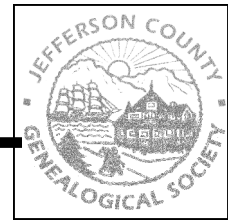


GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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OUR MILITARY HISTORY

When did Culpepper's Rebellion occur and where? Why? How about Shay's Rebellion, Burr's Insurrection or the Kansas Troubles?

These and many others are among the little known military engagements in America's history. Military campaigns have affected the lives of many of our ancestors, either directly as they participated in the armed services or indirectly by influencing the environments in which they lived. Some of our wars have created documents of great genealogical value, many, however, have not.

JCGS will be exploring the records available from the Revolutionary War through World War I with Carter L. Wilson III of Family Research Group at our seminar on March 20, 2010. Carter, the son of a career naval officer, and veteran of the Air Force himself, has both a personal and historical interest in the military. After a career with the Federal government, Mr. Wilson has turned his attention to conducting professional family and historical research and lecturing on these subjects.

Be sure to sign up for the seminar – it should be a great day! See page 10 for registration information.

In the meantime, you might want to think about the military exploits of your ancestors. Records and indexes from many conflicts are available on subscription websites such as Ancestry.com and Footnote.com – both available at the Research Center for use by our members. But there are also many on-line resources available free of charge which might help you further your understanding of your family's military experience. One is the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) website which has a number of indexes for various branches of service during the Civil War, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Cold War. Go to <http://www.archives.gov/> and click on the tab on the left "Start Your Research" then check out "What's Available Online?" to see if you might have luck.

But, let's talk about some of the lesser known resources you might want to explore. For Civil War ancestors you could check out if they were members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The GAR was a fraternal organization of veterans of the Union Army founded in 1866 by Benjamin Stephenson in Decatur, IL. It was among the first organized "interest groups" in American politics, establishing Decoration Day which later became our national holiday of Memorial Day and pushing

(Continued on page 8)



GAR marker placed at a veteran's gravesite

From The Librarian

By Beverly Brice

JCGS Volunteers work year round to enter data on Jefferson County families into our Kiosk (searchable database of Jefferson County records) located at the Research Center. Once the records are digitized, we have an index to the surnames found in the various types of Jefferson County records. What a boon for Jefferson County researchers!

Thanks to the following volunteers who have contributed to this wealth of information in the past year—Lesla Barnes, Mary Stolaas, Lorrell Louchard, Dave Sachi, Linda Atkins, Charlie Petersen, Tom Berg, and Carol Macki. These folks all have something in common, not a one of them has a family in Jefferson County. They have all used records from other areas and are doing this to help the overall cause of making records available to genealogists.

Another very large note of thanks is needed here. Pam Wilson takes the indexes and formats them for the Kiosk. She not only works at this every Thursday in the Research Center but puts in time at home as well. In addition, the process could not happen without the regular efforts of Joan Buhler who proofs the work. Joan knows Jefferson County families inside and out so her review is not just for typos—she adds immensely to the quality of the end product.

During the first ten months of 2009 we have added the following records to the Kiosk:

- Extractions from original city and county directories held by JCHS for 1909-1910, 1911-1912, 1915-1916, 1920, 1930, 1932, 1939 and 1944 which provide name, occupation, business address and residence.
- Extractions from records held at Kosac Funeral Home in Port Townsend for 2008
- First Presbyterian Church, Port Townsend, Deaths 1899-1949
- Trinity Methodist Church Port Townsend, Ladies Aid 1880-1910 membership information
- Port Townsend Poll Tax extractions giving name, age and address for 1894, 1891, 1899, and 1900
- Fort Flagler Families Index

Compilations of data on cemeteries, we have all used them. Next time you do, consider the work that goes into making this information available. JCGS published a listing of the 16 cemeteries in Jefferson County in July. It took 5 years for the volunteers to walk the cemeteries. Well, not really to walk them, but to add the information from the walks to the records held by the cemeteries and then enter it all into a database. Once all of those were completed, more time was required to establish a format for the finished product and put it into PDF files. Eileen Martin headed up the project and spent by far the most hours shaping it into a useful set of information. Thanks to Eileen and all the other volunteers who contributed!!

