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**NEW BOOK EXPLODES STEREOTYPES, REVEALS LEGACY
LEFT BY PUGET SOUND'S STRATEGIC CROSS-CULTURAL ALLIANCES**

PULLMAN, Wash.— Much has been written of long-suffering Oregon Trail pioneer mothers and mail order brides, but Native American women who crossed the West's cultural frontier in the mid-1800s to marry settlers and military officers have been systematically marginalized and ignored. Yet such alliances played a crucial role, aiding settlement and reducing regional conflict between native peoples and newcomers. The newest book from Washington State University Press, Candace Wellman's *Peace Weavers: Uniting the Salish Coast through Cross-Cultural Marriages*, narrates the lives of four indigenous women, their husbands, and the legacies they left behind in the far northwest corner of Puget Sound.

Caroline Davis Kavanaugh (Samish-Swinomish) lived on a small peninsula nearly her entire life and protected its life-giving spring. She brought both the nephew of Confederate president Jefferson Davis and a literate Irish-born sheriff to her homeland. Mary Fitzhugh Lear Phillips (S'Klallam) married a territorial justice, then a founder of Wrangell, Alaska, and finally, a Welsh cooper. The first woman sent to the Washington territorial prison, Mary and her small children suffered two years of extreme conditions there before being released. Clara Tennant Selhameten (Lummi-Duwamish) lived a life of astonishing variety. She was a Lummi leader's daughter who married the son of a famous Arkansas missionary and became the

county's first farm wife. After their son's death, the pair traveled throughout the area as Methodist missionaries. Much later, an elderly Clara returned to tribal life as a Nooksack leader's wife. Nellie Carr Lane (Sto:lo), married for many decades to a well-known Massachusetts seafaring family's scion, was an entrepreneur and navigational light keeper who learned to use the court system to fight for her rights.

Ignored in histories that portray white female pioneers as mythic figures, these 19th-century indigenous women served as cultural interpreters and mediators, and participated in the birth of new communities. Their fates represent those of thousands of intermarriages that began as soon as the feet of European explorers hit the sands of the New World, and author Candace Wellman believes there are many more stories to be told. An expert researcher, her methodology combined disparate primary and secondary sources in academic and local history as well as genealogy and family memory—and her discoveries destroy common stereotypes about cross-cultural marriages to reveal remarkable, accomplished women.

After reading the manuscript, University of British Columbia professor and *Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place* author, Coll Thrush, commented, "Wellman brings us a set of stories that have been misunderstood, ignored, or covered up by generations of Pacific Northwest historians." Jean Barman, co-editor of *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture* called Wellman's research "wide-ranging and by every measure exhaustive."

Peace Weavers is paperback, 6" x 9", 290 pages in length, and lists for \$27.95. It is available through bookstores nationwide, direct from WSU Press at 800-354-7360 or online at wsupress.wsu.edu. A nonprofit academic publisher associated with Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, WSU Press concentrates on telling unique, focused stories of the Northwest.