

Caseys of RI (from page 3)

is best known for his work on public buildings and structures. He completed the construction of the Washington Monument, what is now the West Executive Office Building of the White House, and the Library of Congress Building. He also served at Fort Steilacoom from September 1860 to April 1861. Fort Casey on Whidbey Island was named in his honor.

Edward Wanton Casey graduated from the US Military Academy in 1873 and was commissioned in the infantry. Ned, as he was known, saw extensive service in the west during the Indian campaigns of the 1870s and 1880s. Lieutenant Casey was killed in 1891 while engaged in an expedition against the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians. He had attempted to enter their camp unaccompanied to negotiate a peace settlement. He was intercepted by Plenty Horses and a party of about ten, surrounded by them, and was shot in the back of the head by Plenty Horses. Ned was well liked by the Army and was admired by Frederic Remington, the painter. Remington produced his picture, which is now in the Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg, NY.

As a boy, Ned was also a resident of Fort Steilacoom.

Silas Casey (III) graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1860. His first cruise was to Japan and he returned to participate in the Civil War. He was assigned to coastal patrol and blockade duty along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and participated in the attacks on Charleston, South Carolina, Pensacola, Florida, and Fort Fischer, North Carolina, as did his brother Thomas. He was instructor in seamanship at the US Naval Academy for three years. He served in the Pacific Fleet in the 1870s, including during the Korean expedition of 1872. He left the Navy with the rank of Captain.

The history of the Caseys of Rhode Island truly reflect the development of the United States. From colonial times, through the War of Independence, the great Civil War and the Indian campaigns, Caseys have answered the call. Through its several lines the Casey family has served in some branch of the armed forces of the United States from the earliest days of our country through the end of the twentieth century, certainly a proud and lasting tradition that few other American families can share.

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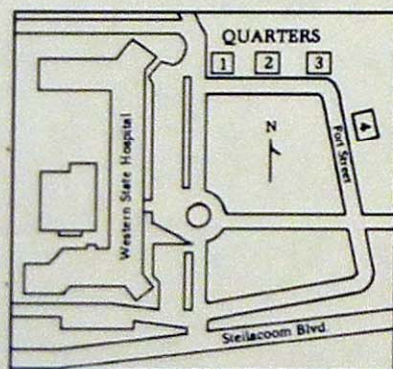
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Note:

¹Roger Williams was banished from the Massachusetts Bay colony in 1635. His religious and political beliefs were too radical for the Puritans who had settled there. Fleeing the colony, he settled at the head of Narragansett Bay on land he had purchased from the Narragansett tribe. In tribute to his beliefs he named the settlement Providence. Those seeking relief from the orthodoxy of the Puritans soon established other settlements around the Bay. One of those new settlements was Newport.

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Fort Steilacoom

Vol. XX, No. 1

Fort Steilacoom, Washington

Spring, 2003

The Caseys of Rhode Island

by Kenneth A. Morgan

When Silas Casey II was born in 1807, the Casey family was well established in Rhode Island. It had made its mark politically, militarily, and commercially. Silas made his contribution to the family history through military service.

We often think of military men in terms of the battles they participated in, the honors they achieved, the posts where they were stationed, and their contributions to the country's history. There is, of course, another less public side to these men, their personal side. These men did not exist unto themselves. They were influenced by their ancestors, and in turn influenced their descendants. Silas Casey was no different.

Even by 17th century standards life in Ireland was not easy for the Caseys. It was a time of turmoil and political upheaval. Thomas Casey was born about 1637. His family was an old one in that country, descending from the O'Neals of Tyrone. That family included Baodun Ui Niall the 137th King of Ireland, or so the family believes. Thomas' parents had been killed in the Irish Massacre of 1641 and he was brought as a child to Gloucestershire, England, where he was raised by relatives. Thomas felt that his future was not to be found in England. He sailed from Plymouth for the colonies and, having arrived in New England, settled in Newport¹ around 1658.

Thomas settled into life in the Newport area. He met and married his wife Sarah, with whom he had several sons and daughters. Of these



Silas Casey II

sons, Thomas Casey, Jr., remained in Newport, while others settled throughout the colony, setting up homes in Warwick and Kingston. Thomas acquired property and was a proprietor of the common lands in Newport.

