

Autumn 2013

Vol. 26, No. 4

## A CHRISTMAS SALUTE FROM SANTA

It may surprise many people to know that the popular image of Santa Claus was virtually unknown to most Americans until the Civil War period. The Jolly Old Elf, so beloved for generations, first gained wide popularity in the United States through the artwork of Thomas Nast. Woodcuts of Nast's work were reproduced on the pages of Harper's Weekly, the most popular U.S. newspaper of the period.

Thomas Nast was a German immigrant who gained national fame for his illustrations and political cartoons. During the Civil War, Nast was a staunch supporter of the Union, Abraham Lincoln, and the emancipation of African Americans. General U.S. Grant felt that Nast's pro-Union cartoons made a tremendous contribution to the Northern war effort. Following the Civil War, Nast continued to draw political cartoons which exposed corruption in government and industry. Nast's cartoons are credited with helping to bring down the infamous "Boss Tweed" and his Tammany Hall regime in New York City. He also designed the donkey and elephant mascots of the Democratic and Republican parties which are used to the present day.



*A World War I Santa illustration (above) and a Nast Civil War era woodcut (below)*





# President's Report

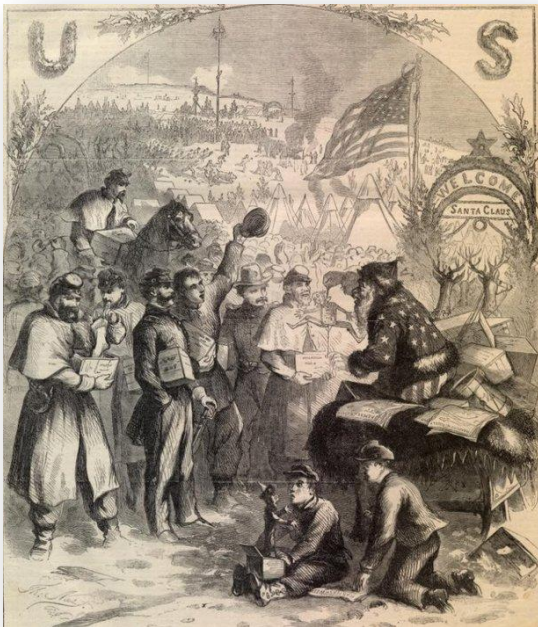
It has been a good year for the Museum. Despite a temporary closing for several days because of the government shutdown, the Museum is now fully operational and accomplishing its mission. A new gallery, highlighting the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, has just been opened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Other galleries are planned; a continuing effort of replacing existing displays with other displays is ongoing. Thank you to Director Myles Grant and his staff for keeping focused on the mission despite personnel and funding shortfalls and other challenges. The Cannon Shop has likewise done well. A total sales amount of \$35,000 was estimated at the beginning of the year. So far, sales have exceeded \$30,000. We will close the year near the target figure of \$35K.

The Museum and the Cannon Shop would be unable to function without the support provided by volunteers. Volunteers helped reconstitute the galleries after the Museum was renovated; they help in the construction of new galleries; and help maintain existing galleries. The Cannon Shop volunteers operate the gift shop that provides a consistent revenue source for *The Friends*, with which we support the Museum. Thank you for helping insure that the Museum remains the great asset that it is to the JBLM community and to the public.

Thank you to the Board of Directors of *The Friends* for actively working with the Museum Director and staff in a cooperative effort to insure that we support the Museum the best way we can.

Finally, thank you, loyal members, for your loyal support to *The Friends* and the Museum. May you and your loved ones enjoy the blessings of Christmas and a truly Happy New Year!

Ian Larson



Thomas Nast sketch of Santa in Camp c.1863

Classic Thomas Nast Illustration of Santa Claus



## Director's Report

Seasons Greetings! The museum continues to expand its gallery footprint, improve its operational processes and is in the home stretch with regard to unpacking and inventorying the remaining artifacts still boxed from storage as a result of our museum renovation. Before getting into the particulars of what we have accomplished, I would like to again recognize the leadership of I Corps and JBLM for closing our museum staff shortfalls with very capable NCOs who have performed superbly and to our dedicated volunteers who contributed over 3,000 hours of work to the museum this year – we would not be where we are today without our NCOs and volunteers!

On 14 November, the museum team opened the 9<sup>th</sup> ID gallery on the second floor of the museum – increasing the total amount of gallery space open to public viewing to about 16,500 square feet and bringing to 11 the number of galleries now fully complete and open – this total now exceeds the gallery footprint the museum had prior to being closed for renovation. In addition to expending the museum, the museum saw a significant increase in visitors this year and the museum supported 53 tours and training events as well as providing support for nine ceremonies and creating five temporary displays for unit events. The museum team also responded to 161 research requests.

Lastly, in 2013, the museum, its staff, and volunteers were featured in eight newspaper articles and played host to one film crew doing a news broadcast from the museum. All-in-all, 2013 was a very productive year, and we are looking forward to further expansion in 2014!

Myles Grant



# The Cannon Shop For Christmas Gifts

Please do not forget that the Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum's Cannon Shop has a wonderful selection of JBLM, Army and military history related gifts that would make excellent Christmas presents for almost everyone on your shopping list.

Among some of the most popular items in the shop include coffee mugs, sweatshirts, baseball caps, magnets, postcards, pencil sharpeners, and coloring books. We also have a fascinating selection of books covering various periods of American military history. Among the historical books is the popular book: "Images of America: Fort Lewis."

For children, we carry toy soldiers, model tanks, cannons, and other military vehicles. We also have a collection of educational coloring books with titles like: Civil War Heroes, Heroines of the American Revolution, and Black Soldiers of the Civil War.

Finally, the Cannon Shop has several limited edition prints and commemorative unit coins economically priced for the holidays.

The Cannon Shop is open from 12 – 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday.



*Above: Cannon Shop Volunteer Dianne Laslie on duty*



## An 1863 Christmas at Fort Steilacoom

Historic Fort Steilacoom will host their annual holiday candlelight living history program on Saturday, 14 December 2013 from 4 -7:30 pm.

Activities will include Civil War period dancing, holiday music, and crafts for children. Living history interpreters will portray civilians and the soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Washington Volunteer Infantry Regiment, who garrisoned Fort Steilacoom in 1863.

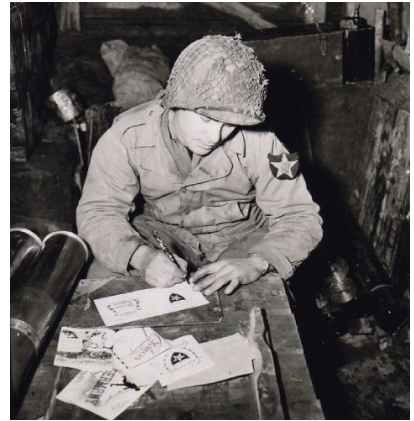
Tickets are for sale at the door. Adults: \$5, Children \$3, and families \$10. Profits will be used to fund the fort's historical programs and restoration efforts.

Historic Fort Steilacoom is located at 9601 Steilacoom Blvd, SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

For more information please visit:

[www.historicfortsteilacoom.org](http://www.historicfortsteilacoom.org)

*A 2<sup>nd</sup> Division soldier addresses Christmas cards, 1944*



### **The Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum Board of Directors**

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

<http://www.fortlewismuseum.com>

### **ANNUAL DUES**

<i>Individual.....</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Family.....</i>	<i>\$15</i>
<i>Sustaining.....</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>Benefactor.....</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Life.....</i>	<i>\$100</i>

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

*A World War I postcard featuring a Doughboy and Santa*



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Military Museum  
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