Historic Fort Steilacoom 4

newspaper of 1881 reported their movements.

August 4, 1881: Gen Hunt, the new colonel of the 14th Infantry, passed through Cheyenne Thursday en route to Fort Douglas to take command. His regiment will soon change to White River and relieve the 6th Infantry, which has been there for over a year.

August 24: A dispatch from Rawlins, (Wyoming) says: Gen. Hunt, commanding the 14th Infantry, with his staff and a large portion of his regiment, arrived here by special train from Salt Lake City and left today for the old Ute Agency, on White River, Colorado. This regiment is taking the station in the Indian country of the 6th Infantry, which is to be assembled at Fort Douglas near Salt Lake City, under General McCook.

September 8, 1881: Col. Hunt, with his staff, regimental band and two companies of the 14th Inf. C and I arrived here yesterday and have gone into camp, awaiting vacating of the quarters by the 6th Inf., who will start from Rawlins (Wyoming) tomorrow morning. The

battalion of the 6th is highly delighted at leaving; having lived in tents nearly a year, and are eager to start for the "promised land."

The officers of the 14<sup>th</sup> brought their wives and families, and though not in ecstasy at having to leave their pleasant stations in Utah, are pleased at completing their march down and determined to make the best of a bad bargain by making their men and themselves as comfortable as the limited means...will allow. The men's quarters are excellent and sufficient, but the officers' quarters are limited and poor....

Fourteeners will miss the pleasures of such stations as Cameron and Douglas, and sigh and sigh again.

A dispatch to Adjutant-Generals, U.S.A. Washington, D.C., explains the actions of the White River Utes.

WILL THE UTES BREAK OUT? Rawlins, Wyo., Sept. 21, 1881

Advices received from camp on White River state that White River Utes have killed two settlers building a ranch on the river 40 miles

below military camp, burned wagons of others. Signal fires on mountains. Body of one man, Maloney, found. Co. C. 3rd Cavalry, left for the scene yesterday. Col. Hunt, 14th Infantry, commanding post, informs me that he does not consider the killing an indication of general uprising, but simply that Utes desire to hunt in the valley on their old reservation, and will resist its settlement by any white man. Maloney was from Ohio, served 22 years in the Army and was honorably discharged as 1" Sergeant, Co. M, 5th Calvary, February, 1880, and located on White River. The Utes have purchased this fall large quantities of ammunition in Salt

McCauley, Depot. Qr. M.

After three more years of duty, Lewis Cass Hunt, a veteran of frontier conflict, traveled home to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to recuperate from chronic intestinal problems and dysentery.

Lake City.

(To be continued in next issue)

Annual Meeting, October 22 at 2 p.m., Quarters 2 Fort Steilacoom, featuring a concert by the Washington Civil War Association and Caroline Gallacci's slide show "The Old and New History of Tacoma"

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

QUARTERS

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Autumn, 2000

# The Life of a Military Family: Abby Pearce Casey Hunt and General Lewis Cass Hunt

by Carol E. Neufeld

The life of a U.S. military family from 1860 to 1868 is revealed in letters, a diary, family histories, National Archive records, newspaper clippings, a military dispatch, and military books. The information in this article is from Allison Hunt Douthitt's family history research. Allison is a descendant of the 10th generation of Thomas Casey, born in 1637 in Ireland, and a 12th generation of the Hunt family of England. Abby Pearce Casey and Lewis Cass Hunt are her great grandparents. Abby, the daughter of Fort Steilacoom commander Colonel Silas Casey. met and married her husband, Captain Lewis Hunt, at the Fort.

hen Abby Pearce Casey and Captain Lewis Cass Hunt were married on November 28, 1860, at Fort Steilacoom, Washington Territory, they continued their families' armed forces tradition and lifestyle.