Those of you with Jefferson County families take note: this cemetery information is available to you on a CD for \$40 if you must have it immediately. Our plan is to post all of the information on our website for free. This will include an overall alphabetical index, a listing of each cemetery by grave location which includes any inscriptions found on gravestones, a summary of information known about the cemetery, and a map for each cemetery. As Elizabeth Shown Mills said at our seminar, people weren't buried alphabetically! We hope to have this up on the website by the first of the year, so do keep an eye out. We will send a notice on the mailing list when it is accomplished.

(Continued on page 3)

FROM THE LIBRARIAN (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

In addition to efforts to preserve information on Jefferson County residents, there's an amazing amount of work behind the scenes to keep the JCGS Library functioning. The Library Committee provides oversight to the operations developing written policies, proposing a budget to the Executive Committee, approving major book purchases, recommending subscription websites, and considering what activities should happen in the Library. All of this happens with the support of the Librarian who staffs the committee.

The Library Committee is currently composed of the following JCGS members: Bev Brice, Librarian; Pam Wilson, Library Volunteer and the person in charge of the Library Collections and our Kiosk Manager; Lorrell Louchard, Library Volunteer who purchases the books and does the paperwork for the 50/50 program; Eunice Franklin, Library Volunteer and purchaser of library supplies; and three new members-at-large all of whom are regular library users—Steve Treacy, Pam Stimson, and Betty Burdyslaw. What a crew!! Be sure and give them your ideas for the Library.

Do you know of any published works, books or CDs, that would be a valuable addition to our holdings? If so, please let Bev Brice or Lorrell Louchard know. Specifically, we need additional references in the following states to round out our library collection—Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas and Utah—so keep your eyes open for good sources for these areas.

50/50 Program

Remember that you can partner with the Society to put new reference material in our library that will help your research. Suggest a title and if the Book Committee determines it is one we can use, we'll split the cost with you. You then get to use it for six weeks before it is placed in our collection.

Finally, the Research Center will be closed for two weeks around Christmas and New Years—from December 21st through January 4th. Please make a note to come visit on January 5th or after!

Take The Initiative

In the past, JCGS has scheduled research trips to local libraries and discussion groups on a variety of subjects. Participation has dropped off, so we have decided not to continue sponsoring these events at this time (except the Writing Your Family History Discussion Group). However, that doesn't mean **you** can't initiate a discussion or field trip.

If you want to do something such as visiting the Seattle Public Library or discussing researching in New England, simply let others know by using our list-serve (e-mail list) - ask Lesa Barnes if you need help.

- If you're scheduling a research trip, simply pick a date and head off.
- If you want to develop an on-going discussion group, the Research Center may be available for your use between 9:30 AM and 11 AM on "regular working days" (ask Bev Brice or Barb Way for availability). You may chose, however, to meet in members' homes—whatever works best for you. Keep the discussion going as long as you want.

We hope some of you will pick up the ball and run with it. This is your organization, so make the most of it!

New Members

WELCOME!

*Peggy Lee
Janis Thesing
Ann Robertson
Don Olsen
Ron Kubec
Thomas Clyde
Linton
Jan & Jim
Rozanski
Aven M. Anderson
Connie Rosenquist
Shirley J.
Andersen
Mac & Karen
McMullen
Patricia Reeve
Eileen Barron
Renee Barron
Carol & John Maki
Janet Baker Kahn
Carol Long
Arial Toyne
Carolyn Braun
Mike & Linda
Dixon*

DON'T MISS IT!

JCGS has a full schedule of events for the coming quarter. You can refer to the calendar in this issue for dates and times (don't forget to mark your calendars), but some of the special things coming up include our monthly meetings, discussion groups and resource corners:

December Meeting: Annual Holiday Party. Bring something to share for a snack. The program will be "Your Biggest/Best Research Find in 2009". We also want to hear what you're planning for 2010. **NOTE: this year we will meet at the Tri-Area Community Center.**

January Meeting: Marge Samuelson will share with us "A Soldier's Life". She will tell us what it was like to be a soldier in the Civil War using, among other things, letters and journals written by the soldiers.

