

*Photographs Division*

When Frémont was six years old, his father, a French émigré, died, and the family moved from Georgia to Charleston, South Carolina. There Frémont entered the College of Charleston in 1829, where he displayed an especially marked aptitude for mathematics. He was expelled before graduation for irregular attendance but was granted a B.A. degree in 1836. In 1833, through the efforts of the prominent South Carolina politician Joel R. Poinsett, Frémont secured a position as a teacher of mathematics aboard the U.S. warship *Natchez*, which

cruised along the South American coast for two and a half years. After returning, he served as assistant engineer on a railroad survey between Charleston and Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1838 Poinsett—by then the U.S. secretary of war—commissioned Frémont as a second lieutenant of topographical engineers for the U.S. Army and assigned him to assist the French scientist Joseph Nicolas Nicollet on a three-year mission of surveying and mapping the upper Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Frémont also headed an expedition (1841) to survey the Des Moines River for Nicollet, the Frenchman having given him expert instruction in geology, topography, and astronomy. His growing taste for wilderness exploration was whetted by the expansionist enthusiasm of Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton, who became his adviser, sponsor, and, in 1841, father-in-law. Benton's influence in government enabled Frémont to

accomplish within the next few years the mapping of much of the territory between the Mississippi valley and the Pacific Ocean.

In 1842, as emigration to the Oregon country in the Pacific Northwest was growing dramatically in importance for the nation, the War Department sent Frémont on an expedition to survey the route west from the Mississippi River to the Wyoming region. While in the Wind River Range there, he scaled the mountain that now bears his name (Fremont Peak). In 1843, accompanied by the colourful <sup>PT</sup> guide Kit Carson and mountain man Thomas Fitzpatrick, he completed an even more important survey to the mouth of the Columbia River. After thoroughly exploring much of the Pacific Northwest, he went southward into Mexican-controlled territory. He first went through what is now northwestern Nevada and then made a perilous westward winter crossing of the Sierra Nevada to California, reaching Fort Sutter on the Sacramento River in March 1844. That exploit, which was included in the report he made of the trip after returning east, added greatly to his fame.



Illustration of Pyramid Lake,  
northwestern Nevada, U.S., from the  
report on John C. Frémont's 1843-44  
Western expedition.  
*Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*

War between the United States and Mexico over the annexation of Texas seemed imminent, and in the spring of 1845 Frémont headed a third expedition west, ostensibly to explore the Great Basin and Pacific coast but also with secret instructions for action in case of war. Upon his arrival in southern California at the end of the year, he and his armed party defied Mexican authorities before backing down and heading north into southern Oregon. He and his group soon returned south (early May 1846) after he received a dispatch (the contents of

which are still unknown) from a confidential messenger from Washington, D.C. Back in California, Frémont threw his support behind a small group of dissident American settlers near Sonoma who had started an unofficial uprising and had established the short-lived Bear Flag Republic. News of the U.S. declaration of war with Mexico soon reached California, and Frémont was appointed by Commodore Robert F. Stockton as major of a battalion there that

consisted mostly of American volunteers. Frémont and Stockton completed the conquest of the future 31st state.



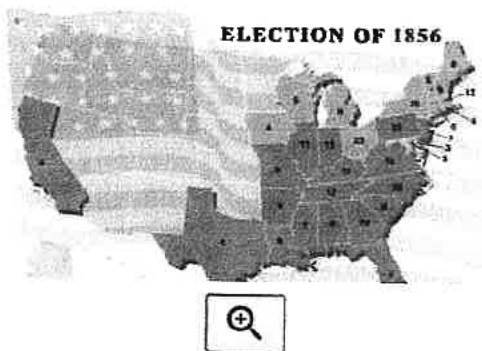
John C. Frémont

John C. Frémont, engraving from a daguerreotype by Mathew Brady, c. 1850.

*Hulton Archive/Getty Images*

Meanwhile, General Stephen Watts Kearny entered California from the southeast with orders to establish a government. This led to a conflict of authority in which Frémont involved himself after accepting California's capitulation from Mexican officials at Cahuenga Pass, near Los Angeles. Stockton had appointed Frémont military governor of California, but Kearny would not recognize the appointment. Frémont nonetheless served as governor for two months, at which time Kearny had him arrested after having received confirmation of his own authority. Frémont was returned to Washington, D.C., and, in 1847–48, court-martialed for mutiny, disobedience, and conduct prejudicial to military discipline. He was sentenced to dismissal from the army. Although his penalty was set aside by President James K. Polk, Frémont, bitter about the ordeal, resigned from the army. Through it all he retained the high regard of the general public.

