

# Part I, “Our Manifest Destiny Bids Fair for Fulfillment”: An Historical Overview of Vancouver Barracks, 1846- 1898, with suggestions for further research

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## SECTION II: INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND REGIONAL CONFLICT

### *The End of An Era: General Harney in Vancouver*

By 1859, Vancouver sported saloons, stores, a blacksmith shop, livery stable, a drugstore, the Metropolis Hall for dances and theatricals, a hotel, and the Henry Weinhard Brewery. The community consisted of the military post and about 100 civilian homes. Nearby soldiers could find attorneys, architects, butchers, apiparians,<sup>1</sup> apothecaries, and D.H. Hendee even made daguerrotypes. Only two things marred the settlement era - ongoing Indian problems and boundary conflicts with Great Britain. Despite treaties, not all indigenous people remained contentedly on reservations, and it was the military's job to insure peaceful settlement. In 1858 William Selby Harney, a renowned Indian fighter, became commander of the Department of Oregon. His orders were to punish the belligerents by waging total war, to “capture” Indian families, “destroy” their animals, and make “no overture of friendship. . . to any tribes.” Harney arrived October 25, 1858 as Vancouver citizens celebrated the outcome of the Indian campaigns. Without authorization, he rescinded a settlement ban east of the Cascades, declaring that the 42,000 remaining native peoples in Washington and Oregon Territories could be “easily controlled.” The following year Harney met with a group of Indians from the Pend d'Oreille, lower Pend d'Oreille, Flathead, Spokane, Colville, and Coeur d'Alene tribes in Vancouver. Kamiakin of the Yakamas almost met with Harney, but fled enroute having been told that Harney would kill him.<sup>2</sup>

With the Indian wars momentarily quieted, General Harney turned his efforts to the regional transportation system. Waterways and pack trails remained the most important travel means. A federal wagon road from Walla Walla to Steilacoom and “mud-plagued” private and territorial roads provided the only alternatives. In 1857, overland passage from Olympia to Portland took three days and cost approximately \$20.00. In November of 1858, Assistant Quartermaster Rufus Ingalls presented a detailed plan for a military road between Fort Dalles and Salt Lake City. Another road from Fort Benton, on the Missouri River, to Fort Walla Walla, was proposed. Lieutenant John Mullan was assigned to build what would become the greatest of all road projects in the territory. Mullan began the road in the summer and fall of 1859, completing 633 miles by the end of the following season. The road's purpose was to aid the movement of soldiers and emigrants and to provide a means for controlling Indians. But, the “Mullan Road,” like similar western military road projects, soon lost importance with the rapid quelling of Indian conflict, the War of Rebellion and the coming of the railroads. Military road projects provided a main source of activity until the Northern Pacific Railroad

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<sup>1</sup> Beekeepers.

<sup>2</sup> McLellan, *Vancouver*, 44; George Rollie Adams, “General William Selby Harney: Frontier Soldier, 1800-1899” (University of Arizona: Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, 1983), 294 - 296, 300 - 302; VanArsdol, *Northwest Bastion*, 15.

arrived in 1871-1872, connecting the Puget Sound to Kalama. Even later, small regional road projects kept troops occupied and assisted in opening transportation barriers.<sup>3</sup>

Other barriers to Americanization existed during the territorial era. Although the Hudson's Bay Company's possessory rights ended in 1859, questions remained about international boundaries. During the previous two years, misunderstanding and hostility increased between military officials and the HBC. In 1857 Quartermaster Rufus Ingalls requested placement of a military wharf at the site of the HBC Salmon Store. Company officials James Douglas and John Work vehemently opposed the proposition. In a letter to Dugald MacTavish, the two claimed the company was:

. . . truly in the position of the lamb in the fables; -our lands have been occupied by squatters, the countless herds of cattle which constituted the wealth of the establishment have disappeared and there now remains to us but the wreck of our once flourishing settlement at Vancouver.<sup>4</sup>

The company demanded \$30,000 for the Salmon House, threatening to sell it to someone else if the U.S. government wouldn't pay. Ingalls responded angrily. The military would not appropriate the building, he declared. But, not only was the HBC inconsistent in its previous agreements, since the 1846 boundary treaty the military presence provided the only reason for HBC survival in the region. Chief Factor Peter Skene Ogden, wrote Ingalls, was a "very shrewd businessman," who recognized the military's supportive role of the HBC through its purchase of lumber, other supplies and teams. "I have no idea that the United States will consent to buy its own soil," insisted Ingalls to Chief Factor Dugald MacTavish, proceeding to explain that others, including the Catholic Church, made claims to the site. "In the present instances," claimed Ingalls, "we clearly have as much right to put up the wharf and store houses on the bank of the river as we had to put up twenty-five houses on the slope in rear of your Fort, or to erect our stables, shops and my quarters, etc. in this vicinity." Commander T. Morris firmly endorsed the quartermaster's reply, both men reminding MacTavish that the HBC had only possessory rights and then, only to the land and buildings they actually used.<sup>5</sup>

