

Isaac I. Stevens *(from page 3)*

Stevens and his brigade served admirably. Following the Union defeat at Secessionville, South Carolina, Stevens and his command were transferred back to Virginia to serve in the Union IX Army Corps.

Unfortunately, Stevens' command arrived back in Virginia in time to witness the defeat of the Union Army at the Battle of Second Bull Run on August 30-31, 1862. Following the Union defeat, Stevens' Brigade formed part of the rear guard of the retreating Northern Army. Confederate General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson was close on the heels of the defeated Yankee troops. There is no doubt that Stevens saw the vulnerability of the Union forces and was determined to prevent the Confederate forces from destroying the recently defeated Union Army.

At approximately 5 p.m. on 1 September 1862, near Chantilly, or Ox Hill, Virginia, Stonewall Jackson's Confederates attacked the rear of the Union Army. At first, the men of Stevens Brigade faltered under withering Rebel musket fire. Young Lieutenant Hazard Stevens, Isaac's son, who served as a member of his staff, fell with wounds in his arm and thigh. Isaac Stevens dismounted, left his wounded son in the care of a soldier, and ran into the fray to lead his brigade into action. A severe, late afternoon thunderstorm threatened as Stevens saw his chance to rally his men in the face of the overwhelming enemy forces. He grabbed the regimental flag of his old regiment, the 79th New York, as the color bearer fell wounded (the fifth soldier to fall with the colors that day). Stevens called out "Highlanders! My Highlanders! Follow your general!"

As the men began to rally and counterattack the advancing Confederates, Stevens was struck in the head by a Rebel bullet and fell "with the flag of the republic in his dying grasp." At this moment the thunderstorm broke overhead and rain began to fall, the wind blew, and lightning flashed. Inspired by their fallen leader,



Isaac Ingalls Stevens and his son Hazard are buried at the Common Burying Ground and Island Cemetery in Newport, Rhode Island.



Hazard Stevens

Steven's men gallantly rushed the Confederates and drove them back, capturing an enemy flag.

Brigadier General Isaac Stevens was carried from the field by his loyal Highlanders and eventual buried with full honors in Newport, Rhode Island, the home of his beloved wife. A monument detailing his heroism was erected to Stevens on his gravesite. It is located near a monument to Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of

1812 and a relative of Margaret Stevens. Following his gallant death, Stevens was promoted to the rank of major general. His son, Hazard, survived his wounds, returned to duty with the Union Army, and served through the rest of the war. Hazard Stevens became a hero in his own right and received the Medal of Honor for his actions later in the war.

Washington held its celebration of statehood in 1889, a great banner was unfurled in Olympia. It proclaimed, in part: "Isaac I. Stevens, first in the hearts of the People of Washington Territory."



Isaac I. Stevens' monument is at center and Hazard's is at left.

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Isaac Ingalls Stevens Washington Governor and Civil War Hero

by Alan H. Archambault

The battlefields of the American Civil War in the East seem very remote from the Pacific Northwest, yet Washington State, even after the span of 150 years, has a direct connection to the war. One of the most obvious connections between the Civil War and Washington is in the legacy of Isaac I. Stevens, the first territorial governor of the Washington Territory; a dynamic and controversial man, whose treaties with the Native American tribes are still debated. During the 1850s Stevens played a major role in promoting the Washington Territory and initiated policies that influenced the history and growth of Washington, both as a territory and state, for its entire history.

Isaac Ingalls Stevens was born in Andover, Massachusetts, on March 25, 1818. His family was of old New England Puritan stock, and while not wealthy, they were a hard working farm family, well respected in their community. Isaac grew up with a strong work ethic and while only reaching barely five feet in height, he had an active mind and determined spirit. He worked hard on his family's farm and developed a sense of accomplishment and boundless energy that would remain with him throughout his life.

In March 1835, Stevens was accepted as a cadet at the United States Military Academy. Displaying his usual abilities of intelligence and hard work, Stevens graduated first in the



Isaac Ingalls Stevens

West Point Class of 1839. As a new second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps, Stevens was assigned to Fort Adams in Newport, Rhode Island. This was a prized assignment, as Newport offered an active social life compared to many frontier assignments given to young Army officers. Young Lieutenant Stevens soon fell in love with Margaret Hazard, who hailed from a prominent and prosperous Rhode Island family. In September 1841, Isaac and Meg, as she was usually known, were married.

In June 1842, their first child, Hazard, was born. For the next several years, Isaac was kept busy with his young family and his work on the coastal fortifications throughout New England.

By the time the Mexican War began in 1846, Isaac Stevens was an accomplished and respected Engineer officer. He served on the staff of Major General Winfield Scott and was in combat at the battles of Cerro Gordo, Churubusco, and Contreras. In the assault on the San Cosme Gate outside Mexico City, Stevens was wounded in the foot. The injury almost proved fatal when it became infected.

Steven's service won him brevets (honorary ranks) to captain and major. Following the war, Stevens wrote a book entitled, *Campaigns of the Rio Grande and of Mexico*. Ironically, General Winfield Scott, who Stevens greatly admired, believed that the book did not do him the justice he deserved. This resulted in Scott's increasingly critical opinion of Isaac Stevens.

Following the Mexican War, in 1849, Stevens was appointed assistant to Alexander D. Bache, director of the Coast Survey. This position gave Stevens the opportunity to move in high circles of government. By 1852, Stevens had become interested in politics and actively supported future president Franklin Pierce. As a reward for his loyalty, Stevens was awarded the position of Governor of

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President's Message



Hello to all! We are starting off with another great year at the Fort. As of this report we still have no companies in the field, so my report will be of the events that have happened in garrison.