Frémont returned west to California to an estate he had purchased in the Sierra Nevada foothills near Mariposa, only to find himself in the midst of the California Gold Rush. After rich ore veins were found on his land, he became a multimillionaire. In 1850, following California's admittance to the union, he was elected one of the state's first two senators. A firm opponent of slavery, he lost a reelection bid in 1851 to a pro-slavery candidate. However, his popularity in helping to secure California for the country and the publicity generated by yet another expedition—to Utah Territory in 1853–54—led to him being nominated for the presidency in 1856 by the new Republican Party. In the election he was defeated by the Democratic candidate, James Buchanan, but came closer to uniting the electorate of the North and West against the South than had any previous candidate.



American presidential election,  
1856*Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.*

Frémont was appointed a major general of Union troops in Missouri after the American Civil War began, but he proved to be an ineffective leader. Further, in August 1861 he ordered the confiscation of the property of Missourians in rebellion as well as the emancipation of the state's slaves. President Abraham Lincoln, believing those actions to be premature and fearing that they would alienate border states, relieved Frémont of his command shortly thereafter. The next year Frémont was given leadership of another army—this time in the Appalachian region—but he proved ineffective against the rapid maneuvers of his opponent, the Confederate general Thomas (“Stonewall”) Jackson. After losing command of his army to a rival, John Pope, Frémont again angrily resigned from the military. He was still popular enough to be considered for the presidential nomination again in 1864 by the radical wing of the Republican Party. He withdrew his candidacy, however, to avoid dividing the party, since that probably would have resulted in the defeat of Lincoln. Thereafter he retired from public life to devote himself to railroad projects in the West. In 1878, after losing his fortune, he was appointed governor of the Arizona Territory, where he served until 1883.

This article was most recently revised and updated by Kenneth Pletcher, Senior Editor.

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# The Rushmore-Borglum Story and our National Monument

## *"The complete Rushmore experience ..."*



Lincoln Display

To understand Mt. Rushmore you must first understand Gutzon Borglum. Mt. Rushmore is our National Monument. It is a patriotic symbol recognized throughout the world. It is also a marvelous work of art.

On your tour of the Rushmore-Borglum Story you will meet the man, his family, and the great men who were his friends. It is a fun-filled experience for all ages. Guided by the quadphonic audio system as designed for the Smithsonian Institution, you will see an amazing collection of Borglum art and artifacts. In our air conditioned theater you will step back in time and relive the Rushmore years. As you watch our newsreel film, you will see Borglum and his crew go over the side of the cliff in Bosuns' seats. You will learn about the ingenious methods used for measuring and will watch the actual blasting of the granite. In our "Men of Rushmore" room you will see the original three-figure Rushmore model.



California Pasture

Gutzon Borglum was a visionary. He looked at a mountain the way ordinary artists look at a lump of clay. At the dedication of Mt. Rushmore in 1927 he said, "We will build a monument so high and far away that it will not pay future generations to tear it down." Borglum never thought small thoughts and never thought only in terms of the present.



North Carolina Memorial Gettysburg

Borglum was a painter before he became a sculptor. Only after mastering both media was his talent perfected for the colossal carving.

In the Borglum gallery you will see the largest collection of Borglum paintings in the world. Preserved are his family furniture and the tools he used at his South Dakota studio, including many of his working models, sculpturing stands and measuring devices. This Hall of Fame contains many of his most famous statues collected from throughout the world. The gallery exhibits a repository of information in the form of original Borglum writings, photographs and new articles.



Stone Mountain Display

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

The exclusive newsreel film "Mount Rushmore," narrated by Lowell Thomas. This film cannot be seen anywhere else ...

The gallery of Borglum sculptures and paintings ...

Hand held radio receivers to guide you through the displays. This quadphonic system was developed by the Smithsonian.

A staff of Borglum experts who will be pleased to answer your questions ...