February Meeting: Al Standish will lead a discussion on "The Impact of War on The Home Front". What happened to the families left on the farm or in town while the "men folk" were off fighting the war? How did these families survive?

March Meeting: Seminar with Carter Wilson, "Military Records Through the Eyes of a Genealogist" (see page 10)

April Meeting: Many of us have thought about recording an oral history of one of our relatives. Pam Wilson will tell us how she prepared for and then conducted an interview of member Tom Berg for the WWII archives project. She'll focus on developing questions, keeping the conversation going, and then things you can do with the history once it's finished.

Writing Your Family History Discussion Group: Even if you haven't started writing your family stories, coming to this discussion group will get you started. Writing summaries as you work on your research can be very helpful in directing your efforts. Besides, we have a good time!!

January Resource Corner: Bev Brice will talk about how to handle a knotty problem we all run into eventually-what you do when you can't "prove" it. Circumstantial evidence may be the best you can do. We will review the steps needed for presenting a responsible, clear and concise argument for your point of view.

February Resource Corner: There is more to the Federal Census than the Population Schedules we use so frequently. Lesa Barnes will share the information she has put together on the Mortality, Manufacturing, and Agricultural special censuses as well as those done for Slaves and Native Americans. Not only will you learn how these enumerations can help you in your research but also where you can find them.

March Resource Corner: Diane Young taught computer programs in her work life and she has agreed to do a session for us on Microsoft Word. She will cover some very basic skills, and then move on to the intermediate level. She will be focusing on tasks that you use in your family history research.

April Resource Corner: Information on the War of 1812 is not as readily available as other military conflicts. It generated its share of records that can help you in your research, however. Bev Brice will put the war in its historical perspective and then talk about relevant records and where to find them.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 2009 - APRIL 2010

| DATE | ALL MEETINGS START AT 9:30 AM AND ARE HELD AT THE RESEARCH CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED |
|-----------------------|---|
| December 4 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| December 11 | Education Committee Meeting |
| December 12 | Writing Your Family History Discussion Group |
| December 19 | Annual Holiday Party (Tri-Area Community Center) |
| December 20–January 4 | Research Center Closed |
| January 8 | Education Committee Meeting |
| January 9 | Writing Your Family History Discussion Group |
| January 16 | Monthly Meeting: “A Soldier’s Life” (Tri-Area Community Center) |
| January 30 | Resource Corner: “When There Is No Proof” |
| February 5 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| February 12 | Education Committee Meeting |
| February 13 | Writing Your Family History Discussion Group |
| February 20 | Monthly Meeting: “The Impact of War on the Home Front” (Tri-Area Community Center) |
| February 25 | Volunteer Meeting |
| February 27 | Resource Corner: Non-Population Census Schedules |
| March 4 | Library Committee Meeting |
| March 5 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| March 12 | Education Committee Meeting |
| March 13 | Writing Your Family History Discussion Group |
| March 20 | Seminar: “Military Records Through the Eyes of a Genealogist” (Tri-Area Community Center) |
| March 27 | Resource Corner: “Microsoft Word, The Basics & Beyond” |
| April 2 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| April 9 | Education Committee Meeting |
| April 10 | Writing Your Family History Discussion Group |
| April 17 | Monthly Meeting: “Conducting an Oral History” (Tri-Area Community Center) |
| April 24 | Resource Corner: “The War of 1812” |

MILITARY REFERENCES IN THE LIBRARY

What a treasure awaits when it comes to Military resources in our Library. Hope you will come by the Research Center to check them out-literally! Remember members can take a book home for 2 weeks at a time and read it at their leisure.

