

Spring 2013

Vol. 26, No. 2

MEMORIAL DAY



Following the War Between the States, and into the early 20th Century, many cards and posters were created to honor Decoration or Memorial Day. Several of these designs are featured in this issue of the Banner.

Decorating the graves of fallen warriors is a tradition that has its' roots in the wars of antiquity. In the United States, the custom had its' origins in the carnage of the Civil War, in which over 620,000 Americans perished. Even while the war still raged, the graves of soldiers were often decorated with spring flowers in both the North and South.

Following the war, a number of towns claimed to be the "first" to organize events to honor the war dead. However, Decoration Day was officially proclaimed by the National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Major General John A. Logan, on 5 May 1868. The first national observance was held at Arlington National Cemetery on 30 May 1868. Although the observance was originally intended to honor the Union dead of the Civil War, after World War I, the day was broadened to honor all of America's war dead and the title of Memorial Day replaced Decoration Day.

In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an Act of Congress and placed on the last Monday of May. Today, we honor all those who have given, as Abraham Lincoln stated, "the last full measure of devotion," to our nation.

President's Report

May is Volunteer Month at JBLM, and this issue of *The Banner* highlights the contributions of these dedicated men and women who have freely given (and continue to give) of their time and talent in the renovation of the Museum galleries. The renovation could not have been done to the time schedule and quality of the galleries without their outstanding help. From all of us, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! There are other volunteers who help make the Museum such a great JBLM and Army asset and include those who operate The Cannon Shop and members of the Board of Directors of *The Friends*. They will be highlighted in future issues.

I would like to thank Paul Knoop, who has been the editor of the Banner since 2008. Paul has done an outstanding job in keeping the Banner a first class publication. Alan Archambault has agreed to take over the editorship, with Paul Knoop and Don Simpson as Assistant Editors.

The Museum is ready for your viewing! Galleries on the first floor and mezzanine are complete except for some minor work to finish the details of some displays. Come and see what the Museum staff and volunteers have done. I believe you will be impressed and proud of this treasure that *The Friends* support.

The Cannon Shop is also fully operational. A recent Inventory identified overstocked and slow-moving items, which are now on sale at reduced prices. One of the great buys is a signed and numbered print, suitable for framing, of two bald eagles in a natural setting with Mount Rainier in the background. The print, by Washington artist Richard Evans Younger, was researched and sketched on the 91st Division Prairie, at then Fort Lewis. The print is on sale for \$25. When you are visiting the Museum, check out the gift items at The Cannon Shop as well!

Our scheduled guest speaker for our Brunch on 2 June was Lieutenant General Robert B. Brown, Commanding General, I Corps. However, just as the Banner was being completed, we learned that General Brown could not attend. Therefore, we will plan to have another senior leader from JBLM on hand to learn about what is in store for JBLM as the Army adjusts to the drawdown in the Middle East, a reexamination of missions, and other issues facing the Army and JBLM, all framed against a future of constrained budgets and resources. Please join us!

Ian Larson

Director's Report

Well, spring is here and we have just wrapped up the latest phase of gallery reconstruction on the mezzanine level of the museum. The Museum now has nine galleries open; encompassing approximately 15,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space available for public viewing. Added to the museum's inventory of galleries with this latest installment were the Gallery of Valor, Military Art Gallery and the I Corps Gallery, and this brings the museum back to the same basic operational footprint the facility had prior to the museum's closure for renovation.

This monumental undertaking was made possible by the help and support of many. Financial resourcing for the effort was provided by the Training Division of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, along with funding support from the Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum. The JBLM base and I Corps leadership were responsible for augmenting the under strength museum staff with a number of superbly capable NCOs to support museum gallery planning, exhibit construction and provide museum security and docent services. And, lastly, the museum team would not have been remotely as successful as it was without the help and support of our resolute volunteers.