### Casey Family in the Military

Casey and Hunt men throughout the generations served in the military, and some of the women married men in the armed forces. Abby's father and three brothers had distinguished military records. Her father, Silas Casey, rose to the rank of Major General during a 40-year career. Thomas became a Brigadier General and Chief of Army Engineers who engineered construction of the Washington Monument. Silas, a Captain in the



Abby Pearce Casey Hunt

Navy, served on ship during the Civil War, blockading and engaging the batteries at Pensacola, Fort McAllester, Charleston and Fort Fisher. Edward, a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry in command of the Cheyanne Scouts, was killed on January 7, 1891, while reconnoitering the camp of hostile Sioux Indians on White River, South Dakota. (Casey, Thomas)

#### Hunt Family in the Military

"Descendants of William Hunt" genealogy notes that men in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> generations of the Hunt family were army officers. Eighth generation Lt. Samuel Hunt, Lewis Cass Hunt's father, helped construct Camp Adams (Jefferson



Lewis Cass Hunt

Barracks) in St. Louis, Missouri, and Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. Lewis' brother, Major General Henry Jackson Hunt, the Chief of Artillery of the Army of the Potomac, was credited with repelling Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg. (Longacre, Edward) The son of Lewis and Abby, Colonel Henry Jackson Hunt, commanded the 6th U.S. Infantry.

### Early Years of Abby and Lewis Hunt in Army Service

The military lifestyle of Abby and Lewis was one of obedience to duty that involved moving, separation, loneliness, and concern for one another. When it was possible, Abby and the children, Bessie, (Continued on page 3)

# HISTORIC FORT STEILACOOM ASSOCIATION

## From the President

It is a great pleasure to write you a letter again. As many of you are aware, I took a leave of absence from the board during a difficult period: my father's illness and subsequent passing. The board is a wonderful group of people, showing support to me throughout this situation. I am so glad to be back, and so grateful to them.

Much has happened, and there are so many people to brag about. Board members and other volunteers have been doing great things. I suppose what I am proudest about is a program led by our vice president, Christine Finnigan. For too long we have lacked a consistent outreach program to local schools. Chris, an educator herself, has taken this need under her wing. We had several school tours last spring, with the support of many museum volunteers and our allies in the Washington Civil War Association. It is so wonderful to have a school tour program back again. We could always use more volunteers next spring for school tours, though (hint, hint).

And speaking of the Civil War Association—the Memorial Day Weekend re-enactment was a great success. OK, so it rained. It was not to be expected that we would go on year after year setting attendance records—we have wet years, too. The important thing is, lots of

people had fun while learning something.

With many board members having family crises at this time, Bo Cooper and others stepped in to do an amazing job of staffing our buildings and the front gate. Thanks to them, we made the money we need to pay the insurance for our four historic buildings.

Those of you who have seen the re-enactment have surely enjoyed it when the cavalry rides in over the crest of the hill in Fort Steilacoom Park. We had a different sort of cavalry ride to our rescue at the front gate this year. I must acknowledge the essential help of the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association. Though, heaven knows, they have plenty going on, Dave Welch and his volunteers showed up in droves to help us staff the front gate. Their concern and, more importantly, gift of precious time, was crucial this year. We owe them many thanks.

By the way, everyone who worked during the Memorial Day Weekend is eligible to receive a special medal that was provided by the Civil War Association to re-enactors. Quantities are limited; the medals will be handed out, first come, first served, at our Annual Meeting in October. No, this is not intended to be subtle: I hope this is even more inducement to come to the meeting this year.

I look forward to one heck of a year as we build on our strengths. And I hope we can come up with a workable plan for our near future to help us stay on course.

And board member Tom Melberg has been lighting new fire in our plans for Christmas at the Fort this year, which will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on December 9. After a hiatus, we will have an evening program inside of a day program. There will be—dare I say? Dancing! Gasp!—and some revelry and glimpses of life as it was in 1859. People are already rehearsing. It should be a blast, and you would be crazy to miss it. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and during

the holidays—but if not, I thank you now for your continuing support.

Walter Neary

# Annual Meeting October 22

Our Annual Meeting speaker will be Caroline Gallacci, who longtime members will recognize as one of the founders of our organization. She will speak at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, about "The Old and New History of Tacoma." Her slide show will include many items of interest about the town that figures so closely in the development of our area as well as the entire South Sound. She will also discuss current research into Tacoma's past.

Gallacci has more than 30 years experience as a public historian and educator. Her teaching and research lie within the areas of American social and urban history, including all facets of the history of the trans-Mississippi West. She presently is a distance learning instructor at the University of Washington and is teaching at Tacoma Community College. She has lectured at various institutions throughout the Puget Sound region. Gallacci recently received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington; her dissertation was titled "Planning the City of Destiny: an Urban History of Tacoma to 1930."

