

## Coming Events:

### Literary and Cultural Images of Women as Reflected in Law

April 18 at 7:30 p.m.  
Fort Steilacoom, Quarters 2  
9601 Steilacoom Boulevard S.W.

Using images of women in the Bible, *Gone with the Wind*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Jane Eyre*, Marilyn Berger examines how literary and cultural images shape legal institutions, laws, and patterns of behavior. Admission is free, though donations to defray expenses will be appreciated. Refreshments will be served.



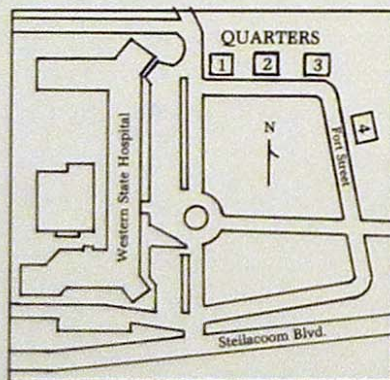
### Song Maker:

### An Encounter with a Poet

May 23 at 7:30 p.m.  
Steilacoom Tribal Cultural Center  
1515 Lafayette, Steilacoom

Using her own artwork, poetry and short stories, Anita Endrezze reads from her work and discusses the cross-over of creative vision from one discipline to another. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted to defray expenses. Refreshments will be available.

Historic Fort Steilacoom  
P.O. Box 88447  
Steilacoom, WA 98388



### Civil War Reenactment at Fort Steilacoom

Memorial Day Weekend  
May 25, 26 & 27

Soldiers of the Union and Confederacy from throughout the Pacific Northwest will appear at Fort Steilacoom County Park when the Historic Fort Steilacoom Association and the Washington Civil War Association host their third annual Civil War encampment and battle demonstrations over the Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27th. The camps will be open for inspection from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and from 9:00

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday. Two battles will be presented each day.

In addition to battles, there will be tours of the historic buildings of Fort Steilacoom, demonstrations of Civil War medicine, 1860s family life, and Civil War artillery and cavalry. A Memorial Day service honoring veterans of all eras will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on May 27th.

The Washington Civil War Association was formed in 1993 to honor those who served in that great conflict and conducts several reenactments annually in the Puget Sound region.

A donation of \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children is asked.

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## Let It Rain

By Raymond J. Egan

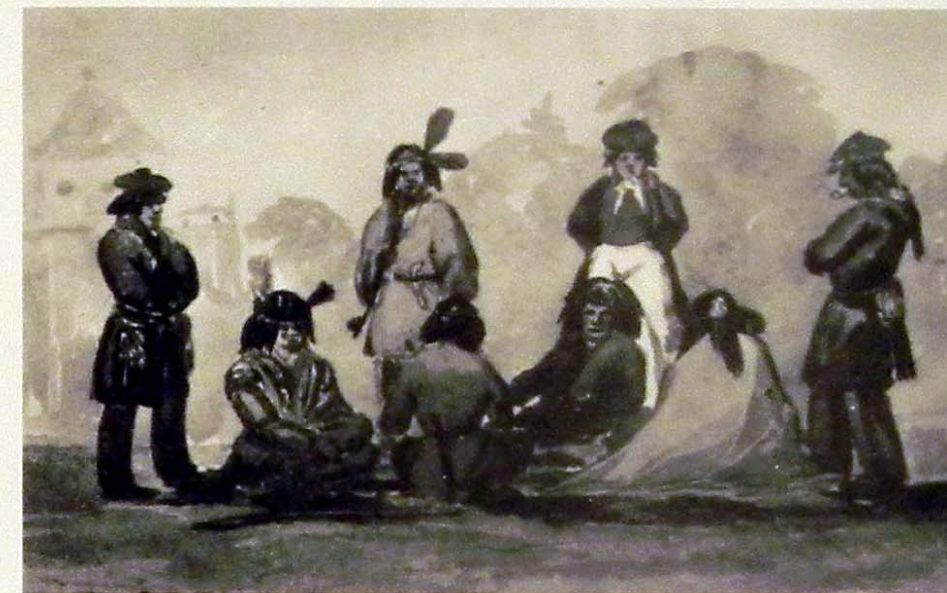
Heavy, prolonged rains, like those of the past few months, certainly must also have been a frequent discussion topic on Puget's Sound in the mid 1800s. But it was left up to the Baby Boomers, more than a century later, to salt conversations about the weather with expressions like "depression," and "the blues" and acronyms like "SAD" (Seasonal Affective Disorder.)



George B. McClellan didn't think much of the rainy Pacific Northwest.

Not that the early settlers on the Sound were immune to the rainy weather blahs. After all, we have Captain (later General) George McClellan's caustic remarks, penned in a letter to his mother in 1853:

We have to pass the winter at Olympia on Puget's Sound, a flourishing city of some 10 or 12 houses—fine prospect that....As there are no houses in Olympia that can be had, I expect to spend the winter in a tent—labored by the rain and mud—for you must know that we don't (sic) expect to see the sun anymore until



Henry James Warre painted Indians gambling during dreary weather outside Fort Nisqually.

next summer—except at rare and short intervals of time—it is raining almost constantly....I don't think much of it (Pacific Coast)—it is surely vastly overrated in every respect.