Volunteers have contributed 1,124 hours of labor to the museum for the first four months of this year alone! In addition to labor, we were blessed to have volunteers who were experts in wood working, graphic design and exhibit design on our team. As a result, volunteers were instrumental designing and constructing major wood working projects for the museum's galleries, while others helped with the design and installation of exhibit support materials in dioramas, both large and small. Volunteers also provided hundreds of hours of support to the museum staff cleaning, painting, hauling, carrying and organizing. It is no understatement to say that we would not be where we are today with regard to completing our wonderful museum without the support of our stellar team of volunteers.

Myles Grant

Volunteers At Work in the Museum Galleries

As most of our museum Friends know, the Fort Lewis Military Museum was closed for several years in order to renovate the historic structure which has been the home of the museum since 1972.

The renovation required that all the existing exhibits and artifacts be removed to allow the contractors to do their work effectively. The renovation included the retrofitting of the structure to meet current safety and seismic requirements. The former floor plan of the galleries was altered by the installation of additional support columns and new sheer walls. Therefore, when the building renovation phase of the project was completed, the galleries had to be re-designed to fit the new floor plan.

As the first floor exhibits near completion, it is an appropriate time to recognize the outstanding contributions made to the project by our dedicated corps of volunteers. It is no exaggeration to say that we could not have accomplished the renovation of the galleries without their enthusiastic help.



Catherine Bander (left) and Micca Metz (right) at work in the museum galleries

Not only did our museum volunteers prepare and paint exhibit panels and hang graphics, but they also proofread exhibit labels and carefully reviewed the museum's exhibit plans. They offered great suggestions for improvements, based on their own expertise in the museum field. We were extremely fortunate in that the key volunteers who helped with the exhibit project have both education and experience in the museum field.

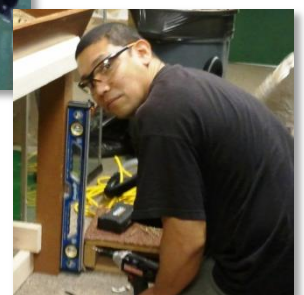


Victoria Clibon and Erin Bolliger work on an exhibit case in the Hall of Valor



James Cordeiro (left) designed several panels and provided help with museum graphic design

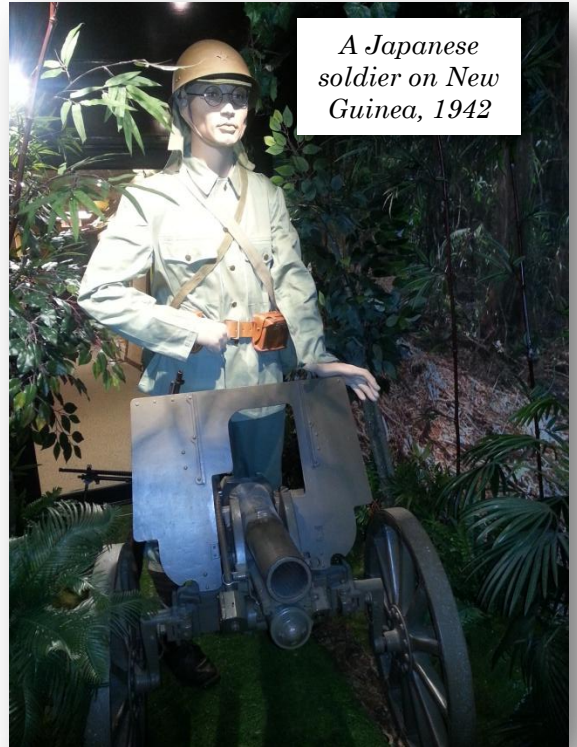
Ricardo (Rick) Torres (right) built display cases and other museum fixtures





Although this short article focuses on the fine work our volunteers have accomplished in the exhibit galleries, future articles in the Banner will acknowledge the contributions of our Cannon Shop volunteers and the Board of Directors of the Friends. All our great museum volunteers, assigned military personnel, staff, Friends of the Museum, and supporters allow us to keep history alive at the Fort Lewis Military Museum.