Records: Look in the reference section for sources like the DAR Lineage Books, and under the state you are researching for others. We don't have a source for every state by any means, but here are a few that we do have

Connecticut Officers & Soldiers 1700-1800's

The Report - Ohio Quarterly Military Records 1966-1996

Virginia Military Records- Colonial Wars, Revolutionary War, War of 1812

Military Records for Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865

Record of First Michigan Cavalry, Civil War 1861-1865

Instruction on Researching Military Records: These finders aids and more will assist you in locating the records you need for your family research

How to Locate Anyone Who Has Been in the Military

Military Records: US, Federal and State Sources

World War II Military Records

The Great War

History of Military conflicts: It is only when you understand the larger picture that you can place your family into the picture

1776

Washington Crossing the Delaware

King Philip's War: Civil War in New England 1675-1676

The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War

Social history: Although a diary may not have been written by your ancestor or ancestress, these resources and more might help you know what they experienced during a military conflict

Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends, and Folklore

Civil War Reader

Civil War Era Etiquette

And, don't forget about the military records available on Ancestry.com and Footnote—both subscription websites are available at the Research Center for our members to use. At Footnote, in particular, the Revolutionary War Pension Records and Payrolls have an every-name index.

Charter member Illma Mund celebrated her 90th birthday on November 7th at Centralia where she is living with her son Ed and his wife Cindy. About 40 friends and relatives helped Illma celebrate with a nice luncheon, cake and a lot of visiting. Among those present were Harlean and Jerry Hamilton and Eileen and Bud Martin who traveled to Centralia to wish her a Happy Birthday.

Happy Birthday Illma from all of us at JCGS!



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

By Jesse Stewart

Another year almost come and gone—my how time flies! I can't believe it was eight years ago that I saw a little advertisement in the *Leader* for a beginning genealogy class, and that I've been hooked that long!

2009 has been a good one for JCGS. Coming off our 25th Anniversary year with a blockbuster Seminar featuring Elizabeth Shown Mills and other celebrations, we continued to grow our numbers, keep ourselves financially strong and offer many educational and sharing opportunities for our members in 2009.

As I related in the September newsletter, the Executive Committee met in August to plan a road map for the future of JCGS. Out of that discussion came the broadening of our Program Committee to include all educational opportunities—now called the Education Committee. Barb Way, our VP, graciously agreed to chair this important group and has gotten things off to a great start (THANK YOU, BARB!). We will be dividing our year into thirds, affectionately called “trimesters”. So, you'll notice that we've included information on upcoming programs through April of next year; and, our newsletters will be published three times a year from now on. For each “trimester”, we'll have a broad theme within which we'll try to focus our newsletter, monthly meetings and other programs, giving some continuity and opportunities for growth for our members.

Another outcome of our Executive Committee retreat and a vote in September at the membership meeting is an increase in our dues beginning in 2010—individual memberships will be \$20 per 12 month year and family memberships at \$30. We believe that with the additional income, our ability to offer subscription websites such as Ancestry.com and increase our library holdings will be assured.

Speaking of funds, we recently completed our initial budget for 2010. As of November, we find our endowment fund at Seattle Foundation increasing slightly in value—up to almost \$89,000. It's been hard hit by the downturn in the stock market, as most investments have. In addition, we had almost \$24,500 in cash, with about \$15,000 set aside for expenses related to the renovations of the Research Center and another \$3,000 in an emergency fund. The balance will be sufficient to pay outstanding bills for the rest of the year. Our expected expenses for 2010 will be \$9,300 which includes about \$3,000 for subscription websites and \$750 for our library collection. We anticipate that we might have to upgrade our software for the Kiosk, at an estimated cost of \$1,400, and are increasing funds for speakers for our monthly meetings to provide members with the best educational opportunities possible.

A big thanks to all who have contributed to the success of JCGS this year. And, wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Revolutionary War Pension Records: What you can learn from these important records

By Marge Samuelson

Elijah Balcom was a private and a drummer and fifer in the Revolutionary War. When he died in February 1798, he left a widow Marcy Daggett Balcom and six children. I searched for a pension for Elijah's service and found that his son Stephen had applied for his mother Marcy, and then as the sole survivor of Elijah after his mother's death. There were 67 pages in the pension file on Footnote!

Valuable genealogical information including the names of Elijah's father and grandfather, Marcy Daggett's birth date, the date of their marriage, and the names of all the children (with their dates of birth, marriage and deaths, and even where they lived) was uncovered. Also included were documents concerning Marcy's father who was a Colonel and under whom Elijah served!