Last year we ended off the season with a bang—Christmas at the Fort 1863. The event brought in nearly 200 guests to tour the fort. This year started out with our “Valentine Tea” in February, with over 50 in attendance. I would like to thank all those who helped out and participated to make these events happen. On a sad note, we did cancel one event this year, the Swap Meet.

Over the last couple of months the fort has hosted support units from JBLM: the 47th Combat Support Hospital and the 62nd Support Battalion Hospital. Bernie Bateman, Alan Archambault, Joe Lewis, and Tom Melberg were on hand to give tours. The brigade has plans to bring more soldiers to the Fort for additional tours.

With much back and forth between the state, hospital, and the fort, we now have agreed to a lease good for



Carol Stout greets the guests at the Valentine Tea and fashion show. Guests were invited to wear items from different periods and view displays.

15 years. We can now go forward with getting work done to the buildings. Some of the things will be noticeable to all, but there are also plans to do some work that will not be visible to the public. This will be in the form of structural work to stabilize a couple of buildings.

Keep a look out for future events. Pick up one of our fliers from the fort the next time you stop by. You can also check out the website at www.historicfortsteilacoom.org. We are still on our winter hours, 1st Sunday of the month, 1-4 p.m. In June we will begin our summer schedule, every Sunday from 1-4 p.m., plus special events listed on the website and in our brochure.

At this time of the year we request your continuing support by sending in your yearly dues. A packet for that is enclosed with this newsletter. Your dues help us update museum displays and provide the activities you enjoy at the fort.

Lawrence Bateman

Flett Family Story

Beth Julian, great granddaughter of pioneer John and Ellen Flett, will share the story of their arrival at



Annie Flett slept in this cradle after she was born in 1864.

Fort Vancouver in 1841 and their subsequent establishment of a home in Pierce County. The area known as Flett, where the Flett dairy began, is now in Lakewood. Beth will share photos and memorabilia which will help to tell the Flett story. She will conclude with the operation of Freckleton's Blueberry Farm, actively run from the 1950s through the 1980s. The program will be in Quarters 2 on April 6, 2014, at 2 p.m.

Mrs. Julian's most recent gift to the Fort Steilacoom Museum is the cradle and coverlet, shown above, in which her grandmother Annie Flett slept after her birth to John and Ellen in 1864.

Isaac I. Stevens (from page 1)

the Washington Territory. In 1853 he resigned his military commission and headed west. En route Stevens also directed the important surveying of the proposed northern route of the transcontinental railroad. One of the Army Engineer officers assigned to Stevens' railroad survey was a fellow West Point graduate, George B. McClellan. Interestingly, McClellan was assigned to find a route through the Cascades and spent a winter in Olympia. However, Stevens was a bit disappointed in McClellan's lack of energy and initiative in finding the best route for the railroad line.

When Stevens arrived in the Washington Territory, he immediately went to work with a tireless drive. He did everything within his power to promote and secure American dominance in the region. Stevens saw the Native American tribes and their ageless way of life as a stumbling block in the development of the territory. As many American settlers of the time, Governor Stevens believed that the Indians needed to cede their lands for the common good and adopt the ways of his “civilized” and technologically advanced society. Stevens began to negotiate treaties with the numerous Native American tribes throughout the territory. Unfortunately, Stevens' aggressive tactics and the Indian leaders' lack of understanding of the details and intent of the treaties led to disaster.

In 1855, in large measure because of the treaties, conflict broke out between several Native American tribes and the white settlers. Unfortunately, Stevens took great offense at the Indian's hostility, and exhibited little understanding or sensitivity of their grievances. Eventually, in 1856, Stevens declared martial law in the Puget Sound region, earning him the wrath of his political opponents. Although, in retrospect, Stevens over-reacted to the Indian conflict, the average Washington settler at the time was pleased with Stevens' decisive actions, which crushed the perceived Native American threat.



Drawing by Alan H. Archambault

Brigadier General Isaac I. Stevens takes and bears the regimental flag at Chantilly shouting out, “Highlanders! My Highlanders! Follow your general!”

As a result, Stevens won the territory's seat in the House of Representatives in 1856. Two years later he also won a reelection to the position.

When the United States was torn by civil war in April 1861, Stevens offered his services to the Union Army. Although Stevens had a solid reputation as a soldier, his political enemies may have initially denied him a major Army command. However, in August 1861, he finally accepted a position as a colonel commanding the 79th New York Volunteer Infantry. The regiment had been formed around a pre-war militia unit that wore Scottish Highland uniforms, including kilts. The unit had fought at the Battle of First Bull Run on 21 July 1861, where it had been badly bloodied and its first colonel killed. The men expected to return to New York to recruit new men and elect a new commander. When the soldiers realized they were not going home and that a new commander had been appointed, without their consent, they rebelled. Faced with a mutiny of his new command, Stevens surrounded the camp of the 79th New York with

regular Army troops, arrested the ringleaders, and took away their regimental colors.

Although Stevens and the New York Highlanders got off to a rocky start, the men soon realized that he was an efficient, intelligent and professional military officer. It was not long before the regiment began to shape up into a disciplined and well-drilled unit. By September 1861, the regiment was ready to fight again and had their regimental colors returned to them with great ceremony.

On 28 September 1861 Stevens was promoted to brigadier general and given command of a Union Army brigade. Shortly thereafter, Stevens and his new brigade were assigned to an expeditionary force headed for South Carolina. Stevens asked that his former unit, the 79th New York, be assigned to his brigade. George B. McClellan, now commander of the Union Army, denied Stevens request, but was over-ruled by President Abraham Lincoln.

The expedition that Stevens and his brigade were assigned to was poorly conceived and badly led, but

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