"TOURISM IS OUR BUSINESS"

**AMPLE FREE PARKING**

**OPEN DAILY**

**Mid-April — Mid-October**



Original Rushmore Model

GUTZON BORGLUM WAS SIXTY BEFORE HE SAW THE ROCK CALLED RUSHMORE. It took a lifetime of dedication to his art and his country to prepare for the task. Politics: he knew every President from Teddy Roosevelt to FDR and was a frequent guest at the White House. Art: he was a friend of the great Rodin. His MARES OF DIOMEDES was the first work by an American to be purchased for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. STONE MOUNTAIN. THE WARS OF AMERICA. THE SEATED LINCOLN. You will see them all and hear the story of why and how he created them as you are guided through the displays. Then you will see our newsreel film narrated by Borglum's friend Lowell Thomas. You will step into his world as his work surrounds you in the gallery ... and then you will be ready for Mount Rushmore.



Borglum at work

11/13/2021

RECEIVED NOV 16 2021

To Whom it May Concern regarding the request to change the name of Kit Carson Park:

I oppose the name change of Kit Carson Park. The incorrect assumption that the proponents present is that if we change the name on this park that somehow this will eliminate racist behavior, as defined by them, or at least decrease it. Anyone with a basic education knows that a word, whether the name of a everyday item such as a chair or a more abstract concept such as "racism" is only the word. Behind that word is a perceived definition of the concept in the mind of the individual. Everyone has a different perceived idea of the concept. A chair is something to sit in or a chair is something you hang your clothes on. Racism is the attack of minorities or racism is the overgeneralization of an attribute across population groups. There are as many perceived ideas of the concept as there are people in the world. Lastly there is the referent. The chair itself.

So you have the word, the perceived concept in the mind of the beholder and the referent. If you change the name of the referent that is all you do. If the idea is to remove their concept of racism by removing the name of the park then this is a fools folly. Remove the name and you still have people with racists thoughts.

The word "Kit Carson Park" is perceived by me as a place of fun and family gatherings. Obviously the proponents of the removal of the name or word have other perceived meanings of the word "Kit Carson Park" in their mind. Recently, at USC, a professor had a blue lined American flag out side his office. A group decided this offended them because this flag looked similar to a flag used in the military and therefore suggested the idea that the police were becoming militarized. Others had other meanings attributed to this flag. Should we take down a flag because of a perceived meaning shared by one set of peoples but not all?

The removal of the name "Kit Carson Park" can not achieve the goals of the proponents to remove "racism". It is fruitless to do so. If the proponents still think they can eliminate or decrease racist behavior by removing a word then lets do a study by comparing the number of racist behaviors before and after removal of the name of the park.

So this brings us to another question. If removing the name of the park can not achieve the goals of the proponents why do they do this. After living my life in California and the last 8 years in a highly progressive county where this type of request goes on all the time I have come to the conclusion that this desire to remove symbols or referents such as names of parks and statues of historical figures is a form of cultural marxism, the violent overthrow of the culture that is now in place. This type of request will not stop here. Remember in the news a couple of years ago where someone noticed a rope hanging from a garage door (so you can close the door} reminded him of lynching. This attempt to cancel concepts that you perceive as being disagreeable by removing words is fruitless. The concept remains. If there is a positive result from the removal of the name show me with a study, not an opinion.

It is your community. I think the best way is to have a vote so that the whole community can decide and not a few highly vocal people that are engaged in disruption for the sake of disruption..

Regards,

Conrad Winn,



TO: Mayor Carol Westfall

City Council Members: Phil Studenberg, Mika Blain, Matt Dodson, Dan Tofell, Todd Andres

City Parks Board: Daniel Blake, Nancy Thomas, Todd Kepple, Michael Garrard, Jeanette Rutherford, Kathy White, Kaitlin Hakanson

Dear Madams/Sirs:

It has been brought to my attention that the City may be seeking public input for a possible name change for Kit Carson Park. I would like to propose the park be renamed Stewart Park in honor of Suzanne and Paul Stewart. We have Steens Sports Park, Ella Redkey Pool, Moore Park, Sugarman's Corner – why not Stewart Park? Here is my rationale:

Since their arrival in our community back in the late 1980s, Suzanne has volunteered her considerable musical talents throughout the community. She has accompanied literally hundreds of City School music concerts all through elementary, middle and high school. She has accompanied dozens of local high school students as they participated in regional and state music competitions, and has traveled voluntarily to state competitions and other regional performances. Nearly every child who has gone through City Schools over the past 30+ years has benefitted directly or indirectly from her services.

In addition, she has been involved in the production of numerous childrens' theatre projects, from "How to Eat Like a Child" to "The Sound of Music" to "Bye Bye Birdie". She was a co-founder of the original Rag Tag Childrens' choir and involved in the recent reincarnation of that choir today.