Elijah's grandson gave an affidavit on Colonel John Daggett's and Elijah Balcom's service. Many others who knew the family also gave depositions from which I learned about their relationships with Elijah and Marcy and when and with whom they moved from Massachusetts to New York.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

| Title | Author | Comments |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Wills and Probate Records</i> [England] | Karen Grannum & Nigel Taylor | An excellent review of the information needed to use these records |
| <i>Zion on the Hudson</i> | Firth Haring Fabend | A look at life in this part of New York through the experience of one Dutch family |
| <i>The Story of Old Leland</i> | Mary Beth Munn Yntema | Written by a member of the pioneer families from this part of Jefferson County, WA |
| <i>Fort Flagler Families as of August 2009</i> | Carol Macki | Information on the soldiers who were at Fort Flagler |
| <i>Google Your Family Tree</i> | Daniel M. Lynch | An informative guide to better searching with Google — well presented and easy to use |
| <i>When the Mississippi Ran Backward</i> | Jay Feldmon | Historical background on the Mississippi valley at the time of the 1812 earthquake in Madrid, MO. A great reference for those with families in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio |

OUR MILITARY HISTORY (CON'T)

(Continued from page 1)

for pensions and hospitals for veterans. There were GAR “posts” in each state and some even overseas. Some of the National GAR records can be found at the Library of Congress, but local post records are hit and miss - some were placed in local historical societies, libraries, veterans posts, and state archives – but many were discarded or have not yet been uncovered.

One of the achievements of the GAR was the creation of the Old Soldiers’ Homes in the late 19th century. Veterans of the Civil War could turn to these medical facilities when they became ill. Ancestry.com has two databases relating to residents of some of these Homes. You might find medical records as well as death information on your veteran.

How about checking out information on aid societies and patriotic organizations? Most researchers are familiar with the larger patriotic organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. However, smaller, not so well know organizations also collect, preserve, and disseminate military information.

Visiting a battlefield, or better yet, a re-enactment, can give you a real feel for the event. Or a trip to the county of origin of your ancestor might uncover a memorial plaque or even monument to local veterans or soldiers killed during a war.

(Continued on page 12)



Thaddeus Smith Civil War Medal of Honor Winner

By Marge Samuelson

Jefferson County resident Thaddeus S. Smith was born May 13, 1847 at Cumberland, Pennsylvania. He fought with the 6th Pennsylvania Reserves and the 35th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War. He earned The Medal of Honor for heroism on July 2, 1863 at Gettysburg, PA. He also spent time as a prisoner of war at Andersonville Prison.

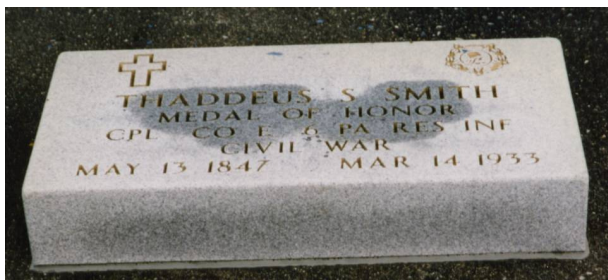
This is a description of the heroism that earned him the Medal of Honor. He was given the citation May 5, 1900:

Sixty-three Medals of Honor were awarded for heroism in the battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1 - 3, 1863. Corporal Thaddeus Smith was cited for his own heroism in one of only two actions wherein more than one man earned the Medal of Honor for the same action. On the afternoon of July the 6th Pennsylvania Reserves were engaged with enemy forces north of Devil's Den in severe fighting that was taking a deadly toll on the Union forces. When it was determined that most of the fire was coming from a small log cabin on the flank of the regiment, Corporal Smith, along with Sergeants George Mears, John Hart, and Wallace Johnson, and Corporals Chester Furman and Levi Roush, volunteered to make a daring attack on the cabin to dislodge the enemy sharpshooters. The six men moved stealthily towards the cabin, but were soon discovered by the rebels and came under a heavy fire. Bravely they ignored the danger and rushing forward, knocked down the barricades in front of the door and overwhelmed the enemy. Capturing the enemy strong point, they quieted the fire on their comrades and returned to their regiment with more than a dozen prisoners. All six were awarded the Medal of Honor for this daring assault.

