

“Eaten by the natives under the name of *Soolabich*.” People, Language, and Plants in the journals of David Douglas

A presentation by Tony Johnson and Jack Nisbet.

2-4 pm Friday 13 Feb, Native American Student and Community Center
Sponsored by the Student Organization of Applied Linguistics,
Indigenous Nations Studies, and History



“Quip-Quip”

Beargrass *Xerophyllum tenax*

Sarah Ann Drake, Edward's Botanical Register, 1833

Between 1825 and 1834, Scottish naturalist David Douglas made several trips north from Cape Disappointment to Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. Although his main purpose was to collect flora and fauna for science, along the way Douglas learned Chinook Wawa (Chinook Jargon) and developed relationships with several Chinook and Chehalis tribal families. The names that he recorded in his diary for a variety of people and cultural plants provide clues about who his guides were, the nature of the language they were using to communicate, and the routes that they traveled. Those same plant names, when compared to those based on modern knowledge of Chinuk Wawa, reveal something about Douglas's understanding of what he saw as a visitor, and how the landscape of two centuries ago differs from what we see today.