Alison Towery was instrumental in the design and construction of our new I Corps diorama exhibits depicting the New Guinea and Luzon campaigns in World War II



A Japanese soldier on New Guinea, 1942



The Vietnam area of the Hall of Valor



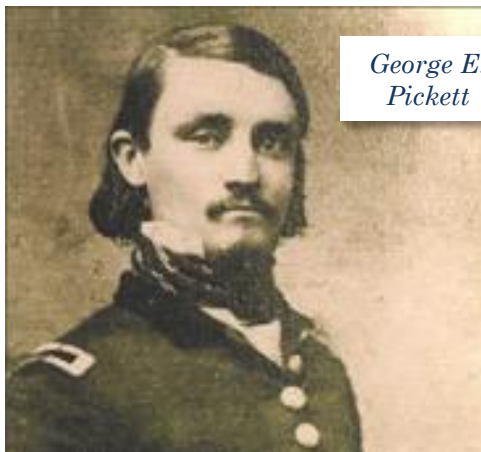
I Corps troops in a trench scene, 1918

Gettysburg and the Washington Territory

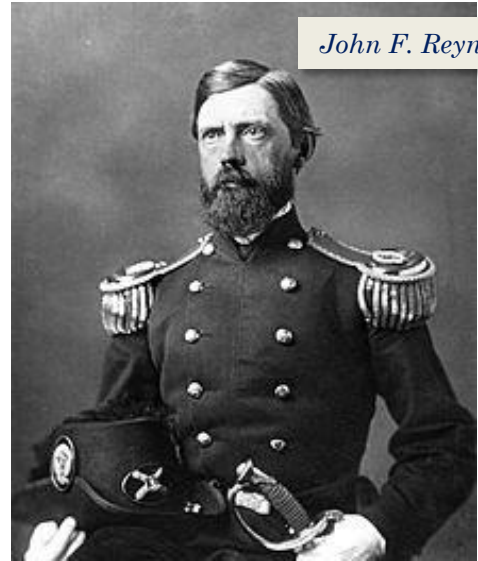
Although Washington State is many miles away from the rolling hills of Pennsylvania, a surprising number of men who fought at the battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, saw regular Army service in the Pacific Northwest prior to the Civil War. Several of these men who played historically significant roles in both locales are highlighted here:

George E. Pickett is best known for his charge at Gettysburg that bears his name. However, in 1859 Pickett played a crucial role in the “Pig War” crisis between the United States and Great Britain. Pickett served as a captain of Company D, 9th U.S. Infantry, from 1856 to June 1861. He and his company were sent to San Juan Island to occupy and defend the island and it’s American residents against the British. Fortunately, the crisis ended peaceably, but in 1860, the legislature of the Washington Territory passed a resolution thanking Pickett, “for the gallant and firm discharge of his duties under the most trying circumstances while he was in command on the Island of San Juan.”

Shortly after the Civil War began, Pickett reluctantly resigned his commission in the United States Army, made his way East and joined the Confederate Army. As an historical footnote, Pickett married a Native American woman of the Haida tribe while serving at Fort Bellingham. In 1857, they had a son, James Tilton Pickett, who later became a well known Northwest artist.



George E. Pickett



John F. Reynolds

John F. Reynolds was the senior Union Army general officer killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. Prior to the war, Reynolds served in the Mexican War and in 1855, was posted to the Pacific Northwest, where he served in the Rogue River Indian War of 1856. During 1858-1859, Reynolds served on the Mormon Campaign to Utah. Following this, he marched his troops to the Columbia River and served as commander of Company D, 3^d U.S. Artillery at Fort Vancouver (Vancouver Barracks). Reynolds was Commandant of Cadets at West Point when the Civil War began and he soon left to command troops in the field.

On 1 July 1863, the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Major General John Reynolds commanded the left wing of the Army of the Potomac. His I Corps arrived in time to support the cavalry troops who had stalled the Confederates Northwest of the town. While urging his troops forward, Reynolds was struck by a Confederate bullet as he called out: “Forward Men! For God’s sake, Forward! Reynolds died instantly, surrounded by his men, and was mourned throughout the North as one of the heroes of Gettysburg.