Source: homeofheroes.com

Thaddeus Smith came to Jefferson County after the war and homesteaded in Leland Valley. Later he moved to Port Townsend and was employed by the U.S. Customs Service. He was the last living member of the local Faragut Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

Thaddeus S. Smith, Corporal, USA; CMH at Gettysburg; died March 14, 1933 and is buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery, Port Townsend, Washington



Sources: Civil War Medal of Honor websites, JCGS biography database, and *With Pride in Heritage: History of Jefferson County*

JCGS Seminar—Military Records through the Eyes of a Genealogist

JCGS is pleased to announce a seminar to be held March 20, 2010 featuring the records that are available for military service and where to find them. The documents resulting from military service frequently contain a wealth of genealogical information if you know what to look for. Carter L. Wilson III of Family Research Group will discuss these records for the Revolutionary War, the American Civil War—both Union and Confederate, and military encounters from the Civil War through World War I.

Do you know how many documents are missing from the National Archives? Neither do they! As deputy coordinator of the Idaho State Historical Records Board, Mr. Wilson has been a leading advocate for the recovery of lost and stolen documents and the enactment of replevin legislation. The final session of the day, “Our Vanishing Records” may shock you! It may anger you! Guaranteed, you’ll leave shaking your head!

Carter Wilson is a professional researcher and lecturer, specializing in US Military records, from the American Revolution to the current day. With more than 40 years of research experience and 36 years with the Federal government, he currently lectures on various topics of genealogical and historical research.

The seminar will be held at the Tri-Area Community Center in Chimacum from 9:00 to 4:30. JCGS will provide coffee and other beverages, but participants should bring their own lunches.

Heritage Quest Books will be here again with books available for purchase, so come early to browse the offerings.

Space is limited, so sign up early! You can use the registration form on this page or the one that will be posted on our website. The cost for registrations received on or before March 13th is \$25. Registration on the day of the event is \$30, but space is not guaranteed!

Registration Form
JCGS Seminar, 20 March 2009

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

**Enclose \$25 per seminar registrant, check made payable to JCGS. Send to
JCGS,
PO Box 627
Port Townsend, WA 98368-0627**

What's New on the Web

In our efforts to provide resources to our members, JCGS maintains subscriptions to several important websites, at a cost of about \$3,000 per year. We hope you all take advantage of these benefits of membership.

Ancestry continues to add many international databases—from Australia to France to Germany to Italy—so all of you who are actively researching abroad should be sure to check Ancestry on a regular basis. One thought—Ancestry provides a list of new or updated websites which you can check monthly to see if something of interest may have been included. That way, you don't have to search the whole website looking for new information on your ancestors.

Footnote has a Native American collection now available with information on tribes as well as actual records for individuals and a Holocaust Collection. More Federal census records (1900, 1910 and 1920) are being indexed with the opportunity for members to add stories about the people found on the censuses. [See Marge's success story using Footnote on page 7!]

New England Historic and Genealogical Society has added *The Virginia Genealogist* to its site and you can now download books to your ipod!

Newspaper Archives continues to add newspapers and pages of existing titles. It's a good idea to check the areas covered and the applicable time frames to see if your locations are covered before searching for your ancestors on this site, but you might luck onto some gem.

Officers

| | | | |
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| Membership | Tom Berg | grebmot@olypen.com | 643-1112 |

Jefferson County

PO Box 627
Port Townsend
Washington
98368-0627
360-385-9495

Research Center Location & Hours

13692 Airport Cutoff Road
Hours: 11 to 4
Tuesday–Saturday
\$4.00 admission for
non-members
\$2.00 children

We're on the Web!