The combination of relationships -- the close proximity between the military and the HBC in Vancouver and General Harney's response to the San Juan conflict -- nearly led the two nations to war in the summer of 1859. The exact location of the international boundary remained unclear, and hostilities grew between the HBC and U.S. settlers as the term of occupation came to a close. By early 1859, nearly 20 Americans claimed land on San Juan Island. In July, General Harney visited the island after an American killed an HBC pig. The ensuing conflict, known as "The Pig War," led Americans on the island to request military protection from the northern Indians, and from the British. Without orders Harney sent troops - eventually nine companies - to the island, causing an official protest from Governor Douglas. Harney's action led to a whirlwind tour by General-in-chief Winfield Scott who ordered all troops, except those under Captain Pickett (later a Major General in the Confederate Army), off of the island. Scott also ordered Harney to leave his post, but Harney refused.<sup>6</sup>

By placing troops on San Juan Island, Harney brought the nation to the brink of war. Some accused the southern-born officer of having ulterior motives. George B. McClellan speculated that Harney intended to draw Great Britain into a war that would overshadow sectional conflict, thus uniting Americans to prevent a civil war. Others believed Harney wanted to provoke a foreign war so that the

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, "Harney," 298-299.

<sup>4</sup> "Documents: Hudson's Bay Company Claims in the Northwest," *Washington Historical Quarterly* 19, 3 (July, 1928), 214-215.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 214-224.

<sup>6</sup> Adams, *Harney*, 311-325; House of Representatives, *Executive Document No. 98*, 36th Congress, 1st Session.

South could secede without opposition. The British thought he wanted to gain national attention and run for president, and others attributed his actions to antipathy toward the HBC. According to one biographer, Harney claimed “that he wanted only to protect American lives, property, and rights from northern Indians and the British.” Whatever the cause for Harney’s actions, his term on the West Coast was a heated period. In 1860, Chief Trader James Grahame and the few remaining HBC employees left Fort Vancouver. On July 5, 1860, General Harney left the Northwest also, having received orders to “repair without delay to Washington City and report in person to the Secretary of War.” The San Juan Boundary conflict remained unsettled until 1871 when the Second Treaty of Washington declared Haro Strait the boundary, peacefully incorporating the San Juan Islands into American territory.<sup>7</sup>

### ***The Army and the Community***

During the Indian wars of the 1850s, a large number of troops came to the Pacific Northwest. As far-off events brought the nation to civil war, the Third Artillery Regiment composed the main troops at Vancouver Barracks. The Third Artillery had marched and scouted along the Pacific Coast and with the Ninth Infantry played a major role in the Yakama Indian Wars. Following the HBC’s exit, the garrison at Vancouver dominated the landscape and the army used Company land to grow crops. With fewer Indian conflicts and a growing town nearby, the well-established garrison flourished. Many former HBC employees remained, sometimes working as servants for officers and their families in the diverse military community. In 1860 Henry C. Hodges and wife Anna lived with their small son, Henry C., and a Scottish servant named Margaret. Major Benjamin Alvord employed John Whitehead, a Frenchman, and Bridget Barnes of Ireland. Other high-ranking households employed Scottish and Irish servants during this period, and one, Lieutenant Robert McFeely and his wife Josephine, employed an Irish woman and thirteen year-old Jack, an Indian boy, to assist them. Everyday life in 1860 required intense human and animal labor. Water had to be hauled from the Columbia River or from nearby springs. Stables had to be maintained, horses fed, food grown, and soldiers’ duties ranged from groom, to “artificer,” (craftsman), to carriagemaker, to musician.<sup>8</sup>

In 1860, Colonel George Wright, commander of the Department of Oregon, maintained his headquarters in Vancouver. Companies A, B, C, D, G, and M, of the Third Artillery were under the command of William Ketchum, with the Vancouver Ordnance Depot and detachment also at the barracks. Joining the military provided one way for immigrants to become established in the United States. Although all of the commissioned officers in Vancouver were born in the United States, many of the soldiers were foreign-born. Some non-commissioned officers and their wives, however, were Irish. Patrick McGuire, who lived with his Irish wife Grace and their five children, ran the Ordnance Department. Unlike commissioned officers’ families, they had no servants. B.J. McMahan, the Ordnance Department blacksmith, and his Irish-born wife Jane, had three children under age four, all born in Oregon and Washington Territories. Fourteen men, all sharing quarters, comprised the musician’s company. Only one was born in United States.

