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(Ed Note: this is the second article in a continuing series highlighting the careers of Civil War personalities with special ties to Washington and the Pacific Northwest.)

Isaac Ingalls Stevens

Washington Governor and Civil War Hero

By Alan Archambault

The battlefields of the American Civil War in the East seem very remote from the Pacific Northwest, yet Washington State, even after the span of 150 years, has a direct connection to the war. One of the most obvious connections between the Civil War and Washington is in the legacy of Isaac I. Stevens, the first territorial governor of the Washington Territory; a dynamic and controversial man, whose treaties with the Native American tribes are still debated. During the 1850s Stevens played a major role in promoting the Washington Territory and initiated policies that influenced the history and growth of Washington, both as a territory and state, for its entire history.

Isaac Ingalls Stevens was born in Andover, Massachusetts, on 25 March 1818. His family was of old New England Puritan stock, and while not wealthy, they were a hard working farm family, well respected in their community. Isaac grew up with a strong work ethic and while only reaching barely five feet in height, he had an active mind and determined spirit. He worked hard on his family's farm and developed a sense of accomplishment and boundless energy that would remain with him throughout his life.

In March 1835, Stevens was accepted as a cadet at the United States Military Academy. Display-

ing his usual abilities of intelligence and hard work, Stevens graduated first in the West Point Class of 1839. As a new second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps, Stevens was assigned to Fort Adams in Newport, Rhode Island. This was a prized assignment, as Newport offered an active social life as compared to many frontier assignments given to young Army officers. Young Lieutenant Stevens soon fell in love with Margaret Hazard, who hailed from a prominent and prosperous Rhode Island family. In September 1841, Isaac and Meg, as she was usually known, were married. In June 1842, their first child, Hazard, was born. For the next several years, Isaac was kept busy with his young family and his work on the coastal fortifications throughout New England.

By the time the Mexican War began in 1846, Isaac Stevens was an accomplished and respected Engineer officer. He served on the staff of Major General Winfield Scott and was in combat at the battles of Cerro Gordo, Churubusco, and Contreras. In the assault on the San Cosme Gate outside Mexico City, Stevens was wounded in the foot. The injury almost proved fatal when it became infected. Steven's service won him brevets (honorary ranks) to captain and major. Following the war, Stevens wrote a book entitled, *Campaigns of the Rio Grande and of Mexico*. Ironically, General Winfield Scott, who Stevens greatly admired, believed that the book did not do him the justice he deserved. This resulted in Scott's increasingly critical opinion of Isaac Stevens.

Following the Mexican War, in 1849, Stevens was appointed assistant to Alexander D. Bache, director of the Coast Survey. This position gave

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President's Report-Ian Larson



It is another of those great Northwest summer days as I write this. I hope you are enjoying the fantastic weather that we have been experiencing!

Regretfully, I start with some sad news. COL

(R) Isabel Josephine Swartz, US Army, passed away on 26 September 2012 at Patriots Landing. "Jo," as known to her friends and associates, would have been 90 years of age on 10 October. She was an early member of The Friends, and a staunch and loyal supporter of our organization. For many years, until her health forced her to step down, she was a member of the Board of Directors and since 1986 served as the Secretary of The Friends. She was also very active in the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Respected by all who knew her, Jo leaves a legacy of devoted service both on active duty and in retirement that will not be soon forgotten. We who worked with her on activities of The Friends will certainly miss her. May she rest in peace.

Since the Museum reopened, the number of visitors has been a pleasant surprise even with the limited schedule of three days a week. Individual and group visits have been steady and impressive. Perhaps the weather has contributed to the number of visitors, and it will be interesting to see how much the numbers drop with schools back in session. In any case, the public appears to be glad the Museum is open once again and is showing it by their visits.