Adam, the second son of Thomas Casey, did not remain in Newport. He and his wife Mary Greenman moved to Warwick in 1709. Adam was also a landholder and was made a freeman, which meant he had political standing in the Rhode Island colony. That political standing brought him into contact with John Greene, the Deputy Governor of Rhode Island colony. The association of the Casey family and Greene family was to continue; the two families were associated for several generations. Adam was referred to as "Lieutenant," the

first member of the Caseys to hold a military title. Adam did not remain in Warwick, but resettled in Scituate where he continued to deal in real estate.

Adam and Mary's first son, Thomas, was born in Newport, but after his marriage to Comfort Langford, moved to her hometown, East Greenwich. Thomas was also a freeman and as such held several political offices. Among those offices were Justice of the Peace, member of the East Greenwich town council and Deputy in the colonial General Assembly. In 1738 he was commissioned "Ensign" by Governor John Wanton in the 1st Train-Band of East Greenwich. Thomas operated a dry-goods business, but later expanded his activities into shipping and fishing. Thomas was also a member of the Committee of War during the French and Indian War and served as quartermaster and paymaster for a militia company.

Thomas and Comfort had four daughters and one son, Silas. Silas and his father expanded the family shipping enterprise. They became successful seafarers, operating fishing vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Straits of Belle Isle. Their merchant ships sailed to Europe and the West Indies and imported fine goods from France. During the Revolution Silas was active in the fitting out of privateers, owning four vessels, all of which were captured. The loss of his ships, the embargo and the closure of seaports by the British caused his business activities to suffer losses. In 1759 he was appointed "Ensign" by Governor Stephen Hopkins in the

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From the President

Now is the time to renew your Historic Fort Steilacoom membership. We appreciate the support of our members. With your help, the role of the Fort in Northwest history is being perpetuated. The Interpretive Center, lectures, the newsletter, events like the Civil War reenactment, Christmas at the Fort, and student and adult tours continue to educate. New members are welcome! Do you know anyone who might want to join? Give them a copy of your membership form or tell them to call the secretary at (253) 582-5838. If you want to avoid yearly dues, become a lifetime member.

On April 27 at 1:30 p.m., the story of Mother Joseph will be presented at the Immaculate Conception Church in Steilacoom. The church, first located at the Fort, was moved next to the Catholic convent and school in Steilacoom during the 1860s. Therefore, it's appropriate to have this presentation at this location.

The Civil War reenactment will be presented May 24, 25 and 26 at Fort Steilacoom Park. Come and see the action, feel the thunder and smell of the powder during the battles. And tour the fort's historic buildings from 12 to 5 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to take the donations at the ticket booths and to guide the fort tours. Please say "Yes" when you are asked to help at this event.

We are looking forward to Steilacoom's 150th anniversary in 2004. Because of the close relationship of the fort and the town, the Fort Steilacoom Board is pleased to participate in the celebration. A schedule of events is being developed.

Soon more markers will show the way to Fort Steilacoom. Two signs produced by the state for the sesqui-centennial have been ordered. The signs will read to this effect: "Fort Steilacoom designated as an historic military site, 1849-1868."

Remember: Now is the time to renew membership; hear the story of Mother Joseph; see and volunteer for the Civil War reenactment.

Carol Neufeld

Membership Month

April is our annual membership month, a time to renew your commitment to Fort Steilacoom and help preserve its history. Please fill out the enclosed membership form and mail it with your selected dues payment to Historic Fort Steilacoom Association, P.O. Box 88447, Steilacoom, WA 98388.

In addition to supporting Fort Steilacoom, your membership will give you **free admission** to the 3-day Civil War reenactment at Fort Steilacoom Park during the coming Memorial Day weekend.

The Fort Steilacoom buildings, Sutler's Store and museum will be open during the Memorial Day weekend from noon until 5 p.m.

Throughout the rest of the spring and summer the Fort Steilacoom Museum complex and Interpretive

Center will be open from 1-4 p.m. each Sunday until Labor Day.