Despite close quarters, hard work, and other frontier difficulties, emigrants considered Vancouver a healthful place to live, particularly in comparison to the rest of the nation. Oregon’s death rates were among the three lowest in the country, although typhoid fever, whooping cough, measles, malaria, and typhus appeared intermittently in mild and epidemic form. A form of dysentery also prevailed, probably springing from the waters of the Columbia, “which, when bottled for a day developed an unpleasant odor and rates a vast number of impurities.” In the early years, post surgeons

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*; VanArsdol, *Northwest Bastion*, 15.

<sup>8</sup> 1860 Census; Ted VanArsdol, “Clark County Medicine, Part II: U.S. Medical Department at Vancouver, 1849-1918;” *Northwest Bastion*, 16; *Clark County History* (Vancouver: Fort Vancouver Historical Society, 1980), 16.

also served the community out of buildings rented from the HBC. Joseph K. Barnes, the forty-two-year-old company surgeon, one of the most famous men to serve in Vancouver,<sup>9</sup> came to the city in 1857. The following year, the Sisters of Providence founded St. Joseph's Hospital in Vancouver and the military built a hospital. A majority of people who went to hospitals in the nineteenth century ended their lives there. Since Vancouver had no public cemetery until the end of the decade, the deceased were often buried in the military cemetery near the west boundary of the post, directly across the street from the current Providence Academy.<sup>10</sup>

### ***The Civil War comes to the Pacific Northwest***

The Civil War's effect in the Pacific Northwest has been overlooked by many historians, but Sara Jane Richter describes it as the "single most important event of the territorial years (1853-1889) of Washington." With the development of controversy over slavery, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, and the declaration of Chief Justice Roger B. Taney in the Dred Scott case, an idea brewed among some that the Pacific Northwest should be an independent republic.<sup>11</sup> Oregonians attempted to stay out of the fray by excluding blacks, either free or slave, from the territory. Washington Territory did not go to such lengths, but relied on isolation and a landscape more conducive to small farms than plantations, to inhibit slavery. Washingtonians were caught up in creating civil institutions, vying for capitol status, worrying about Indian hostilities, and developing communities, when in April of 1861, Civil War broke out at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Most regular army troops were immediately removed from regional military posts.

Conflict, fear, confusion in the East, and sectional strife in the Pacific Northwest characterized the next four years. Most citizens of Washington Territory claimed they supported the Union. Some sympathized with the Confederacy, and all followed the events of the war closely. By May, 1861, only one company of 50 men remained in Vancouver, but the garrison remained significant. As Colonel George Wright, commander of the Department of Oregon, pointed out, it was the main depot from which troops were supplied to the region.<sup>12</sup>

On May 1, 1861, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling forth the militia "of the several States of the Union to the aggregate number of 75,000." Two days later, the president called for another 42,000 men to serve for three years. Based on the presidential proclamation, acting governor, Henry M. McGill, issued a proclamation in Washington Territory calling for men of arms-bearing age, between sixteen and sixty, to volunteer for service. The territory prepared for the possibility of war, inventorying howitzers, muskets, sabres, and rifles in the blockhouse at Olympia. In May and June of 1861, it appeared that perhaps all regular troops in Washington Territory would be replaced by volunteers. Two main fears dominated the citizenry and the military during wartime -- attacks by Indians and attacks by

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<sup>9</sup> 1860 Census.; *National Guard Pamphlet*, vol. 3, 179; Barnes entered the army as an assistant surgeon in 1840 and served in both California and the Pacific Northwest in the 1850s before leaving for Civil War duties. He became head of the U.S. Medical Department in 1864, serving in that position for 18 years (VanArsdol, "Clark County Medicine," 15-16).