Besides accompanying numerous musical events she has also participated herself in many local productions, either in the pit with other musicians or sometimes on stage, such as in "Pump Boys and the Dinettes", "The Wizard of Oz" and "The Adams Family". She has given numerous free concerts to the community, including a regular Christmas concert, "Sounds of the Seasons". Her hundreds of hours of volunteer services enriching our local community is deserving of recognition.

Paul, as you know, has been the CEO at Sky Lakes Medical Center for 30 years. Under his leadership, our local healthcare services have grown in breadth and depth, including the addition of a Cancer Treatment Center, invasive cardiology, a new Family Birth Center, a new inpatient tower, a Community Health Education Center, outpatient dialysis services, a Wellness Center, and the Collaborative Health Center. He has been involved in the recruitment of dozens of healthcare professionals to the community, thus greatly expanding access to healthcare for our region. The overall growth has led to Sky Lakes now being the largest employer in our region and a strong economic asset.

More to the point of parks, he has led the charge in trying to create a more active, vibrant community, encouraging physical recreation and lifestyle changes. He has led Sky Lakes in investing in numerous community health initiatives, including swim lessons for all county third graders, investments in bike trails and bike lanes, supporting the creation of Klamath Works, helping with the development of a new Gospel Mission homeless shelter, and bringing in a hugely successful community health initiative known as The Blue Zones Project.

He led the purchase and rehabilitation of an entire city block into what is now Klamath Commons, a beautiful entrance point to our downtown. Due to lack of resources, Kit Carson Park itself suffered years of neglect, resulting in it deteriorating to little more than a very visible eyesore on the Crater Lake Parkway. He led the medical center's investment in a complete rehabilitation of the park, resulting in the wonderful natural children's play area and paths that we see today, used by local residents on literally a daily basis.

Now I have learned through recent media reports and social media that Paul and Suzanne and their family plan on installing Christmas lights and decorations in the park on an annual basis bringing more joy and happiness to our community and showcasing this very visible park.

What better way to honor their contributions to our community and our local well-being than to name a park after them?

As you can see, I know them well – well enough to also know that they don't seek publicity for what they do nor would they necessarily appreciate me suggesting this recognition for them 😊. I will therefore sign off simply as

A Supportive Local Citizen

Thank you for considering this suggestion.

[https://www.heraldandnews.com/members/forum/letters/letter-poor-planning-in-all-of-countys-parks/article\\_da83c86b-1aeb-5141-9cc2-9ebf6a9abeff.html](https://www.heraldandnews.com/members/forum/letters/letter-poor-planning-in-all-of-countys-parks/article_da83c86b-1aeb-5141-9cc2-9ebf6a9abeff.html)

## Letter: Poor planning in all of county's parks

Nov 13, 2021

Tired of seeing surveys on articles? If you are a subscriber, simply

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### Poor planning in all of county's parks

Does our city/county really have nothing better to do than change names of the community and children's parks?

Isn't it bad enough that these playground/parks were built along the highway/bypasses? Kit Carson is right there next to Crater Lake Parkway.

How much does it cost us taxpayers every time the planning department changes the name? The name of the park is fine, so why change it? Boredom?

But Kit Carson isn't the only poorly planned park. There is a playground right next to the most dangerous curve going into Bly. Why would you want our children playing next to the highways in our county? I would consider that to be poor planning as well, or a total disregard for the people of this community and its next generations.

We poured all that money into no turning left on to bypass from Portland St. but children aren't any safer. Why wasn't that money spent on a walkover bridge? No traffic stops and pedestrians are safe to cross — would have been a win/win answer.

Please stop the poor planning and think about where the hammer is going to land before throwing it willy-nilly into a group of children. It's better to be praised for "a job well done," rather than "What the hell did they do that for?" such as the bike lane down Oregon Ave. How much did that cost the taxpayers? I haven't seen one bicyclist using it. How much money was wasted on that, and how much does the maintenance cost us property owners? I'm tired of the poor planning. Aren't you?

*Teresa Woods*



kit carson park

Wally Kawasaki [REDACTED]

Thu 11/11/2021 7:07 AM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

leave the name alone,

who we were back then is not who we are today but even with the bad they contributed to founding what we are

i vote leave it as kit carson



Kit Carson Park renam- do NOT rename

Bonnie Johnson [REDACTED]

Wed 11/10/2021 12:08 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

Please do **NOT** rename Kit Carson Park

If people want create (or donate) a new space for a new park with a new name – please do so.

