



California. Lt. Nugen was acting commander of the Fort in the fall of 1855 when threats of attack on the Fort by Indians were circulating. His defending force was only twenty-five. No attack occurred. In late 1857 he became ill, perhaps from influenza, which was prevalent. He died October 22<sup>nd</sup> of "quick consumption," and was interred in the Fort Cemetery. He was 27 years old.

11 **Edward J. Carr** entered the US Army in June 1852 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a Hospital Steward. He was most likely assigned to the Fort Steilacoom Hospital. He died of unknown causes in August 1857 and was interred in the Fort Cemetery.

#### 1859

12 **Private Hugh Pinkerton** enlisted in Company C, 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry. Post returns from September 1859 indicate he was part of the detachment under Captains Pickett and Hunt in the San Juan Islands. He is listed as sick, and was likely sent back to Fort Steilacoom where he died September 25<sup>th</sup>. He was interred in the Fort Cemetery.

13 **Private John Hagarty** enlisted in Company C, 9<sup>th</sup> US Infantry in June 1855 from Easton, Pennsylvania. Private Hagarty was an Irish emigrant. He died from unknown causes

November 1859 and was interred in the Fort Cemetery.

#### 1860

14 **Private Eli Henzoo** was a member of Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry. While en-route to Gray's Harbor under the command of Captain Malony, he suddenly became ill in Olympia and was sent back to the Fort Hospital when he died en-route. A post mortem examination indicated he died of poison, the most likely source being a can of strawberries, the acid from the berries having reacted with the metal of the can. He was 23 years old when interred in the Fort Cemetery.

#### 1861

15 **Private Matthew McCarty**, Irish by birth, enlisted in Company C, 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry in January 1856 from Boston, Massachusetts. McCarty was killed in Steilacoom by another soldier, DeWitt Gardner. Alcohol was suspected to be involved. Gardner was arrested and bound over to the next court term. McCarty was interred in the Fort Cemetery.

#### 1865

16 **Corporal Morris Derosier** was a Virginian by birth and had fought in the Civil War. The particulars of his war service are not known. He died at Fort Steilacoom in November

1865 and was interred in the Fort Cemetery. He was 21 years old.

#### 1868

17 **Sergeant William H. Archbold** was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland. The circumstance of his service and death in April 1868 are not known. Sergeant Archbold was probably the last soldier interred in the Fort Cemetery. He was 67 years old.

#### Unknown Date

Two additional soldiers were interred in the Fort Cemetery: 18 **Sergeant James R. Thompson** and 19 **R. E. Burnett** (rank unknown). Both were members of Company M, 1<sup>st</sup> US Artillery. Company M was assigned to Fort Steilacoom from 1849 to 1854, so their deaths must have occurred during that time.

Fort Steilacoom was closed in 1868. Soon afterward the Army removed the soldiers from the cemetery and reinterred them in the San Francisco National Cemetery, located on the Presidio Army post—now part of the National Park System. The San Francisco National Cemetery was established in December 1884 by General Sheridan. The Cemetery overlooks the Golden Gate and is a most fitting resting place for those soldiers who gave their all while serving at Fort Steilacoom.

# Fort Steilacoom

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## Fort Steilacoom Army Post Cemetery

by Kenneth A. Morgan

The army post at Fort Steilacoom was established in 1849 and remained active until 1868. During those nineteen years several hundred officers and soldiers served there. For nineteen of those officers and soldiers the fort was their last assignment. They died in service and were interred in the Post Cemetery. These soldiers were not the only ones to die while serving at the Fort. Several others were interred elsewhere.

Some of these men died from hostile action, some from accidents, and some of natural causes; and for a few the cause of their deaths is unknown. However, they all play a part in the history of Fort Steilacoom and their stories, as far as they are known, are just as important as those of the officers and soldiers who went on to further fame. This narrative tells those stories.

#### 1853

1 **Private William Ahern** enlisted in Company A of the 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry on July 19, 1852 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was sent to Fort Steilacoom with that regiment. He died on October 20, 1853. Although his birthplace and birth date are unknown, he was most likely a Pennsylvanian and in his early twenties at death.

#### 1854

2 **Captain Thomas J. Montgomery** was a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry. He graduated from West Point in 1845 and served in the Mexican War

(Continued on page 3)



*The Fort Steilacoom Pioneer Cemetery was an interim resting place for soldiers who died while stationed at the fort. After the fort was deactivated, their remains were re-interred at the Presidio in San Francisco, California.*



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*Carol Stout, next to musicians at left, introduces reenactor Nona Nelson, far right, who tells about her character, Abey Casey, during the Valentine tea.*

**President's Message**



Dear Friends,  
 The Board and organization members have been busy setting goals for Historic Fort Steilacoom and carrying them out.

Completing preservation projects funded by grants and funds appropriated by the State Legislature through the efforts of the late Senator Mike Carrell has included painting of Quarters 1, 2 and 4. Joe Lewis, Kenneth Morgan and Bernie Bateman have guided this effort. The architects are planning Quarters 3 restoration and a contract for the work is pending.

In recognition of Senator Carrell's support for preserving historical sites, the Heritage League of Pierce County posthumously gave him a Special Advocacy Award, which was presented to Mrs. Charlotte Carrell at the Fort Steilacoom Valentine Tea on February 14, 2015, by Laurel Lemke.