Your continued support of Fort Steilacoom is much needed and appreciated.

Coming Event:



Beggar/Builder The Story of Mother Joseph

Presented by Joan Tucker

April 27, 2003

Sunday - 1:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church
 Main & Nisqually streets
 Steilacoom, Washington

An Inquiring Mind program

*Sponsored free of charge by
 Steilacoom Historical Museum
 Fort Steilacoom Museum
 St. John Bosco & Immaculate
 Conception churches*

In this living history monologue, Joan Tucker portrays Mother Joseph, pioneer nun and first architect in the Northwest. Born in 1823, Esther Pariseau entered the Sisters of Providence convent at age 20 and began her service to humanity.

The program will be presented in the original church which was moved from Fort Steilacoom to the town of Steilacoom next to the Catholic convent and school she established here in 1863.

Caseys of RI (from page 1)

Train-Band of East Greenwich. Silas was also involved in politics serving in the General Assembly. In 1780 he was appointed by the General Assembly to direct a lottery to raise money for school construction. He married Abigail Coggeshall the same year he received his appointment as Ensign. He was a vestryman of Saint Paul's of Narragansett.

Silas and Abigail had one son, Wanton, born in 1760. At the age of fourteen Wanton became one of the incorporators of the Kentish Guards, a militia unit, and served actively in the field with his company for three years during the Revolution. After his war service he was sent by his father to Nantes, France, in order to receive a business education under the watchful eye of Jonathan Williams, who was a representative of the American Congress in that city. He also studied in Paris where he became acquainted with Benjamin Franklin and the Marquis de La Fayette. He was presented at the Court of Louis XVI. Upon returning to East Greenwich, Wanton entered his father's business, *Casey, Son & Greene*. Being young, and perhaps looking for adventure, Wanton invested in the Ohio Company and went west to that territory. He was commissioned a Lieutenant in the militia by Ohio Territorial Governor St. Clair, and was elected as overseer of the poor. He married Elizabeth Goodale from Massachusetts. For several years he traveled between Ohio and Rhode Island, looking after his business interests in both locations. He was elected Justice of the Peace, was a member of the vestry of St. Luke's Church in East Greenwich, and was elected as cashier of the Rhode Island Central Bank. Wanton and Elizabeth had ten children.

Silas Casey II was the ninth of Wanton and Elizabeth's children. Silas entered the US Military Academy in 1822 at the age of fourteen and remained on active service until 1868. He saw service in several Indian campaigns, the Florida (Seminole)



Painting by Frederic Remington

Edward "Ned" Wanton Casey, a son of Silas Casey II, followed his family's military tradition, but was killed in 1891 by Plenty Horses.

War, and the War with Mexico where he was severely wounded. He was a Division Commander during the Civil War, and was stationed at Fort Steilacoom from 1856 to 1861. Upon retirement Casey was the regimental commander of the 4th US Infantry and held the brevet rank of Major General in the Regular Army. Silas married Abby Perry Pearce of Newport in 1830. They had seven children, two of whom died in infancy. When Abby died, Silas married for a second time. He and Florida Gordon had two children, one dying in infancy. General Casey died in Brooklyn, NY, in 1882. (For additional information on Silas Casey see the Spring 2002, Summer 2002, Autumn 2002, and Autumn 1998 issues of the Fort Steilacoom Newsletter.)

Each of Silas and Abby's children had a military connection. Their daughters Abby and Elizabeth married Army officers—Abby marrying Cap-

tain Lewis Cass Hunt at Fort Steilacoom in November 1860, and Elizabeth (Bessie) marrying Captain Robert Scott in 1862. Thomas Lincoln and Edward Wanton entered the US Military Academy and served in the Army, and Silas Casey III entered the US Naval Academy and served in the Navy.

Thomas Lincoln Casey graduated from the US Military Academy in 1852 and was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers. Unlike his father, whose record at the Academy was mediocre, Thomas was first in his class at West Point. Thomas served with distinction and in 1888 became Chief of Engineers. During the Civil War he served in the Department of Virginia, mainly supervising construction of field fortifications. He was brevetted Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel for service in the War. He also was an assistant professor of engineering at West Point. Thomas