<sup>10</sup> Susan T.L. Courtney, "Democratic Ideology, the Frontier Ethos, Medical Practice and Hospital Culture: Pacific Northwest Health Seekers, Community Health and the Sisters of Providence, Vancouver, WA 1856-1879," (MA Thesis: Portland State University, 1992), 106; Margaret Miller Wiswall, in VanArsdol, "Clark County Medicine," 13; John C. Brougher, M.D., "Pioneer Medicine in Clarke County, Washington," *Northwest Medicine* (1958), 1-2; McLellan, *Vancouver*, 81; For a discussion of nineteenth century medical practice and its relationship to the Pacific Northwest, including the establishment and practice of St. James Mission and St. Joseph's Hospital, see Courtney, "Democratic Ideology."

<sup>11</sup> There were some who accused Governor Isaac Ingalls Stevens, a pro-slavery democrat, of uniting with Oregon politicians to form a Pacific Republic, Hubert Howe Bancroft, *The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, Vol. 31, History of Washington, Idaho, and Montana* (San Francisco: The History Club, Publishers), 207.

<sup>12</sup> Edgar I. Stewart, *Washington, Northwest Frontier*, Vol. II (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1957), 27.

Confederates off the Pacific Coast. Concerned about possible Indian aggression, Colonel Wright ordered abandonment of Camp Pickett on San Juan Island, but then rescinded the order. He placed the steamer *Massachussetts* at readiness in case of Confederate assault off of the coast. Wright feared that any moment “a single hostile steamer could enter the Columbia River and lay waste all the settlements to the Cascades,” as well as the city of Portland. And the army had neither the troops nor the ordnance to defend the region from heavy guns.<sup>13</sup>

In July of 1861, Congress passed the Volunteer Employment Bill to fill the gap left by regulars. Volunteers were to serve no less than six months and no more than three years, and they would receive the same treatment as regular soldiers. Only 6,000 men were of arm-bearing age in Washington Territory, and enlistment lagged. General Wright complained that “the newly discovered mines draw off a large portion of the able bodied men.” War combined with the 1858 discovery of gold on the Fraser River disrupted settlement patterns. Fields languished as men abandoned farms to seek riches, supply costs rose exorbitantly, and luxuries became scarce. A barrel of flour sold for \$20.00, “usually spoiled” beef for fifteen cents a pound, wood for \$30.00 a cord, potatoes at a dollar a bushel, and a gallon of whiskey -- the medicinal cure-all -- sold for \$17.60. Volunteers lived in log barracks, slept on hay mattresses, and received beans, pork, and sugar as staples. During the Civil War 964 men from Washington Territory became volunteers, and troops from California and Oregon also staffed regional posts.<sup>14</sup>

In late October, 1861, five companies of California volunteers arrived in the Northwest and camped near Vancouver. Company E remained in Vancouver, and the rest went to other Northwest posts. Many of the California volunteers, having sought Civil War glory, were dissatisfied with their assignments. Rather than experiencing bloody battles, Northwestern volunteers garrisoned forts and on occasion pursued Indians, usually Shoshones. By 1862, Oregon furnished volunteer soldiers for the Pacific Northwest and the First Oregon Cavalry replaced Californians on frontier posts. The Oregon cavalymen protected civilians from criminals, both Indian and white, who attacked Oregon Trail emigrants. Throughout the war, the cavalymen were involved in Indian/government relations. Complex relations existed between Indians and whites. Each group feared the other, and whites were often the source of problems. Although some Indians attacked settlers who usurped their lands, many white men, capitalizing on a Euro-American cultural view of Indian inferiority, created tense relations by selling them whiskey, stealing their horses and raping their women.

In addition to coping with internal problems, Northwestern volunteer soldiers defended the Pacific Coast from potential Confederate invasion. One of the major outcomes of the Civil War on Washington Territory was the beginning of fortifications for defending the Columbia River. A coastal attack could have meant loss of the entire Pacific coast. The army built Fort Canby at Cape Disappointment as part of the coastal defense system under the Congressional Northwest Coastal Defense Plan of July, 1862. Gold-laden ships from California, bound for the East Coast and Europe, gave Northwesterners and General George Wright reason to fear. On October 8, 1864, Captain James I. Wadell of the Confederate Navy left England bent on capturing Pacific Coast treasure ships. When he left England, Wadell lowered the Union Jack and raised the Confederate flag, changing the name of his ship from *Sea King* to *Shenandoah*. The pirate Confederate cruised the Pacific coast during the latter part of the war, capturing thirty-eight vessels, allowing eight to go free, and burning and scuttling the others.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> *National Guard Pamphlet*, 184-185; Sara Jane Richter, “Washington and Idaho Territories,” *Journal of the New West* (16: 2), 29; VanArsdol, *Northwest Bastion*, 18.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, “Washington and Idaho Territories,” 29.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, 30-31.