The Cannon Shop has benefited from the attendance as well. Sales have exceeded our initial expectations, considering the limited opening days and the incompleteness of the gallery reconstitution. Thanks to our volunteers, the Cannon Shop reopening and resumption of operations have gone smoothly. I volunteer at the Cannon Shop, and it is a pleasure to work with these dedicated individuals who give selflessly of their time to help greet Museum visitors and assist them with the selection and purchase of gifts, apparel and miscellaneous mementos. A big "thank you" to: Don Simpson, Pat

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Director's Report-Myles Grant



Greetings Friends,

Autumn is now upon us and the museum gallery reconstitution work and museum operations continue to move forward. Our museum has proven to be very popular with the public and tour groups since we reopened and we have had an average of two tours per week and daily visitor counts as high as 400. Additionally, the museum staff continues to address daily historical queries from the public as well as support unit requests for training and historical support for unit functions and ceremonies. All of this while we continue to inventory artifacts and reconstitute galleries.

The museum also recently played host to TV Tacoma which filmed their news broadcast at the museum and also featured information about the museum in their segment which is scheduled to air in October of this year. The museum has received many positive comments on what we have presented thus far and the public is anxious to see more of our exhibit space open. We still face many hurdles with regard to modifying or completing the museum's infrastructure to better support the museum activity (physical security improvements, security system modifications, public address system, lighting, door sweeps, etc.), as well as resourcing challenges with regard to maintaining sufficient manpower and funding levels. Nevertheless, we continue to operate, design and fabricate exhibits, and we are currently poised to open the 3,000 square foot Fort Lewis Gallery on or about the end of September 2012. The opening of the Fort Lewis Gallery will approximately double the museum's gallery footprint and complete the post's storyline from its establishment as Camp Lewis in 1917 to the present Joint Base era. The reconstitution of the Fort Lewis Gallery would not have been possible without our professional staff of Soldiers and civilians, dedicated volunteers and the financial backing of the Joint Base and the Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum.

After the opening of the Fort Lewis Gallery, the next goals are to improve our displays in the Family

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Stevens the opportunity to move in high circles of government. By 1852, Stevens had become interested in politics and actively supported future president Franklin Pierce. As a reward for his loyalty, Stevens was awarded the position of



Governor of the Washington Territory. In 1853 he resigned his military commission and headed west. En route Stevens also directed the important surveying of the proposed northern route of the transcontinental railroad. One of the Army Engineer officers assigned to Stevens' railroad survey was a fellow West Point graduate, George B. McClellan. Interestingly, McClellan was assigned to find a route through the Cascades and spent a winter in Olympia. However, Stevens was a bit disappointed in McClellan's lack of energy and initiative in finding the best route for the railroad line.

When Stevens arrived in the Washington Territory, he immediately went to work with a tireless drive. He did everything within his power to promote and secure American dominance in the region. Stevens saw the Native American tribes and their ageless way of life as a stumbling block

in the development of the territory. As many American settlers of the time, Governor Stevens believed that the Indians needed to cede their lands for the common good and adopt the ways of his "civilized" and technologically advanced society. Stevens began to negotiate treaties with the numerous Native American tribes throughout the territory. Unfortunately, Stevens' aggressive tactics and the Indian leaders' lack of understanding of the details and intent of the treaties led to disaster.

In 1855, in large measure because of the treaties, conflict broke out between several Native American tribes and the white settlers. Unfortunately, Stevens took great offense at the Indian's hostility, and exhibited little understanding or sensitivity of their grievances. Eventually, in 1856, Stevens declared martial law in the Puget Sound region, earning him the wrath of his political opponents. Although, in retrospect, Stevens over-reacted to the Indian conflict, the average Washington settler at the time was pleased with Stevens decisive actions which crushed the perceived Native American threat. As a result, Stevens won the territory's seat in the House of Representatives in 1856. Two years later he also won a reelection to the position.

When the United States was torn by civil war in April 1861, Stevens offered his services to the Union Army. Although Stevens had a solid reputation as a soldier, his political enemies may have initially denied him a major Army command. However, in August 1861, he finally accepted a position as a colonel commanding the 79th New York Volunteer Infantry. The regiment had been formed around a pre-war militia unit that wore Scottish Highland uniforms, including kilts. The unit had fought at the Battle of First Bull Run on 21 July 1861, where it had been badly bloodied and its first colonel killed. The men expected to return to New York to recruit new men and elect a new commander. When the soldiers realized they were not going home and that a new commander had been appointed, without their consent, they rebelled. Faced with a mutiny of his new command, Stevens surrounded the camp of the 79th New York with regular Army troops, arrested the ringleaders, and took away their regimental colors.