E. Porter Alexander was the young Confederate artillery colonel responsible for the massive cannonade that preceded Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. Prior to the Civil War, Alexander was posted to Fort Steilacoom, Washington Territory, as an Engineer officer. After Gettysburg, he was promoted to brigadier general and served with Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia until the end of the war. In his memoirs, he remembered his days at Fort Steilacoom as some of the happiest of his life.



E. Porter Alexander



James J. Archer

James J. Archer commanded a Confederate brigade which fought at Gettysburg. Archer was a Marylander who attended Princeton University and became a lawyer. He volunteered to serve in the Mexican War and returned to civilian life at the end of the war. In 1855, he left his law practice again to join the regular Army in the 9th U.S. Infantry. He served with the 9th Regiment in the Washington Territory from 1856 until 1861. When the Civil War began, he was serving at Fort Walla Walla and resigned his commission and traveled east to join the Confederate Army. On the first day of the battle of Gettysburg, Archer's Brigade engaged the Union cavalry that were holding positions northwest of the town. When John Reynolds Union I Corps infantry arrived on the field, they counterattacked and pushed Archer's Brigade back and captured General Archer who the

Confederates had nick-named "Little Gamecock" because he was little in stature, but fierce in battle. Ironically, James J. Archer had the misfortune to be the first general officer of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to be captured during the war.

Archer was in Union captivity for over a year and when he rejoined his brigade in Petersburg, he was in poor health. This led to his death of disease in October 1864.

David M. Gregg was already a hard fighting cavalryman before the Battle of Gettysburg. In August 1857, Second Lieutenant Gregg marched Company H, 1st U.S. Dragoons over 800 miles to Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory. In March 1858, Gregg and his troopers escorted several hundred horses to Fort Wall Walla. From there, Gregg joined an expedition under Major Edward Steptoe to pacify Native Americans in Eastern Washington. The 152 soldiers were attacked by over 1,000 warriors. Gregg commanded the rear guard during the "fighting retreat" and was credited for saving Major Steptoe's command from complete disaster.

During the Gettysburg campaign, Gregg led the 2^d Cavalry Division of the Union Army of the Potomac. His troops fought several fierce skirmishes prior to the main battle and on 3 July, they successfully defeated JEB Stuart's Rebel cavalry attack on the Union rear.



David M. Gregg

FRIENDS OF THE FORT LEWIS MILITARY MUSEUM

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2 JUNE 2013

Place: **Patriots Landing, Olympic Dining Room**

Time: 1130-1215 Social Hour

1215-1330 Brunch

1330-1415 Program



The speaker at our Spring Membership Meeting will be a senior leader from Joint Base Lewis-McChord. We know all our Museum Friends are eager to hear what changes and challenges are in store for the Joint Base in the coming years. Our guest will address these issues and others related to the future of Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the Army.

Please join us to hear our guest speak on topics very important to JBLM, and the entire military community.

Please return your reservation form and check by Thursday, 30 May 2013.
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
Board of Directors**

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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. Contents copyrighted by The Friends; contact the Editor for permission to reproduce any portion.

Editor.....Alan H. Archambault
 Assistant Editors.....Don Simpson
 Paul Knoop

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

<http://www.fortlewismuseum.com>

One of the many benefits of your Membership in the Friends is our quarterly newsletter. Since 2008, Paul Knoop has done a truly superb job as editor. Thank you Paul! Starting with this issue, Alan Archambault will assume the job as editor with Paul Knoop and Don Simpson serving as assistant editors. Please continue to be a Museum Friend and receive all upcoming issues of the Banner.

ANNUAL DUES

Individual.....\$10
Family.....\$15
Sustaining.....\$25
Benefactor.....\$50
Life.....\$100

**Please Continue to be a Friend
of the Lewis Army Museum
and Keep History Alive!**



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 Military Museum
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