To increase public awareness of the Fort's importance, Kenneth Morgan is submitting an application to the National Historic Landmarks program to add Fort Steilacoom to its list.

Through the efforts of Loran Bures, an agreement between the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and HFSA has been reached to transfer the many volumes of the "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies" from California to the Fort Steilacoom Research Library. Bernie Bateman is in the process of building new shelving for the books.

Orville Stout is reviewing and reorganizing the accessions policy for artifacts and museum holdings. Keegan Clark recently supervised a group of Boy Scouts in a photo inventory project of the contents of Quarters 1.

The Casey Valentine Tea on February 14 was successful with 50 ladies attending. Features of the tea included a display and slide show of Godey's Ladies fashion prints from the mid 1800s, a Fancy Fair silent auction, Ladies of the Fort in period dress, and flute and keyboard music provided by Selkie on the Sound. Rev. Allurinda, of the Red Hat Ladies, gave a drum beat rendition of "Oh Susannah." Thanks go to reenactors Bev, Ashelinn and Riley York, Nona Nelson, and Heather Waetzig; servers Anna Grzankowski, Charis, Brenna and Noah Peever, Ashley and Tanya

Neufeld, Danielle Dimmerman and kitchen tea supervisor Margit Bateman. Chris Colyar was in charge of food and the Fancy Fair, assisted by Pat Camp. Gideon Pete and Bernard Bateman ushered ladies to their places and took them on tours of the quarters. Orville Stout printed the invitations and prepared the slide show and fashion exhibit.

Many interesting and exciting events are planned for 2015 in addition to the tea. The next program, "A Lasting Legacy—The Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Road," will be presented by Karen Meador on Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. See the enclosed event schedule for the following months.

Our First Vice President John Roten is recovering from a serious accident at a pedestrian crossing in January. We hope he will soon be able to return to the fort where he and his tireless work is much appreciated.

It's time to renew your membership with Historic Fort Steilacoom Association. Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership renewal form and return envelope. Your continued support helps maintain the fort, add new displays and provide quality programs.



**Post Cemetery (from page 1)**

under General Taylor in Monterey and General Scott in Mexico City. His service is characterized as being intelligent and gallant. He earned the respect of all those with whom he served. Captain Montgomery died of natural causes on November 22, 1854 and was interred at Fort Steilacoom with full military and Masonic honors.

**3 Major Charles H. Larnard** was a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry. He graduated from West Point July 1, 1831. He served in the Florida Wars and at several locations on the frontier. During the Mexican War he was breveted for meritorious service during the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca-de-la Palma. When returning from engaging the Snohomish Indians, March 27, 1854, his small boat was overturned in a storm near Whidbey Island. Nine members from Companies A and C of the 4<sup>th</sup> US were drowned. Major Larnard's body was the only one recovered. He was interred at Fort Steilacoom. Major Larnard was a native of Rhode Island and was 45 years old.

**1855**

**4 Lieutenant William Alloway Slaughter** was commander of Company C of the 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry. He graduated from West Point in

1848. Slaughter, from Kentucky, was born in December 1827. Following his graduation he was posted in California and on the Great Lakes. In the spring of 1853 Lt. Slaughter and his new wife, Mary, arrived at Fort Steilacoom. In the fall of 1855 a party left Fort Steilacoom to pursue hostile Indians who were camped near the White and Green Rivers. While camped on Brannan's Prairie his party was attacked by the hostiles and Lt. Slaughter and two others were killed, several additional were wounded. His body was transported to the Fort where he was interred with full military and Masonic honors.

**5 Private John M. Cullum** was a member of Company M, 3<sup>rd</sup> US Artillery. He was an emigrant from Ireland when he enlisted in the Army. Pvt. Cullum was a member of the detachment that was attacked on Brannan's Prairie. He was one of those wounded that day, and later died from that wound. He was 36 years old. His body was interred in the Fort Steilacoom Cemetery.

**1856**

**6 Private John Buck** was a member of Company M, 3<sup>rd</sup> US Artillery. He enlisted in the Army from San Francisco in February 1855 and was posted to Fort Steilacoom. His body

was found by some Indians in the waters off Steilacoom. It is presumed he became intoxicated and while wandering fell off the wharf. He was 23 years old.

**1857**

**7 Private William Bunch** enlisted in Company H, 9<sup>th</sup> US Infantry, in May 1855 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The circumstances of his death in February 1857 at Fort Steilacoom are not known. He was interred in the Fort Cemetery. He was 23 years old.

**8 Private William Wallace** was a member of Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry. Little is known about his background or the circumstance of his death. He died July 21, 1857 and was interred in the Fort Steilacoom Cemetery.

**9 Private Robert K. Hunter** enlisted in the US Army in September 1854 in Baltimore, Maryland. Like many of the fort's soldiers, he was born in Ireland and emigrated to the United States. Assigned to Fort Steilacoom, he died in July 1857 from unknown causes. He was interred in the Fort Cemetery.

**10 Lieutenant John Nugen** graduated from West Point in 1852. Before being assigned to Fort Steilacoom, he had served in New York and