In addition to being president of Tacoma Historical Society, she is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the American Association for State and Local History, and the Urban History Association.

The annual meeting will also include a short concert by the Washington Civil War Association music group. Preceding these enlightening entertainments, there will be a short meeting to elect Historic Fort Steilacoom Association officers and directors and a presentation of commemorative medallions to people who volunteered at the Civil War re-enactment during the Memorial Day weekend.

## Life of Military Family

(Continued from page 1)

Lewis, Robert, and Henry Jackson, accompanied Lewis when he was transferred from one assignment to another. At other times the family set up housekeeping alone.

Abby and the family accompanied Lewis during the early years of his career. National Archive military records that list Lewis Hunt's army posts, and the "Descendants of William Hunt" genealogy recording birth cities of the children indicate some places where the family may have lived.

The oldest child, Bessie Perry Hunt, was born in California on November 28, 1861, one year after her parents were married.

During the Civil War, Lewis, a Colonel of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, New York Volunteers, was badly wounded, and in May, 1862, received a meritorious service award for his gallantry at the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia. After his recovery he was sent to North Carolina.

On November 29, 1862, Lewis was promoted to Brigadier General of volunteers commanding the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Division, 18<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Department of North Carolina. He took part in John G. Foster's offensive movement against Kingston and Goldsboro, for which he received the brevet of Lieutenant Colonel in the Regular Army.

Lewis Casey, the second child, was born April 17, 1863, when Lewis was stationed at New Berne, North Carolina. Lewis was on leave March, April, May, and June to recuperate and be with his family.

A third child, Robert Herrick, arrived June 21, 1865, when Lewis, a Major in the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry, commanded the defense troops in the city and harbor of New York. The Hunt home address was 48 Bleeker Street, New York City. Lewis received the brevet of Brigadier General, U.S. Army, in 1865 for "Gallant and Meritorious Services during the Rebellion."

In about 1866, Abby wrote to her brother Ned from Fort Sedgwick,



Fort Sanders, Tennessee, in 1868, shows a gathering of distinguished military men and some of their families, including Gen. Phil Sheridan (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Gen. John Gibbon, Gen U.S. Grant (both hands on fence), Gen. Dent, Gen William Tecumseh Sherman, Gen. Lewis Cass Hunt (in uniform), Gen. Harney (top hat), Gen. Wessels, Gen. Slemmer, and Gen. Potter.

Colorado, describing her daughter Bessie's ability to spell three letter words. Another letter to Ned dated February 12, 1867, is from Fort Gratiot, Michigan. Thomas Goodale, who died young, was born April 27, 1867.

An 1868 group photograph including General Lewis Hunt, taken at Ft. Sanders, Knoxville, Tennessee, indicates the Hunt family may have moved to the South. Henry Jackson's birth on February 11, 1869, places the family in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Other posts where Lewis Hunt was stationed during post-war years were: Fort Wayne, Michigan; Greenville Barracks, Louisiana; Fort Totten, North Dakota; San Antonio, Texas; and Vancouver Barracks, Washington. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the regular army in 1868 and Colonel of the 14th Infantry in 1881. (Warner, Ezra J.)

# Later Years of Abby and Lewis in Military Service

Hunt family letters and a diary indicate that as the children grew older, Lewis and Abby decided the family should settle in one place. When Lewis was stationed at Fort Clark, Texas, he wrote to Abbey on March 23, 1878, discussing the importance of their joint effort to see the complete and thorough education of their four children. He gave her advice on what to look for in renting a house. "Watch out for the well and make sure the water is all right." In order to include her in his life on the post, he went to great lengths to describe the personalities of the officers' wives, what the women wore to a hop and to share some post gossip. A letter from Hunt to the three boys on December 21, 1878, from San Antonio, Texas, described three animal pelts he had sent them for Christmas presents. He also inquired about their academic standing. (Letters from: Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities)

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While Abby and the children set up housekeeping alone, Colonel Lewis Hunt was commanding the 14th Infantry. The Cheyenne Leader

(Continued on page 4)