Please **STOP** the CANCEL CULTURE!

Thank you for considering my view,

Bonnie Johnson  
[REDACTED]

Kit Carson

Edward Silling [REDACTED]

Wed 11/10/2021 11:19 AM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

Please rename Kit Carson Park. It would be most appropriate to contact the local tribal council for suggestions--for example, Captain Jack has the status of a folk hero for our region, more so than Kit Carson, who only camped here on his way through (a transient). And there were brave women at the stronghold with Captain Jack, who deserve to be remembered.

Ed and Darla Silling.

Nov.9,2021

Klamath Falls Parks Advisory Board:

I oppose the renaming of Kit Carson Park. If Kit Carson's entire history is looked at and considered for the time in which he lived and worked people can see that he was not a racist but he was an Indian agent and was working to help the Indians. He was a great explorer of the west and had much influence with the government at that time. He was also married to wives (at different times) of different ethnicity than himself, the first being a Native Indian woman, the second was a Hispanic woman. At that time both the Indians and the whites committed great atrocities against each other, so neither group were free from blame of killing each other. He also fought in the Civil War on the Union side. Look at the real history and not the new revisionist ideas of history.

Thank you,

Connie Rowan

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

KIT CARSON PARK

Here we go again, CANCEL CULTURE. I am absolutely opposed to changing the name. History is history, it is best to LEARN from it than to hide from it.

Many wrongs were committed by ALL RACES when our nation was founded. Was it right, no?

It would be so much more profitable for humanity and our country if the WOKE individuals in our society were utilizing there efforts to provide a brighter future for all instead of wallowing in the failures of the past.

Would I submit this letter to the Herald and News? Absolutely not. The vitriol that I would receive would be to much to bear. No, I am not a racist, homophobic, bigot, etc. I am a member of the Creek Tribe, Oklahoma.

The fight to change history is ludicrous and should be abandoned, Abraham Lincoln?, George Washington?, Father Junipero Serra? and the list goes on.

Shendy McAtee

*Shendy McAtee*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please keep my personal information private, I am a 79 year old widow.

Hello City Parks and Advisory Board members,

Thank you for wanting to sincerely get our input on this survey to change  
The name of Kit Carson Park.

YES, I am in favor of doing this, given the real history of the legendary  
Kit Carson and how it would have affected me if I were one of the Native  
Peoples here. When we give it our deep thought and how it would be if  
we were speaking of and for our ancestors, it appears a right and just and  
timely decision to pursue. Of course, a plaque with true history should  
accompany the new Park name in that location.

Please encourage the Herald and News to follow up with what the Tribes  
Are saying concerning this. My hope is that they would be central  
In renaming the Park and that we others would walk alongside, not lead  
This effort.

Thank you.



Annette M. Henderson





Nov. 9, 21

To Whom It May Concern:

I favor changing the name of Kit Carson Park. something from Native American traditions would be good.

Tom Whitehead

**IN PERSON**

City Hall – Annex Building

City Administration Office

500 Klamath Avenue

Provide a written statement that includes the following:

- Clearly state if opposed to, in favor of, or have no opinion about the proposed name change.
- If you have any feedback you would like to contribute on the proposed name change, please include that feedback.
- Include your name, address and zip code

Responses being accepted through December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

November 8, 2021

Parks Advisory Board,  
500 Klamath Ave.,  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

To All Concerned:

This letter is being written to follow up previous correspondence (see attached) sent to our mayor, Carol Westfall, to plead the case for renaming the Kit Carson Park.

The long-lingering matter of this long-overdue renaming is not going away! Do we want locals and tourists to Klamath Falls to believe that we are a community that allows horrible history to continue through the persistence of signage (Dead Indian Memorial Road and Kit Carson Park) that not only disparages Indigenous Peoples, but also falsely celebrates the wrong heroes (Kit Carson)?

We believe that Klamath Falls is better than this and much more progressive in its forward-thinking actions that will -- through an appropriate name change -- acknowledge the terrible wrongs effected by Kit Carson and elevate the true Native historical account of the period.

How about "Brave-Heart City Park?"

Please quit talking about this, forming and disbanding advisory councils and seeking community and Tribal input only to ignore the appeals of Klamath Falls' citizens hoping to convey a better image of our unique and special city. Regardless of how the majority of Klamath Falls residents may vote in a survey, the right thing to do is to rename the park. Do the right thing. Time is up!

