

# W I L D H O R S E R E S O R T C A S I N O

Contact: Charles Denight  
Phone: 541-966-1973  
Email: [charles@wildhorseresort.com](mailto:charles@wildhorseresort.com)

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## **Nicandri to explain work of illustrator of 1855 treaty negotiations. Tamástslikt to display 10 original portraits.**

David Nicandri, Director, Washington State Historical Society, will present *Gustav Sohon in Indian Country*, a lecture and slide show about Gustav Sohon, at Tamástslikt Cultural Institute on Wed., June 15, from 4-6 p.m.

Sohon, a 19th century German émigré artist, depicted local historic personages in the days before photographs were widely available. During his travels with Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens, Sohon drew the principal negotiators at the 1855 Walla Walla Treaty Council. Tamástslikt will display ten original Sohon portraits on loan from the WSHS in Tamástslikt's upcoming exhibit on the Treaty signing, which this year marks its 150th anniversary. The art is now the property of the Washington State Historical Society, which was given the art by the descendents of Stevens.

According to Nicandri's 1986 book, *Northwest Chiefs*, Sohon's "artistic legacy is the most extensive and authoritative pictorial series on the Indians of the Northwestern Plateau in pre-reservation days. Sohon's drawings were rich in anthropological details related to clothing, ornament, hairdress, and ceremonial paraphernalia. The distinctiveness of Sohon's work... lay in his ability to reveal the gradual adaptation of the native cultures to the ways of the white man." Added Nicandri, "Sohon makes everyone who views his drawings of the 1855 Stevens treaty councils, like himself, an eyewitness to history."

### BIOGRAPHY

DAVID L. NICANDRI has been director of the Washington State Historical Society since July 1987. A graduate of SUNY at Plattsburgh and the holder of a Master's Degree in history, from

the University of Idaho, Nicandri formerly served as the chief curator of the Washington State Capital Museum. Nicandri was also elected three times to terms on the Tumwater, Washington city council and was adjunct faculty of The Evergreen State College.

David Nicandri is the author of numerous books and articles. Among the former are a history of Territorial Governor Isaac I. Stevens Indian Treaty Tour, and co-editor of the official 1989 centennial illustrated history of Washington. He is also the editor of Columbia magazine, the journal of the Washington State Historical Society. In May 2001 Nicandri received an honorary doctorate from Gonzaga University in recognition of the Society's expansion and proficiency during his tenure. Nicandri is currently working on a book about Lewis and Clark on the Snake and Columbia rivers. Nicandri's research into Lewis & Clark has been described as untiring and meticulous, and he has been credited with having a robust literary style.

His museum's current exhibit, *Beyond Lewis & Clark: The Army Explores the West*, was responsible for a large increase last year in visitation to the WSHS Museum in Tacoma. The WSHS also operates the Washington State Capital Museum in Olympia and the research and archives center in Tacoma.

Tamástslikt Cultural Institute is located at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton. From Interstate 84 take exit 216 and follow the signs five minutes to Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Coming from the north, take the Mission exit from Highway 11 just northeast of Pendleton and follow the signs for about ten minutes to the Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Tamástslikt is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to exhibits telling the story of the three Tribes' history and culture, there is also a Museum Store and the Kinship Café.

For more information: 541-966-9748 or [www.tamastslikt.com](http://www.tamastslikt.com). Direct dial the museum store at tollfree 1-866-282-2022. Tamástslikt is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation