

2014-15 PROGRAM SEASON

All programs are held on the second Thursday of the months listed below at the Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to all.

October 9, 2014: A Lasting Legacy: The Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Military Road, by Karen Meador.

November 13, 2014: Bellingham Coal Mines, by George Mustoe

December 11, 2014: Annual History Holiday, open mike sharing, annual membership meeting and festivities

January 8, 2015: WWII Japanese-American Incarceration and Bellingham's Japanese Community by Fumio Otsu and Carole Teshima

February 12, 2015: Great Sedro-Woolley Bank Robbery of 1914 by Rustan Robertson

March 12, 2015: Ella Higginson, Bellingham Poet Laureate, by Laura Laffrado

April 9, 2015: TBD

2014 WCHS Board

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HISTORY NEWS



Volume 20 Issue 1

Whatcom County Historical Society

September 2014

“A Lasting Legacy: The Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Military Road”

by Karen Meador

Thursday, October 9, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room • 121 Prospect St. • Free

Whatcom County is home to one of the Pacific Northwest's oldest and most significant roads, the Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Road, part of a network of military roads constructed under the supervision of the U.S. Army in the 1850s, on the eve of the Civil War. The Bellingham-area section of the road was constructed under the command of Captain George Pickett, Commanding Officer at Fort Bellingham, located on the north shore of Bellingham Bay.

Captain Pickett was one of several future Civil War generals who were assigned to the Pacific Northwest in the 1850s; others included Ulysses S. Grant, George B. McClellan, Phillip Sheridan and Joseph Hooker. These junior officers played a role in the settlement of the remote Pacific Northwest; a number of them were involved in the construction of military roads throughout the nascent territory. With a few exceptions, these early military roads are now identified by different names, but the routes remain largely unchanged from the wagon roads and bridle paths carved out of the wilderness over 150 years ago.

Karen Meador is an author and historian; her work has appeared in numerous venues, including Columbia: The Magazine of Northwest History. She is currently preparing a brochure, sponsored by 4Culture of King County, on the history of the Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Road. She serves on the Board of the Association of King County Historical Organizations and was a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the King County Historic Preservation Program.



At right: part of the old Military Road, taken by E.A. Hegg, Whatcom County photographer.

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www.whatcomhistory.net

BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

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WHATCOM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Non-Profit Organization
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LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & NOTES

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE OCTOBER 4 & 5

The Whatcom County Historical Society's big annual garage sale fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct 4th and 5th at the old Courthouse, 1308 E Street, Bellingham. We need your donations of clean, gently used items and baked goods to help make this one of the best ever!

Drop off days and times:

Saturday, September 27nd, drop off items at the Courthouse from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday Oct. 2th and Friday, Oct. 3rd, drop off items at the Courthouse from 4 – 7 p.m.

Garage Sale days and times:

Saturday, Oct 4th, come to the garage sale 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct 5th, come to the garage sale 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For those who have items you want to drop off at a different time, or need to have someone pick them up, please call Wes Gannaway at 384-4209. Sorry, we will not take heavy or large furniture, large appliances, TVs or microwaves.

All proceeds go toward the ongoing operation and maintenance of the building. Remember, the items you donate are tax deductible. If you can't help with the sale, please get the word out to your friends, neighbors and family. We will again be getting items from the Museum tag sale so look for those treasures!

Society Members to Read Serial Novel at Village Books Sept. 28th

WCHS members and local history authors Wes Gannaway, Jim Berg, JoAnn Roe, along with Good Tim Girl Sara Holdnick, Lynden Pioneer Museum Director Troy Luginbill, and local historian and author Janet Oakley will read their contributions to the Bellingham Herald's summer serial novel "Echoes of War: Mystery of a missing Confederate treasure in Whatcom County," at Village Books, Sept. 28, at 4 p.m.

SOCIETY NEWS

If you missed the August open house at the Courthouse you missed all the fun - including: the Whatcom Genealogical Society booth, classic cars, restored trunks, locally grown plants and treasures for sale, as well as corn husk doll making and tours of the building. Thank you to Susan Kingman for getting all those cool folks together to make the day fun! The board is discussing whether or not to hold the event again next year because of so many competing events throughout the county. One idea is to hold an open house in conjunction with the monthly open houses at the Pickett House instead. Thanks to Erdradine Hovde for opening the House during our event!

Several changes are proposed to the Society's bylaws and will be voted on at the December membership meeting. Look for a summary of those changes in the November newsletter.

Thank you to our summer intern from WWU, Sarah Husted, for working on our future research area in the old jail at the Courthouse. She helped organize clipping files and inventory our local history book collection. If you know of students who need a project in this area, please contact Carole at 393-6782 or whatcomhistory@gmail.com.

Also, thank you to new Bellingham resident and volunteer, Wally Larsen, who will be working on the Society's website and Facebook pages. Wally is a former high school history teacher and has been working in the health care medical records field. We look forward to having an updated website and more interaction with people in the local and broader historical communities.

Boy Scouts Garrett Walker and Cole Parker made a presentation to the Board last meeting on fencing projects for the Courthouse. They will be completing the projects to earn their Eagle status. One project involved making a permanent gate and finishing the front fencing adjacent to the building; the other will fence off the length of Parberry's baling area on the north side of the building to prevent blowover of recycled plastics. Both projects are very needed and welcome.

We continue to work on the accessibility and landscaping issues so we can rent out the building on a regular basis. So much to do! We're looking forward to another great season!

Yes! Count Me in!

I want to help support the restored Territorial County Courthouse!

__I would like to support the maintenance and operation costs of the building by becoming a benefactor with a \$100 per year pledge.

__I would like to donate \$50 for an engraved paver brick to be installed at the site. I am attaching my inscription (limited to two lines, 18 characters total, including spaces).

__I would like to discuss the purchase of a Steve Mayo print or painting of the bark *Ann Parry*, which brought the bricks from San Francisco for the construction of the 1858 building.

__I would like to make a donation of \$_____toward the final installation costs of the ADA lift, which is needed to gain an occupancy permit. Thanks to a private donor, generous members, and a county grant, the cost of the lift has been covered, but the installation cost has gone up.

__I would like to make a donation of \$_____toward paying down the \$77,000 mortgage and interest.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mail check and this form to: WCHS, PO Box 2116, Bellingham, WA 98227 Thank you!

Thank you to these members for renewing or joining:

John and Ruth Lauman

(check the date on the mailing label for your membership expiration)

Special thanks to:

Courthouse donors: K. B and Janene Aker, Wes and Deb Gannaway

Whatcom County Historical Society Membership 2014-2015 Season

Clip or copy and mail with payment to WCHS Membership, 1308 E St, Bellingham, WA 98225

NEW RENEW I would like to volunteer, please contact me

Member Benefit: All members will receive the WCHS newsletter starting at the \$15 level

- \$15 **One year newsletter subscription**
- \$25 **Individual membership or non-profit organization**, newsletter + one copy *Journal* + 10% member discount
- \$50 **Sustaining member or business member**, (same benefits as above)
- \$100 **Supporting member** (same plus choice of historic photographic print from Whatcom Museum, call 393-6782)
- \$250 **Patron member** (same as all above, plus special future recognition) Date paid _____

Additional donation \$_____ In memory of _____

Additional donation \$_____ for preservation of Territorial County Courthouse on E Street in Bellingham

Name: _____ Check and leave blank if same as mail label

Business/Organization name: _____

Street/Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please send me information on _____ and/or Preserving the old E. Street Courthouse
Expiration date on newsletter mailing label may not be updated until second issue after payment.

The Whatcom County Historical Society is a registered 501(c)3 organization. Your membership is tax-deductible, except for value of gift items.
Please call (360) 393-6782 for information about your membership and benefits.