<http://www.rootsweb.com/>

~wajcgs/

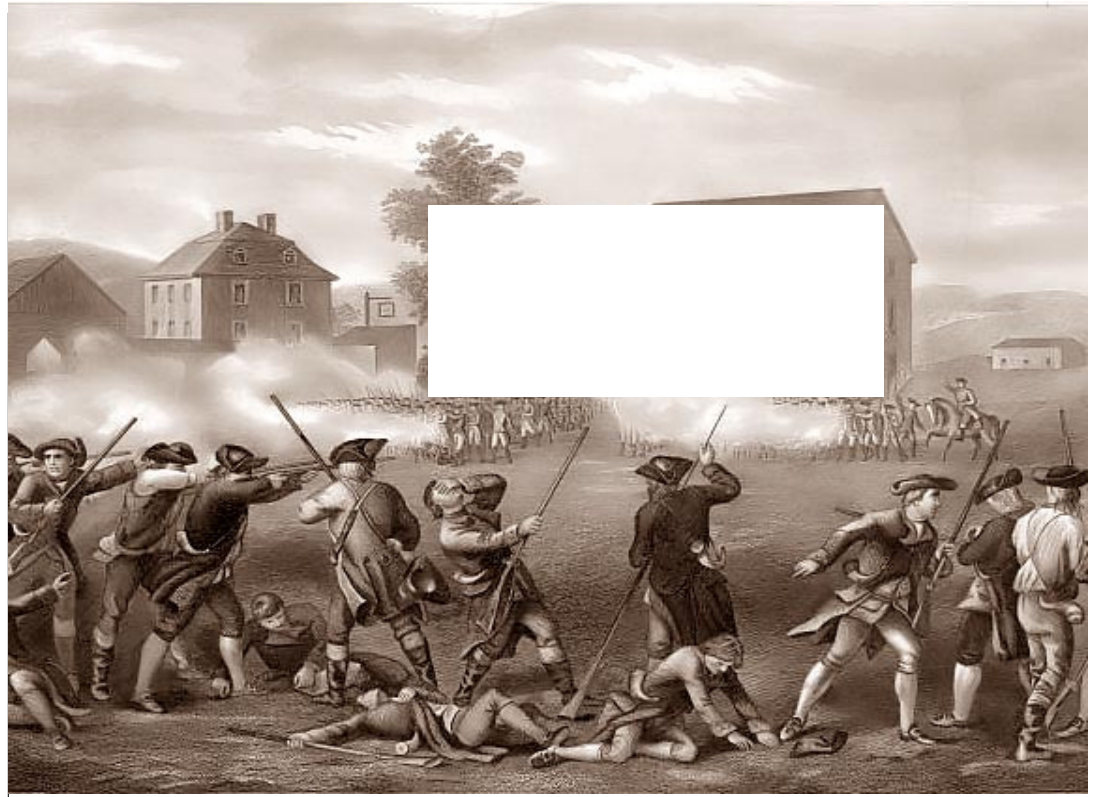
Meetings:

3rd Saturday
9:30 AM

Tri-Area
Community
Center

Chimacum,
Washington

Visitors
Welcome



(Continued from page 8)

If you're interested in what an ancestor's military experience was like – where did he travel and how, what did he eat, what were the battles he fought in and how did they progress, and more – there are a number of resources available to you. County and state histories often have good information about military groups formed in the area, and regimental histories discuss in detail the undertakings of a particular military unit. Many state archives and libraries have posted information about military history in their respective states. Bev Brice will help us better understand an important, but lesser understood, military event in America's history, the War of 1812, at our February Resource Corner.

But to get even more personal, diaries and letters kept by members of your ancestor's unit might be to your liking. The Fort Wayne Library at its Genealogy Center is collecting stories, photos, diaries, letters and more for all military experience at its "Our Military Heritage" website - <http://www.genealogycenter.info/military/>. You could also look to NUCMC (the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections) to explore other personal accounts (<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/>). This catalog will identify where manuscripts are held across the nation. Be sure to come to the January Monthly Meeting where Marge Samuelson will share with us a "Soldier's Life" during the Civil War using letters and journals written by the soldiers.

You might be lucky enough to have inherited military medals and ribbons. Some were given for service in a specific campaign, others for exemplary service or bravery and others for paying the ultimate sacrifice in service to the country. You might be able to identify your treasure on-line; a couple of websites that could help are <http://www.usamilitarymedals.com/> or <http://www.mymilitarymedals.com/>.