Regards,

  
Heath/Ken Billingsley



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

October 1, 2021,

Carol Westfall,  
Klamath Falls Mayor,  
500 Klamath Ave.,  
Klamath Falls, OR.,  
97601

Dear Carol,

This appeal to your compassion, ethics/moral compass and legacy for the renaming of "Dead Indian Memorial Road" could not be more urgent.

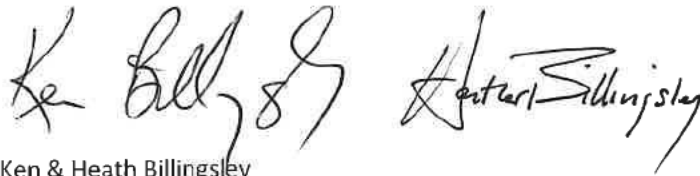
Now is the time to effect the change so desperately needed to help attenuate the historical atrocities against American Indigenous Peoples. Not only is this the right action to take, but it will also boost business, jobs, City pride and future youth opportunities.

Your public statement proposes that you wish to focus on "business, jobs and learning opportunities" [to effect city pride and create an environment in which youth will wish to return]. To this end, such a name change (much like the Kit-Carson-Park name-makeover effort) to one that better reflects an inclusive, positive celebration of the Tututni-Native culture (i.e. the Tututni Scenic Byway) would, – coupled with signage/tourist markers highlighting the strengths of Indigenous Peoples – reinvigorate local tourism and its associated business and job opportunities. For example, Native artists and storytellers could be approached to produce roadside markers/tourist stops with accurate historical depictions. This could also be linked with the Klamath Falls renamed "Kit Carson" park to attract tourists downtown.

If this renaming were not a "learning opportunity," then nothing possibly could be!

Our neighbors to the North have also grappled with the same issues and, as of yesterday, The Canadian Government has passed legislation to establish a new Federal Statutory Holiday on Sept 30th called "The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation" to strive to acknowledge the horrific wrongs against its own Indigenous Peoples. Let's follow suit and start with this small step toward impactful change! We implore you to please make this happen NOW not just for the positive impact already discussed, but also for your legacy as Mayor of this great city of Klamath Falls.

Respectfully,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Ken Billingsley' and the second is 'Heath Billingsley'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken & Heath Billingsley



RECEIVED NOV 09 2021

No! Kit Carson Park should not be renamed.

things like this just keep us more divided.

You will never change what happen in the past. We can however learn from mistakes made and move on to a better way of life for everyone.

Assigning blame and changing names just keeps us apart. Its time to stop focusing on the negative. Spend this time bringing the community together not forcing us into two camps. Bad vs good. who's who.

Changing the name of a park will accomplish no good whatever. You can investigate anyone and find some stupid thing they did. You cannot however say it didn't happen, and try to change it by renaming things.

Leave the name alone

Duane Weiss



FW: Kit Carson Park - Resend w/ Attachment

heath billingsley [REDACTED]

Mon 11/8/2021 8:24 AM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

📎 1 attachments (14 KB)

letter to mayor wrt renaming DIM road. oct 1 2021.docx;

To All Concerned:

This letter is being written to follow up previous correspondence (see attached) sent to our mayor, Carol Westfall, to plead the case for renaming the Kit Carson Park.

The long-lingering matter of this long-overdue renaming is not going away! Do we want locals and tourists to Klamath Falls to believe that we are a community that allows horrible history to continue through the persistence of signage (Dead Indian Memorial Road and Kit Carson Park) that not only disparages Indigenous Peoples, but also falsely celebrates the wrong heroes (Kit Carson)?

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Regards,

Heath/Ken Billingsley  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Kit Carson Park

Elizabeth Daggett <

Sun 11/7/2021 11:02 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

Leave the name alone. Never one time in my 54 years living in Klamath Falls has this been brought up as any kind of an issue before now. Quit looking for ways to divide different ethnic peoples. Leave history where it belongs, in the past.



Remring the Kit Carson park is just wrong. This changing history, renaming everything has to stop. I lived in Beatty for 7 long years. I owned the Old Beatty store. This where everything is offending you has to stop. KIT Carson killing people, well th...

parsonshoney [REDACTED]

Sun 11/7/2021 5:43 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Kit Carson Park

Wendy Millard [REDACTED]

Sun 11/7/2021 11:18 AM

To: admn@klamathfalls.city <adm@klamathfalls.city>; Kristina Mainwaring <KMainwaring@klamathfalls.city>

Klamath Falls Parks Advisory Board:

I'm in favor of changing the name of Kit Carson Park. (may I suggest "Winema Park" or "Hotsprings Park"?)

