



Historic Fort Steilacoom
<http://www.historicfortsteilacoom.org>

News Release

Contact: Joe Lewis
info@historicfortsteilacoom.org

For immediate release

Arrival of the Army in Puget Sound Region

Lakewood, WA – On Sunday May 19, 2019, Tom Melberg will speak on Captain Bennett Hill who led Company M of the 1st Artillery Regiment establishing Fort Steilacoom in August 1849. This presentation will begin at 2:00 p.m. in Quarters 2 of the Historic Fort Steilacoom Museum. Fort Steilacoom will offer complimentary admission to the lecture and guided tours will be available for the standard fee.

Captain Hill is the founding officer of Fort Steilacoom. Ordered to construct a post on the Puget Sound in 1848, Capt. Hill negotiated a lease with the Hudson's Bay Company that would provide a site for Company's L and M, 1st United States Artillery to live on and operate.

Mr. Melberg has given talks about Bennet Hill at Historic Fort Steilacoom and portrayed him during living history events in the past. Melberg says, "There aren't any journals, letters or books specific towards Hill, so creating a 'talk' about him is a little more difficult than other characters." Melberg currently serves on the board of Historic Fort Steilacoom Association and has been since 1994.

Fort Steilacoom occupies an important position in the history of early America and the Pacific Northwest. The fort played a significant role in the settling of Washington Territory. Beginning with its construction in 1849 and ending with its closure in 1868, Fort Steilacoom served as a beacon of American power and promise, promoting the migration of settlers to Washington & securing American interest in the region.

Historic Fort Steilacoom Association is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. The Historic Fort Steilacoom Association's mission is: Sharing and preserving the first U.S. Army Post in the Puget Sound Region with area guests.

For more information, visit <http://www.historicfortsteilacoom.org>.

Historic Fort Steilacoom is located on the grounds of Western State Hospital at:
9601 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

###