



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

## **News Release**

Contact: Joe Lewis  
[info@historicfortsteilacoom.org](mailto:info@historicfortsteilacoom.org)

For immediate release

### **Christmas at Fort Steilacoom 1859**

*Lakewood, WA* – On December 14, Celebrate the Christmas season as living historians in period clothing present a period candle light Christmas. The gift shop will be open for holiday shopping. Tickets to the event will be available for purchase in the Interpretive Center/Quarters 4. The event runs from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Visit <http://historicfortsteilacoom.org> for more details.

Winter festivals have been celebrated around the world for thousands of years. Many of the traditions associated with these festivals were adopted by the Christian holiday Christmas. The lighting of Christmas trees, the popping of Christmas crackers and the sending of Christmas cards all became popular during this time. The period of industrial revolution created wealth and technology that would change how people celebrated this holiday forever. The location of the first U.S. Army post in the Puget Sound region encouraged soldiers and civilians alike to enjoy many festivities we still enjoy today. Christmas was a period of celebration and enjoyment as men, women and children hosted social gatherings, exchanged gifts, and communed with their fellows at Fort Steilacoom.

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

###