Although Stevens and the New York Highlanders got off to a rocky start, the men soon realized

that he was an efficient, intelligent and professional military officer. It was not long before the regiment began to shape up into a disciplined and well-drilled unit. By September 1861, the regiment was ready to fight again and had their regimental colors returned to them with great ceremony. On 28 September 1861 Stevens was promoted to brigadier general and given command of a Union Army brigade.



General Stevens at Chantilly, Virginia

Shortly thereafter, Stevens and his new brigade were assigned to an expeditionary force headed for South Carolina. Stevens asked that his former unit, the 79th New York, be assigned to his brigade. George B. McClellan, now commander of the Union Army, denied Stevens request, but was overruled by President Abraham Lincoln.

The expedition that Stevens and his brigade were assigned to was poorly conceived and badly led but Stevens and his brigade served admirably. Following the Union defeat at Secessionville, South Carolina, Stevens and his command were transferred back to Virginia to serve in the Union IX Army Corps.

Unfortunately, Stevens' command arrived back in Virginia in time to witness the defeat of the Union Army at the Battle of Second Bull Run on August 30-31, 1862. Following the Union defeat, Stevens' Brigade formed part of the rear guard of the retreating Northern Army. Confederate General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson was close on the heels of the defeated Yankee troops. There is no doubt that Stevens saw the vulnerability of the Union forces and was determined to prevent the Confederate forces from destroying the recently defeated Union Army.

At approximately 5 p.m. on 1 September 1862, near Chantilly, or Ox Hill, Virginia, Stonewall Jackson's Confederates attacked the rear of the

Union Army. At first, the men of Stevens Brigade faltered under withering Rebel musket fire. Young Lieutenant Hazard Stevens, Isaac's son, who served as a member of his staff, fell with wounds in his arm and thigh. Isaac Stevens dis-

mounted, left his wounded

son in the care of a soldier, and ran into the fray to lead his brigade into action. A severe, late afternoon, thunderstorm threatened as Stevens saw his chance to rally his men in the face of the overwhelming enemy forces. He grabbed the regimental flag of his old regiment, the 79th New York, as the color bearer fell wounded (the fifth soldier to fall with the colors that day). Stevens called out "Highlanders! My Highlanders! Follow your general!"

As the men began to rally and counterattack the advancing Confederates, Stevens was struck in the head by a Rebel bullet and fell "with the flag of the republic in his dying grasp." At this moment the thunderstorm broke overhead and rain began to fall, the wind blew, and lightning flashed. Inspired by their fallen leader, Stevens' men gallantly rushed the Confederates and drove them back, capturing an enemy flag.

Brigadier General Isaac Stevens was carried from the field by his loyal Highlanders and eventually buried with full honors in Newport, Rhode Island, the home of his beloved wife. A monument detailing his heroism was erected to Stevens on his gravesite. It is located near a monument to Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of the Battle of

the Confederates finally overran the Hornet's Nest. Prentiss and 2,200 men were forced to surrender. The fighting in the Hornet's Nest focused the Confederate attack and bought time for Grant to organize a defense farther to the rear.

Grant's final defensive line was established along two main east-west roads near Pittsburg Landing. Grant's Chief of Staff, Colonel Joseph Dana Webster, positioned fifty-five cannon that included two siege guns along the left flank near the river to bolster this defense. Finally at 1800, with only one hour of daylight remaining, Major General Braxton Bragg ordered a final assault on the Union position. This attack failed and the Confederate forces withdrew to night positions. In the meantime, the lead elements of Buell's Army began to arrive on the east side of the river and were ferried across. Grant's sixth division commanded by Major General Lew Wallace finally arrived from Crump's Landing, six miles to the north. Much to Grant's chagrin, it had taken Wallace all day to make the march because of a misunderstanding of his orders and having taken the wrong route.