Fear of Confederate and Indian attack kept territorial and state volunteers working during the war years. Vancouver continued as headquarters of activities in the Northwest, directing the building of Forts Klamath, Boise, and Lapwai. Company I of the First Washington Territorial Infantry was stationed at Vancouver with Company A of the 9th Infantry under Major Pinkney Lugenbeel, with the Vancouver Arsenal under the command of Captain Theodore Eckerson of the Ordnance Corps. Throughout the war, volunteer soldiers signed up for duty, going through Vancouver as they moved on to other posts. Among these young men was William Hilleary, born in Des Moines County, Iowa in 1840. At the age of twenty-one, young William decided to try his luck in the West, paying \$20.00 for steerage from San Francisco to Portland. In November of 1864, William rode to the state fairgrounds in Salem, Oregon where recruiter Abner W. Waters of Linn County was speaking, and the local women sang songs such as "Stand up for Uncle Sam my boy." A few days later, William decided it was his duty to give "service to the best government on the earth, that rebels were trying to overthrow." So he rode to Albany and enlisted for three years, "unless sooner discharged."<sup>16</sup>

### ***A Volunteer Soldier in Vancouver***

Volunteer troops remained active until 1866, and Hilleary performed a number of duties during his stint as a soldier. His first duty was at Fort Hoskins, Oregon, and on April 16, 1865 he moved to Vancouver where he was struck by the beauty of the town. "But alas," wrote the young diarist, "every alternate house . . . is a grog shop or house of ill fame." When Hilleary arrived, the town still reeled from the April 14 assassination of Abraham Lincoln. One soldier, having declared, "Lincoln ought to have been shot 4 years ago," was in the chokebox. The soldier received ten years hard labor and a ball and chain, "rather expensive rejoicing to that 'blue' coat," decided Hilleary. That night, another soldier, Private Griffith, had the "horrors," and the new arrivals took him to the nearby hospital. The following day, a gun fired every hour in honor of Lincoln, and two days later a twenty-one-gun funeral salute for the president took the place of daily drill. On April 27 Vancouver troops went to Portland for a memorial in honor of Lincoln. A squad from Company F participated, but "old soldiers" and the volunteers were an awkward combination when it came to battalion drill. Hilleary described a free dinner at a hotel given by the ladies of Portland as the highlight of the trip.<sup>17</sup>

Hilleary spent nine months in Vancouver. He spent most of his time as Corporal of the Guard at one of the three guard houses. Twenty one prisoners, dubbed "Company 2," were confined at the principal guardhouse, a "comfortable two story house." The young soldier complained often of hunger. Supplies were short and expensive and a soldier could "eat up all his wages and not be a glutton either," he wrote in his diary. Hard tack and coffee, carrot soup, and rotten mutton were common fare. Some soldiers resorted to stealing food. One Sunday a group of men went fishing:

Some of the boys bait hooks for fish others bait them for chickens. the unsuspecting hen swallows the bait, when alas the soldier takes her under his arm, walks to quarters. a chicken with a hook on its throat neither squawks nor flutters.

The soldiers of Company F did not care for pay in depreciated greenbacks, nor did they like more personal government regulations. When the company was formed, each soldier received two sets of blankets and chose his "bunkee." But when they arrived in Vancouver, officers divided the company into squads, "compelling men to change the 'bunkees' for others 'with the itch.'" After considerable protest, the captain, A.W. Waters, decided the men could sleep "just as we had heretofore."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> William Hilleary, "Diary, Vol. I," May 5, 1865, MSS 919, Oregon Historical Society, Portland Oregon.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*

Nearby Portland provided some diversion for soldiers, as did card games, “catch dollar shows” at the Oak Grove Theater, and saving a young “Siwash” from coercion. When a young Indian girl was forced to accompany a white man to his home in April of 1865, her father appealed to the military. A corporal and four men went to the white man’s house and found the girl “under a bed in one corner of the house. The soldiers reprimanded the culprit and the father took his daughter and ‘skedaddled.’” A few days later Hilleary went on furlough, spending twenty-four free hours in Portland. Unlike earlier soldiers who had to troop along bridle paths, Hilleary reached the city in nearly an hour-and-a-half, first taking the steamer *Wilson S. Hunt*, then the *Fannie Troupe*. After a rough evening in a pub, then at the house of a “friend,” whose wife was none too pleased with his company, Hilleary spent the following day about town, having his photo taken to send home to mother and to his “girl.” Before leaving the army, the young soldier participated in military road explorations, caring for government animals, and the common dilemma of a soldier -- trying to make enough money to survive while serving his country. Although he received a clothing allowance,<sup>19</sup> soldier’s pay was low, \$108.00 for six months duty, and prices were high. During his first year as a soldier, Hilleary purchased infantry pants for \$4.75, a forage cap for a dollar, a shirt for \$1.50, two pair of shoes, one sewed, for \$2.70, the other pegged, for \$2.25, and suspenders for \$1.33.<sup>20</sup>

