

After my First Week: 6/20

After my first week of working remotely, I wanted to describe how I felt throughout the week. Initially, I was overwhelmed with the materials Tom bestowed upon me, granted it was only a fraction of what is present in the history cabin, however, I began by getting familiar with the materials Tom gave me. This was important to me because I have never been to Camp Kawanhee and may not get the chance to physically go to Weld or experience the summer that I watched in videos (on the CK YouTube channel or on Graham's channel) or seen in pictures. I started by organizing the hard drive the Tom gave me, and seeing what materials were used for marketing and what type of materials I would be working with in general, and also so that things would be easier for me to find. This was helpful for me, because then I when moved onto scanning/taking pictures of the materials, I already knew what was scanned by the previous curators. I also cataloged, organized and used folders to organize the things from Tom. This week was mainly just soaking in all the information I could and it ended with an interview with a Kawanhee alumni, which helped to further supplement my knowledge about Kawanhee.

After my Second Week: 6/27

The second week of my remote work for Camp Kawanhee has led me to learn more through oral histories and experiences, and I am very privileged to be able to hear how the camp has helped and been a light in many people's lives. Transcribing can be tedious, and I find it hard to concentrate on sometimes, so that is taking me longer than I originally planned/had though it would. Some interviews would be very short (no more than 10 minutes) and some would be longer, but it just depends on comfortability (if they are a talker) and time availability of the interviewee. I also continued to organize the hard drive, by separating the wigwam JPGs that Tom had taken into a folder for each issue so that way it will be easier to find a specific one. I also explored ancestry.com and that helped me to understand the lives of the founders much better and fill in some gaps of the history I have read. It was kind of a stressful week because my comfort zone (scanning and organizing) had been finished the previous week. Now that I am more comfortable and have better understanding of what has been done before me and the history of Kawanhee, I will be creating a Project Checklist to set goals for myself and complete at least three "big" projects and well as some of the little things.

After my Third Week: 7/6

The third week I really started to have new ideas about things I could accomplish and new ways to bring campers and alum alike to the website. I started by updating the 2020 curator section and created a bio about myself. However, I want to build upon the website, which includes learning how to do the basic coding that is required in the building of pages and such, and add a new section that resembles a scavenger hunt for information on the website, and maybe include a quiz that you can complete, as maybe a rainy day activity campers can do from home. I am also adding more scanned catalogs (up until 2018) as well as taking inventory to know which catalogs are missing. I am also planning to update the wigwam section of the website to include as many recent ones I can and also take inventory of which editions we are missing. This past week however I did a lot of transcribing, which is very time consuming, but I find it to be important, especially if there are hard of hearing people visiting the site, they can just read the PDF

transcript. It will also make it easier to extract direct quotations in the hope of creating some sort of project for this work. I also know that the older transcripts from the 70's and 80's need to be transcribed so my hope is to do that too.

I also may be able to go up to the camp this upcoming week, which would be wonderful. Still ironing out the details with Tom.

After my Fourth Week (7/11)

I am going to be able to head up to Camp Kawanhee this week! Leaving my home Tuesday and returning Thursday afternoon. I am very excited to finally see the history cabin and hopefully be able to complete some of the incomplete scans of the catalogs and the wigwams, so that way the website will be as up to date as possible. WordPress is a little finnickly at times and there's definitely a learning curve with how to use it and such, but I am starting to figure it out.

I hope to have all the wigwams I have available uploaded onto the website by the end of the week and outline the new pages I would like to add to the website.

After my Fifth Week (7/20)

I was finally able to see beautiful Weld and live at Camp Kawanhee for two nights. The history cabin was quite messy and unorganized when I arrived, but by the time I left it was in good shape. I was very overwhelmed with the amount of artifacts and materials present in the cabin, but I found the best way to begin to tackling the mountain of things was by just starting with one box and organizing what I can find that has a date on it, which can be difficult because many of the papers are not dated. Additionally the 1971-2000 file cabinet is filling up quite quickly, so I have to clear out the area near the other filing cabinet and see if I can either refile something or find a way to not overwhelm this one file cabinet.

But I have all the catalogs and wigwams I have available to me uploaded onto the website, which is great, and building the website and organizing the history cabin are my main priorities, especially since this year there are no campers so there are not as many distractions. Hopefully I will get more of the catalogs that I am missing from Mike so I can build the online archives.

After my Sixth Week (7/25)

It is overwhelming how fast the time has gone by and how many things I wish to accomplish but am unsure if I will have time to finish everything I would like to, such as transcribing the interviews from the 70's and 80's... But I am focusing now on the virtual exhibits I wish to build, the mini one about lodges lost to history and a much larger, multi-page virtual exhibit about water sports/swimming/Lake Webb/etc and Kawanhee. I am heading up to camp hopefully two more times and while I am up there, I hope to get a lot of a) scanning and b) organizing done. This internship really could be a two year gig because by the time I felt comfortable with a basic history of Kawanhee and could really start creating materials it was about halfway through the summer. It might have been easier if I was up in Maine for the whole summer or it might have been harder to be immediately thrown into the wealth of primary sources in the cabin.

After my Seventh Week (8/1)

This week I spent a lot of time curating the mini exhibits about the lakefront activities at Kawanhee, and I was only able to get two done because only being able to get photos from the catalogs or searching through the hard drive can take a while. It would probably be easier for someone to create virtual and not virtual exhibits at camp because almost (if not all) the photos are categorized by activity in the file cabinet. If I had more time, I would focus on scanning all the photos so that we could possibly create an online photo gallery for alumni (they could also from there send an email or fill in the blank of who's who). But this way we have a virtual copy of these photos (especially because many of them have been ruined by weathering and water damage (frost possibly)). I then ventured up to Kawanhee for my second trip from Thursday to Saturday. Unfortunately most of the work I did this weekend, I will have to redo when I head back up due to technical errors. But I found a bunch of the old catalogs (and a TON of extras of the 2000's especially) so I was able to replenish the bookshelves with the catalogs.

After my Eighth Week (8/8)

This week I uploaded what had not been deleted from my scans, and then headed up to Maine from Monday to Friday. This was a very, very productive trip. The updated "missing" list will show that, but I also went through almost every single box in the history cabin and re-organized, filed what could be filed, labelled, and made a map of where everything is for the next curator and others. Hopefully the cabin will be maintained to the same level of cleanliness I left it in (I used cleaner to wipe down the glass on top of the table), but I believe that as long as things get placed back to their original location, there should be no problem for the next curator to just get straight to work. I am exhausted, however, after that week up at camp, and now I need to convert many JPGs to PDFs (using smallpdf), which will take a lot of time. I hope to get the rest of the mini exhibits done, as well as upload all the catalog and wigwams I have virtual copies for. Should be a busy week next week!

After my Ninth Week (8/15)

This was my final week as the Kawanhee History Intern, and it consisted of me trying to polish the website, complete my mini exhibits, and make sure everything I did, I saved to the hard drive. I was able to upload all the catalogs I had scans of, as well as the wigwams. This is probably the second most overwhelming week because there is so much to do and so little time to really get it done. I have really enjoyed this experience and hope that the next curator can build upon the work the previous curators and I have done and continue to improve the archives.