And in January, 1856, there is Captain (later General) Erasmus D. Keyes, complaining in a letter to Washington Territory's acting Governor Mason:

I have repeatedly stated in my letters that this war (Indian War) cannot be effectively prosecuted without first establishing posts in the enemy's country, so that the men may go out without pack trains, and may generally sleep dry. My men who were out with Lieutenant Slaughter have many of them since been disabled with rheumatism.

However, not all references to rain were doom and gloom. Consider this light-hearted bit of doggerel printed a couple of years later by Charles Prosch, editor and publisher of the

*Puget Sound Herald*. The occasion was Steilacoom merchant Philip Keach's wedding to Miss Antoinette Mastin:



Charles Prosch made light of the rainy weather in a wedding poem.

## HISTORIC FORT STEILACOOM ASSOCIATION

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### Let It Rain (continued from page 1)

Long may you live in wedded bliss  
 A hundred years or more  
 And may you have a million boys,  
 And girls a hundred score;  
 And when you both shall come to die  
 We hope you'll die together  
 And that the day you're buried  
 It won't be rainy weather.

And for those times when winter days seem so dark and spring so far away, draw good cheer (and perhaps a lesson from the Indians) from this note written by Caroline C. Leighton in Seattle on April 6, 1866:

The frogs have begun to sing in the marsh, and the Indians in their camps. How well their voices chime together! All the bright autumn days, we used to listen to the Indians at sunset; but after that, we heard no sound of them for several months. *They sympathize too much with Nature to sing in the winter.* Now the warm, soft air inspires them anew.... (My emphasis.)

And from this note as well, which was written on April 30th, 1866:

In the winter we were told that when the spring came fully on, the Indians would have the *Red Tamahnous*, which means "love." A little, gray, old woman appeared yesterday morning at our door, with her cheeks all aglow, as if her young

blood had returned. Besides the vermilion lavishly displayed on her face, the crease at the parting of her hair was painted the same color. Every article of clothing she had on was bright and new. I looked out and saw that no Indian had on anything but red. Even old, blind Charley, whom we had never seen in anything but a black blanket, appeared in a new one of scarlet....

I'm not sure when parading in spring finery became fashionable among the whites on Puget's Sound, but whenever it was, the Indians had done it first.

### President's Message

For several weeks now, your museum Board has been busily planning for the summer tourist season. For the third year, it will begin with the Memorial Weekend Civil War encampment in Fort Steilacoom Park on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, May 25-27. We can assure you that the reenactment and museum events will be even bigger and more entertaining than last year's. Look for more details in the Coming Events section on page four and in the flier that will be mailed to all our members in mid-May.

Our best wishes for a quick recovery to the normally *very* active Lyle Dunkin, who is recovering from foot-surgery.

If you have not been able to attend any of the talks in our Inquiring Mind speakers series, you have missed out on a treat. The first four were well attended, and the audience evaluations were glowing in their praise and appreciation of the speakers. Please see the Coming Events section for information on the last two programs.

Next year's agenda will be bigger—and, if possible, even better. DuPont Museum has now joined with us, the Steilacoom Historical Museum, and the Steilacoom Tribal Museum in sponsoring an eight-speaker series for 1996-1997. More details will be forthcoming in the summer newsletter.

As always, we are desperately in need of volunteers to help us man the museum during the summer. I am often asked why we're open only one day a week—and only in the summer at that. The answer is very simply: we don't have the volunteers we need to be open longer. So, if you enjoy history or museums, want to learn more about our pioneers, want to meet people, or just want to get out of the house, please volunteer your time. Whatever your interest, we need you. Telephone me at (206) 584-1528. We'll happily put you to work on a schedule that fits your availability.

Raymond J. Egan

### Welcome to New Members

We warmly welcome some new members, each of whom is a representative of another Pierce County museum. We have made them honorary members so that we can mutually develop an information network. The intent is to provide widespread information on each other's activities and events for the benefit of every museum member in the county.

The new members and the museums/historic organizations they represent are:

Arlene Towne.....Ezra Meeker  
 Historical Society  
 Karl Krill...DuPont Historical Society  
 Melissa McGinnis.....Fort Nisqually  
 Historic Site  
 David Nicandri.....Washington State  
 Historical Society  
 Joan Orteza.....Steilacoom Tribal  
 Cultural Center  
 Clare Petrich.....Tacoma Historical Society  
 Dr. Don Yoder...Steilacoom Historical  
 Museum Association

Also, representing the Fort Lewis Military Museum, is long time member and supporter, Alan Archambault.

Other new members to the Fort Steilacoom Museum family are:

Harry Caren, Walter and Cindy Neary, Amy M. Dennis, David J. Welch, Gary F. Richardson, William J. Woodard, and Nancy L. Keller-Scholz.

## Old Company D

The following article was submitted by Ellen Freckleton, who had saved the clipping from the *Puyallup Commerce*, March 9, 1889 (from *Pioneer Papers*).

