

# The Evidence They Left

Although much archeological evidence has been destroyed, remains of the lives of the Indians who lived in this area still exist. In addition to archaeological evidence, the history of the native people is carried on in oral traditions and in written documents.

The 20-some coastal tribes spoke a number of different languages or dialects, and had a variety of cultural practices. Many of these have been lost, but early anthropologists searched for people who still spoke native languages and recorded them and their stories. These recordings serve as the basis from which our local tribes are reconstructing some of their languages and their traditional cultural practices.



*Louisa and William Smith, identified on photo as "First Oregonians."*

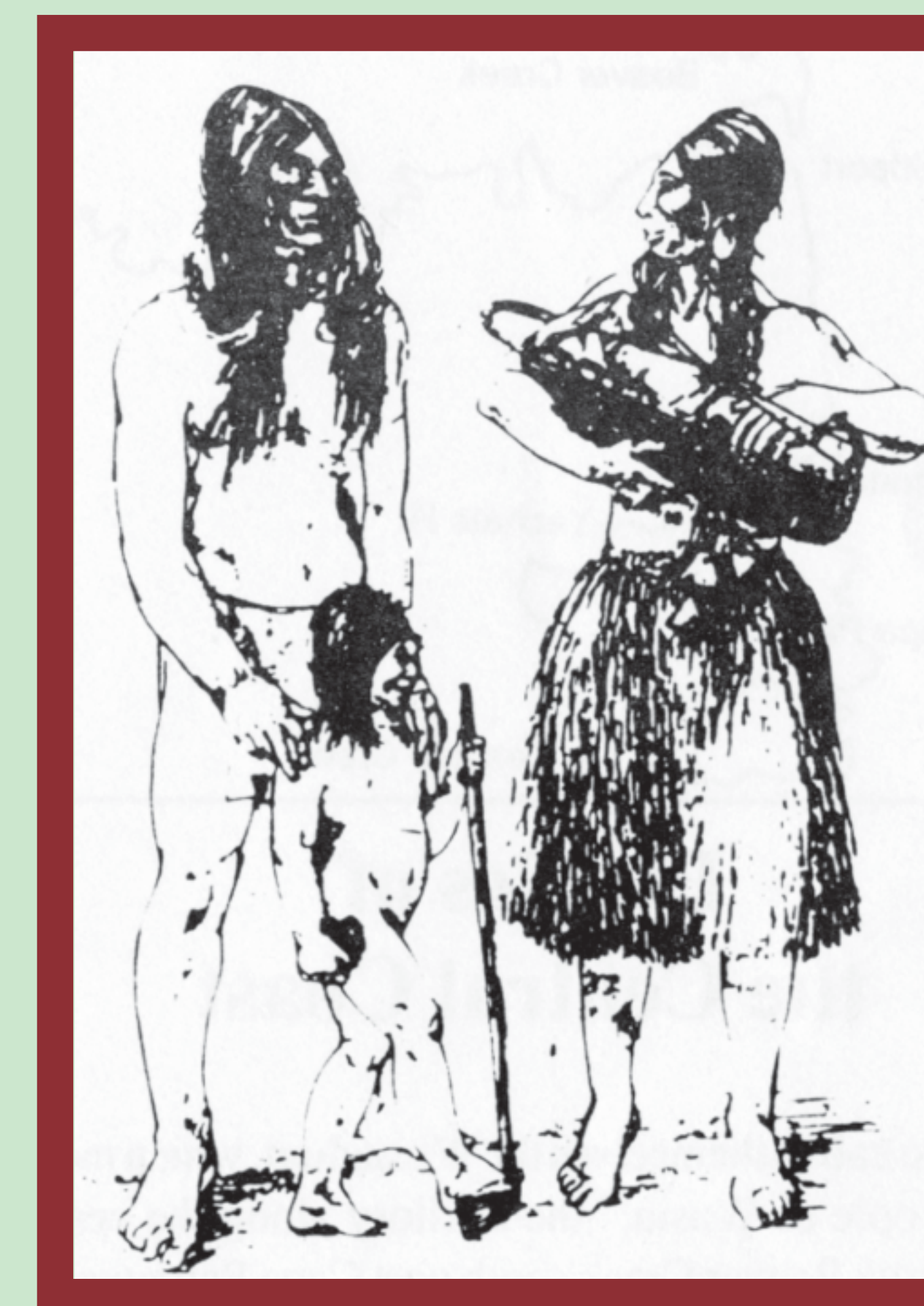
Middens also remain as archeological evidence of early native coastal traditions. Middens are piles of discarded seafood shells and other detritus left behind after the tribe spent its summers on the coast. Many of these were



*Ya'Xaik smelt fishing. Drawing by Phillip Schuster.*

destroyed by various activities, including the use of the shells in these piles to build coastal highways. There is an ongoing effort to limit public knowledge about the location of remaining middens to prevent plundering and careless destruction. As new stewards of this generation, everyone who passes this area is asked to leave remains intact for future study and respect for tribal people. State and Federal laws protect these sites. If the middens are disturbed, violators will be prosecuted.

The courage and perseverance of the area's early tribal residents is evidenced by their survival.



*Ya'Xaik family*

*Thank You!*

Family and Friends  
of Ben Christensen