### ***The War Ends and the Battles Begin***

With the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to U.S. Grant at Appamattox, Virginia on April 9, 1865, volunteer troops mustered out and the reassignment of regulars began.<sup>21</sup> Part of the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry was stationed at Vancouver from 1865 to 1866. Known as the “Bloody” or the “Fighting” 14th because of their actions during the Civil War, townspeople initially considered them a rowdy bunch. Soon after their arrival the *Vancouver Register* complained there were more than the usual “drunken persons, supposed to be soldiers. . . roaming about town during the late hours of the night.” Thirteen soldiers were tried on various charges that year. One who had attacked an ordnance officer was sentenced to hard labor. He carried a fourteen pound ball and chain for a year and forfeited \$10 monthly from his pay. But the “boys in blue” eventually became part of the community. The community especially appreciated the 14th band for sending “sweet music to our citizens along our principal streets.” When the soldiers left in 1866, the local newspaper lamented their loss.<sup>22</sup>

At the war’s end Vancouver experienced an economic downturn, and an ongoing rivalry began with nearby Portland, Oregon. Although the territorial population doubled during the war years, from 11, 594 to 23,955, the local paper worried about development. The economy lagged and the barracks declined as the commissary and quartermaster depots conducted business from Portland. The Oregon Steam Navigation Company, with headquarters in Portland, was the root of the problem, claimed the *Vancouver Register*:

Vancouver has superior natural advantages, but they have been neglected and thus harmed by a lack of enterprise. Business is active. Every house in town is occupied, and several new ones are in process of erection. A considerable number of emigrants are finding their way into our

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<sup>19</sup> Hilleary’s clothing allowance was \$8.44 for the first year and \$5.24 the second.

<sup>20</sup> Hilleary Diaries, Books 1 & 2.

<sup>21</sup> Ted VanArsdol provides a detailed explanation of the comings and goings of troops at the end of the Civil War in *Northwest Bastion*, 24-27.

<sup>22</sup> VanArsdol, “The Famed Fourteenth, Vancouver’s Favorite, Part I,” *Clark County History* 12 (Fort Vancouver Historical Society, 1971), 74; The Fourteenth Infantry returned to Vancouver in 1884. The article is part 1 in a series highlighting the involvement of the Fourteenth at Vancouver Barracks during the turbulent years of 1884-1893.

county, notwithstanding the obstacles thrown in their way. . . We want the Company's railroad and the wagon road both, across the portage. The former we have, and the latter we have no doubt can be had if the right steps be taken. . . The present condition of things amounts to an actual embargo upon our prosperity, and it is the duty of all interested to step unitedly forth and demand its removal.<sup>23</sup>

The town needed a feed and provisions store, a place where family supplies such as vegetables, fruit, flour, butter, cheese, together with oats, barley, mill feed, and other things could be purchased at the same time; and a good new building for hotel purposes would benefit the city. Although people took land under the Homestead Act at \$1.25 per acre, including especially good land northeast of Vancouver, the paper declared the town was dying.

Shifting the military presence to Portland was partly to blame for Vancouver's demise. Although some soldiers remained on the Vancouver post, from 1867 through 1878 Department of Columbia commanders maintained their offices in Portland. Not only were the commanding officers gone, but the musicians of the 23rd Infantry became the pride of Portland.<sup>24</sup> When Brigadier General Crook recommended abandoning the dilapidated Vancouver post, local residents voiced concern. Citizens took pride in the community's military heritage, and the life of soon-to-be president Ulysses S. Grant, whose West Coast business enterprises failed miserably, was lauded as a Vancouver success story. "Captain" Grant's life, claimed the *Vancouver Register* could teach young people "that in waiting there are exceeding great rewards. If need be one must wait his whole life and expect the time of opportunity in the next world. To learn to wait is the highest wisdom."<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> *Vancouver Register*, November 11, 1865.

<sup>24</sup> VanArsdol, *Northwest Bastion*, 25, 29-33; Richter, "Washington and Idaho," 32.

<sup>25</sup> *Vancouver Register*, October 7, 21, 1865.