Grant's Army had taken a terrible beating during the day and most commanders expected him to order a withdrawal back across the river. However, he had no intention of doing so. He realized the Confederates were in as bad a shape as he was and now that he was reinforced by Lew Wallace's division and the advance elements of Buell's Army, he was capable of attacking. General Sherman had said to Grant late in the evening, "Well, Grant, We've had the Devil's own day of it, haven't we!" Grant responded by saying, "Yes! Lick 'em tomorrow though."

At daylight on the 7th, Grant's force moved out in the attack and forced the Confederates into a steady withdrawal. By the end of the day, the Union had recovered the ground they had given up the previous day and Beauregard's Army was retreating towards Corinth. Casualties on both sides were horrendous. The Union lost 13,700 killed, wounded and missing while the Confederates lost 10,700; total casualties on both sides of 24,400. Grant came under much criticism for his failure to provide for the security of his Army prior to the battle and some had recommended his relief from command. However, President Lincoln would have none of it, saying, "I cannot spare this man, he fights!"

SOURCE

Eicher, David J. *The Longest Night: A Military History of the Civil War.* New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2001.

Presidents Letter (Cont)

Powers, Harry Schreiber, Joe Koczur Jr., and our most recent volunteer, Dianne Laslie. You are a great team!

We are always looking for more volunteers. When the Museum resumes its normal five day per week schedule, the need will become greater. Please consider volunteering at the Cannon Shop. The work is not difficult, and you will enjoy meeting interesting visitors, young and old. If you can assist one day per week, or one day per month, we can use you. If you are interested, please call Pat Powers (360-456-3644) or Ian Larson (360-866-7952).

Major General Jeffrey S. Buchanan, Deputy Commanding General, I Corps Joint Base Lewis McChord is the guest speaker at our upcoming brunch at on 21 October at Patriot's Landing in DuPont. General Buchanan has been at JBLM since December 2011. He has deployed to Iraq four times. It will be interesting to hear from one of the senior Army leaders on JBLM. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

I will close with a request, and that is to encourage you if possible, to make your brunch reservations early by mailing in a completed reservation form with an enclosed check. This would reduce the number that pay at the door to those who have last minute schedule change and are able to attend the brunch. It also avoids you having to wait in line to pay at the door, and facilitates the check-in process. Of course you are always welcome to pay at the door if you choose to! Thank you. Ian Larson

Museum Directors Letter (Cont)

Gallery and start the lengthy process of calling forward, inventorying and housing the approximately 2,000 artifacts in our artifact storage rooms.

With regard to the Army Family Gallery, the museum has little material regarding the USO, and Ms. Synthia Santos respectfully requests that any Friend who might have USO material to share with the museum to please contact her in order to aid us in the construction of a USO exhibit in the Family Gallery. Concurrent with our efforts to improve the Family Gallery and regain positive control of stored artifacts, we will take aim at obtaining the manpower and resources needed to reconstitute the I Corps Gallery and develop a 7th Infantry Division Gallery on the museum's Mezzanine level as our next step.

As always, I close by thanking all those who have been such ardent supporters of our museum and what we do in order to promote our heritage and highlight the legacy and accomplishments of the Army in our region and at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Myles Grant

Lake Erie in the War of 1812 and a relative of Margaret Stevens. Following his gallant death, Stevens was promoted to the rank of major general. His son, Hazard, survived his wounds, returned to duty with the Union Army, and served through the rest of the war. Hazard Stevens became a hero in his own right and received the Medal of Honor for his actions later in the war. (He will be the subject of a future Banner article).

Washington did not forget its first territorial governor. When Washington held its celebration of statehood in 1889, a great banner was unfurled in Olympia. It proclaimed, in part: "Isaac I. Stevens, first in the hearts of the People of Washington Territory."

2011-2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Don Simpson has prepared a number of vignettes to commemorate this event, and this the first in that series.