I think it is reprehensible to honor a frontiersman who was responsible for the genocide and deplorable mistreatment of Indigenous peoples all across the southwest and western U.S.

It would be SO appropriate to instead give the honor to Winema, who was a Native American, a peace-keeper, and a woman, (whom have been selected for honorable contributions to society at a pace far behind white military men!) It is time to honor those who keep and promote peace.

I think it's a shame that the newspaper article asks for public feedback when neither the survey nor the given email address are correct. If you really want feedback, you must ensure that the email address is correct AND have a survey link that is secure and WORKS.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,

Wendy Mathews Millard

renaming Kit Carson

Jennifer Little [REDACTED]

Sat 11/6/2021 1:08 PM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

I saw the article in th paper asking for feedback on renaming Kit Carson. I would like to voice my support for changing the name.

Thank you!

Jennifer Little,  
[REDACTED]

## Renaming Kit Carson Park.

j2riker@charter.net [REDACTED]

Sat 11/6/2021 10:59 AM

To: admin@klamathfalls.city <admin@klamathfalls.city>

I, like Bob Millard, strongly support changing the name of Kit Carson Park to Klamath Kiwanis Park. Our Klamath Falls Kiwanis Club and The Linkville Kiwanis Club have been long time supporters of the parks in our city. The Klamath Falls Kiwanis Club will be celebrating it's 100 year anniversary this coming year in 2022. It seems a name change is in order here and it would be good to see the city offer recognition to the efforts made by these two community oriented service clubs.

If changing the name to Klamath Kiwanis Park would ruffle the feathers of too many Lions, Rotarians, etc., then I would suggest the park be named the George Nurse Park.

Tongue-in-cheek: If all else fails name it the Joe Riker park in honor of Dr. Joe Riker, Sr., DVM who lived and practiced here from 1939 to just after his 100th birthday in 2014, and Dr. Joe Riker, III (1940-2021), your past City Community Development Director from 1982 to 1997 who brought in the grants for the street lights, heated crosswalks, etc. If you did that our Kiwanis Foundation has a few dollars in a memorial for Joe III that could be donated to help fund the park, and Rotary might be hit up for a few \$ also. Joe Sr. was vary active in local things like the Sheriff's Posse, Rotary, Cattlemen, Historical Society, etc, and Joe III was in the (above) Kiwanis Club of Klamath Falls, the local Soil Conservation Service, the Volcanic Highway Project, taught at OIT for a decade before joining the City, and with Elliot Allen and myself helped write the City Comprehensive Plan a loooooong time ago.

Joan Riker  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Kit Carson Park

Bob Millard 

Sat 11/6/2021 8:46 AM

To: [admin@klamathfalls.city](mailto:admin@klamathfalls.city) <[admin@klamathfalls.city](mailto:admin@klamathfalls.city)>

I strongly support changing the name of Kit Carson Park to Klamath Kiwanis Park. The Klamath Falls Kiwanis Club and The Linkville Kiwanis Club have been long time supporters of the parks in our city. The Klamath Falls Kiwanis Club will be celebrating it's 100 year anniversary this coming year in 2022. It seems a name change is in order here and it would be good to see the city offer recognition to the efforts made by these two community oriented service clubs.

Bob Millard

Past President Klamath Falls Kiwanis Club  


Online Form Submittal: Contact Us

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Fri 10/22/2021 12:51 PM

To: Kristina Mainwaring <KMainwaring@klamathfalls.city>

Contact Us

Email	<div></div>
Recipient	Parks Superintendent
Subject	Regarding Kit Carson Park
Message	<p>Enough is enough and stop trying to cancel history. Native Americans killed Europeans and Europeans fought back. All you people are trying to do is divide us but you forget we are a 70 percent Republican County. If you cancel Kit Carson. We want every savage mural and name canceled as well for they were as brutal to the White man as the white man was to them. I see you have a few Democratically Indoctrinated Woke people on your parks advisory board.</p>

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October 26, 2021

Parks Advisory Board  
City of Klamath Falls  
500 Klamath Ave.  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

Dear Members of the Parks Advisory Board,

Living near Kit Carson Park I recognize what a wonderful Park it is and what an asset it is to our entire community. This summer I had several opportunities to take some young friends there and they loved it. They continue to clamor to return.