The members of my company—Company D, First Regiment of Washington Territory Volunteers—are now scattered over all creation, and I have lost track of most of them, but the muster rolls, now in my possession, enable me to furnish all the names and residences, at time of muster, of my comrades. The members of the company were as follows:

Capt. William H. Wallace, Steilacoom, First Lieutenant, Robert S. More, Second Lieutenant, John Quincy Cole, First Sergeant, Henry William Tahu, Second Sergeant, Andrew Byrd, Third Sergeant, Henry E. Bradley, all of Steilacoom.

Fourth Sergeant, William Campbell, of Port Gamble.

Second Corporal, W. D. Van Buren, Third Corporal, Adolphus Senecal, Fourth Corporal, Cyrus Douglas, all of Steilacoom.

#### PRIVATES (regrouped)

John Bell, of Dungeness. Charles Bell, John Bradley, Joseph Broswell, George Brown, John Preston Brown, James Cawley, Milton Clute, William W. Delacy, William Downey, Paul Emery, Patrick Fowler, John Garry, David Hall, Alexander Heissen, John Howe, August Johann Kuecht, William Lane, George Garmond, Andrew Mahoney, Henry Minson, Hugh Morton, Joseph Mohi, John Neissen, Nathaniel Orr, John D. Press, Thomas Purden, Fred Rapjohn, James Riley, John Whelau, Ernest Sebroser, Corporal Julien Clarendon, Lieutenant Samuel McCaw, Byrd Wright, Mason Gess, Peter Smith, all of Steilacoom.

James Haratan, Thomas Carroll, Charles Chushman, E. G. Price, of Dungeness.

Frank C. Purdy, Thomas Richardson, Thomas Roome, Thomas Webb, of Port Gamble.

William Sherwood (unknown place).

Corporal Moses Ward is now living near Lake View; Corporal W. D. Van Buren is living near Ferndale,

in Whatcom County; John Bradley resides at Steilacoom; William Lane, at Alderton; John Neissen and Nathaniel Orr, at Steilacoom; Fred Rapjohn, out on Tamarack, at the south end of the county; and Mason Gess and Peter Smith, at Steilacoom.

E. G. Price was killed by the Indians on Nov. 28, '55, at the Puyallup river crossing.

The company was enlisted by Capt. Wallace, Henry Wilson, Samuel McCaw, G. S. Cole and myself.

### Story of a Northern Raid

The Northern Indians came into the Sound in November, 1856, and committed many depredations. Three of their big war canoes went into Henderson's bay and caused a great commotion among the Indians on Fox Island. Commander S. Swartwart on learning of their presence, instructed the Sound Indians to patrol the shores in order to cut off the hostiles from a landing, whereupon he mounted the steamer *Traveller* with a 24-pound brass cannon and steamed after the piratical invaders with all haste possible. No sooner had the Northern Indians discovered that they were chased by the *Traveller* and were at the same time cut off from effecting a landing by the Sound Indians on the shore, than they cut the throats of all the women and children among them, and throwing them overboard, fought with such desperation that two of the canoes were sunk, and their crews, refusing to accept quarter, were drowned. One canoe was allowed to rejoin the main party of their people who were encamped somewhere in the vicinity of Port Gamble. It was this fight that gave the name to Cut Throat Bay.

Swartwart had the *Traveller* steered within hailing distance of the Northern Indian encampment, and called on the hostiles to leave the American territory, offering them an unmolested retreat should they decide to do so. His generous offer, however, was met with jeers and

shouts of defiance. They called him a fool and a dog and coming close to the *Traveller's* boats that were manned with marines, and shaking their fists at them, threatening to shoot anyone that landed, at the same time daring them to come ashore and fight.

The officers of the boats, finding all their endeavors to pacify the hostiles of no avail,...returned to the ship *Massachusetts* for further orders.

As there was no other recourse but to fight, the boat crews effected a landing, under cover of the guns of the *Massachusetts* that were pouring grape and canister in among the trees, behind which the hostiles had sought cover. As soon as ashore the boat crews made a vigorous charge upon the Indians, supported by a corps of marines who had mounted several howitzers for the occasion. The Indians fell back, their camp was soon captured and their accoutrements burned. Meanwhile another party smashed all the canoes, and after remaining in possession of the field for several hours, returned to the ship.

During the fight a marine was killed and another wounded. Swartwart sent word to the Indians, that if they would go back to their own land, they would not be further molested; but they defied him, saying that they would fight till the last one of them was dead.

On the following day, however, the Indians surrendered, begging for mercy. There were 117 bucks and many women and children. Thirty had been killed and twenty wounded. The remaining Indians were taken to Victoria, and I do not remember any other raid of the Northern Indians since that time.

### Renew Your Membership!

Attached to this newsletter is a membership renewal card and a self-addressed envelope. Check your mailing label on the newsletter. If the year is circled in red, you have not paid your dues for 1996. Your continued support is much appreciated.

\* Later published in 1884 in her book: *Life At Puget Sound, with Sketches of Travel in Washington Territory, British Columbia, Oregon and California* (Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1884; reprinted in 1990 by Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield, Washington.