BATTLE OF SHILOH

By
SIMPSON

On 6-7 April 1862, 150 years ago, the bloodiest battle in American history up to that time was fought over ground in southern Tennessee known as Shiloh.



The Shiloh Meeting House was located near where the Union division commanded by Brigadier General William T. Sherman was bivouacked and was the site of heavy fighting the morning of 6 April. Ironically, Shiloh is a Hebrew word meaning "Place of Peace".

Major General Ulysses S. Grant's Union Army of the Tennessee, numbering approximately 45,000 men,

was bivouacked southwest of Pittsburg Landing on the west bank of the Tennessee River. Grant was awaiting the arrival of Brigadier General Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio that was enroute from Nashville, Tennessee. Once the two armies were joined they were to attack towards Corinth, Mississippi, twenty five miles to the south. Grant's Army was not in an organized defensive posture and had not entrenched. Units had found clearings and open areas in which to pitch their tents. They did not anticipate a Confederate attack. No outposts were established or patrols dispatched to provide all-around security and early warning. This lapse on Grant's part very nearly led to the defeat and destruction of his Army.

Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston had gathered 45,000 men at Corinth and moved north to attack Grant's Army at Shiloh. By the night of 5-6 April, Johnston's Army of Mississippi was located in night positions two miles from Grant's Army. Johnston was so confident of victory that he told his staff prior to the attack that, "We will water our horses in the Tennessee River tonight". At 0530, the attack began. Heavy fighting occurred along the line as Union commanders worked to organize hasty defenses. As Confederate units made advances and breakthroughs, Union units on the flanks were forced to withdraw.



At 1030 hours, Brigadier General Benjamin M. Prentiss organized his division along a sunken road that provided good defensive cover. Prentiss' men reinforced by Brigadier General William H.L Wallace's division fought along this line until 1730 in the evening, repulsing twelve separate attacks. Because of the heavy fighting, this area became known as the Hornet's Nest. At 1430, General Johnston was mortally wounded leading a charge. Command of the Confederates passed to General P. G. T. Beauregard. BG Wallace was mortally wounded late in the day as

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**FRIENDS OF THE FORT LEWIS MILITARY MUSEUM
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUNDAY, Oct 21, 2012**

Place: Patriots Landing, Olympic Dining Room*
Time: 1145-1215 Social Hour
1215-1330 Brunch
1330-1415 Program

Program: Our guest speaker will be Major General Jeffery S. Buchanan, Deputy Commanding General of I Corps. Commissioned in Infantry from the University of Arizona, he has held a wide variety of command and staff assignments, including the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division, and 4 deployments to Iraq. He will update us on I Corps' renewed role in the Pacific.

***Note the location change—Olympic Dining Room is through the Library, to the right and past the mail boxes.**



Please return your reservation form and check by Thursday, Oct 17 2012. Last minute reservations may be made by calling Paul Knoop at (253) 279-2598.

Return this form to LTC (Ret) Donald A Simpson, 6615 79th Street W
Lakewood WA 98499. Make checks payable to "The Friends".
Cost of Brunch for members and Guests: \$16.00 each.

Number of Reservations: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Name of Member: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Names of Guests: _____

Residents of Patriot's Landing do not need to make payment for the meeting, but are requested to make reservations for seating.

**The Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum
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The *Banner* is printed three times a year and is mailed to all members of The Friends of Fort Lewis Museum. Articles may be submitted to the Editor or left with the Director of the Lewis Army Museum. The Friends assume no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or other materials submitted for publication.

Editor.....Paul Knoop
 Assistant Editor.....Don Simpson

Visit the Museum web site for more information and purchases from the Cannon Shop.

<http://www.fortlewismuseum.com>

**Help Us Defend Our
Military Heritage-
Please Continue to be a
Friend of the Fort Lewis
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or join if you are not
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ANNUAL DUES

Individual.....\$ 10
Family.....\$ 15
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(Please make checks payable to *The Friends* and send to Fort Lewis Military Museum, P.O. Box 331001, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA 98433-1001.)

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