However, the Park needs to be renamed. A name change for the Park was recommended by the City's Equity Taskforce as a tangible way we as a community can respect our local Klamath/Modoc families. Though Kit Carson may have been a talented scout, he killed many innocent Klamath people.

Were I a Native American person living in Klamath Falls I would feel devalued by a Park named for Kit Carson. Is it necessary to poll the white community to see if they think it's okay to continue with this insulting name?

To delay a decision on the renaming is disheartening. I feel it sends a message that we are not really committed to addressing equity issues here. Renaming the Park is within the power of the City Council. Please move on this quickly.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Murphey".

Kate Murphey

November 1, 2021

Dear members of the Klamath Falls Parks Advisory Board,

I'd like to share my thoughts about an article that appeared in the Herald and News on Saturday, Sept. 18. The article, '*The complicated history of Kit Carson*,' stemmed from the recommendations of the Klamath Falls Equity Task Force in their final report. I understand that one of their recommendations was to rename Kit Carson Park, and that the Klamath Falls Parks Advisory Board is now in the process of evaluating said recommendation.

The following are my thoughts on the subject.

I won't relate the whole article, but one of what seemed to be one of the darker moments of Carson's history was when he allegedly led an attack leveling a Klamath fishing village, ostensibly killing at least 14 people supposedly out of retribution for something that the inhabitants of the village may not have been even responsible for. This would be considered horrific by any reasonable account and this appears to be the primary basis impelling the task force to seek a change in the name of Kit Carson Park.

The evidence would seem to be compelling to attach the occurrence of the massacre to Carson.

In the article Susan Johnson, a professor at the University of Nevada (Las Vegas) who specializes in the history of the Intermountain West, is quoted as saying that 'the truth about Carson is "pretty nuanced and subtly complex."' I would offer to say very complex in view of the fact that these events are said to have occurred over 170 years ago.

Let me fast forward to the 'relatively' not too distant past...

I'm sure we all remember Sirhan-Sirhan and the mark he placed in our history in his assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1968. The same for John Hinckley and his attempted assassination of Pres. Ronald Reagan in 1981. I remember personally seeing the footage of these tragic events. The evidence was overwhelming. My question is why didn't we just throw them in jail the next day and save everyone a lot of mental anguish and expense? The evidence seemed to be incontrovertible.

The answer is the US Constitution.

The US Constitution guarantees due process (5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments). As horrible as these (and hundreds of others) crimes were, and with as much concrete evidence in existence to show the guilt of Sirhan-Sirhan and John Hinckley, I would stand up for them in a minute for their right to obtain a fair trial and to face their accusers. This is a foundation of American law.

Life for some is hard and seemingly unfair at times, but we cannot abandon the principles of our constitution simply because we feel it is the right thing to do.

One of the foundations of American law is that the accused stands innocent until proven guilty. We unfortunately cannot bring full justice to the situation of Kit Carson since we cannot have him face his accusers. Once we abandon these principles of American law for the sake of our perceived sense of justice, we open the door to the destruction of our judicial system.

It is therefore my considered opinion that we leave the name of this park as is until such time as the qualified voters of the City of Klamath Falls vote in a referendum to change its name.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Ritter, Ph.D.





October 28, 2021

Parks Advisory Board  
City of Klamath Falls  
500 Klamath Ave.  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

Dear Members of the Parks Advisory Board,

Seeing the children enjoying the play structure and the grassy field at Kit Carson Park and the families gathering there is uplifting. The joy, however, is undercut by the fact of the name: Kit Carson Park. Kit Carson is known to the Klamath Tribes as an extremely hostile settler who murdered many women, men and children of the Klamath Tribes.

The Equity Task Force already made its recommendation that the park's name be changed. Let's respect that wish. To delay the renaming by getting community feedback is not what equity is about. Equity is about giving people who were not at the table to make the decision a chance to make a decision. To give the decision to the predominantly white majority of Klamath Falls citizens is entirely unnecessary and against what the Equity Task Force is asking for. Why else have an Equity Task Force if you are not going to listen to and implement their wise and reasonable suggestions for change?

Furthermore, the Klamath Tribes should have the opportunity to rename the park. Just think what a positive step this would be in healing the wounds that settler colonialism has inflicted on the native peoples of the Klamath Basin. Let's extend a hand in friendship.

Please stop passing the buck down the line. Make a bold decision that will be seen as a gesture of peacemaking and reconciliation.

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Wendy Patrice Williams

