





IT'S A NEW YEAR WITH NEW STORIES TO SHARE

On January 18, 2025

WHEN THE RAILROAD CAME TO TILLAMOOK COUNTY

Presented by Martin E. Hansen
Railroad Historian and author of numerous books and articles on Pacific Northwest railroads, Martin Hansen has helped restore and operate numerous steam locomotives in the Western United States including some here in Tillamook County. Much of his family is from Tillamook County so he is very familiar with the impact the railroad had here.

Presenting compelling stories on the history of the Nehalem Valley is one of the most enjoyable things we do at NVHS. Our 2025 line-up starts with two fascinating programs.

On **January 18**, the year starts with Martin Hansen, railroad enthusiast extraordinaire. He will be sharing the story of the important impact the railroad had on Tillamook County, both for its economy and growth of business and population. The railroad's connection to Portland meant cargo and people had a direct link to the coast.

On February 8, 2025






OREGON'S BLACK HISTORY: 450 YEARS IN 45 MINUTES

**OREGON
BLACK
PIONEERS**

**Presented by
Zachary Stokes,
Executive Director
Oregon Black Pioneers**

Public historian, museum professional, outdoor educator

On **February 8**, in honor of Black History Month, Zachary Stokes will correct the record the history of African-Americans in Oregon, highlighting key individuals and events that characterize the state's unique and centuries-old Black history. Stokes is the executive director of Oregon Black Pioneers.

Programs take place at 3:30 pm
North County Recreation District
36155 9th Street, Nehalem
\$10 at the door
Proceeds help fund NVHS programs.

"History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future."

Robert Penn Warren

Upcoming in March and April, dates to be determined: films about Manzanita, Nehalem and Wheeler, developed by historian Mark Beach and videographer Carl Vandervoort. **In May**, our annual **Memorial Day Honors Program** will take place at the historic Nehalem American Legion Cemetery. May 26, 2025.

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**NVHS IS A 501C3
NONPROFIT DEDICATED
TO PRESERVING THE
HISTORY OF
THE NEHALEM VALLEY**

**MUSEUM HOURS ARE
SATURDAYS 1PM - 4PM,
YEAR-ROUND, OR BY
APPOINTMENT**

**225 LANEDA AVE.
MANZANITA.**

**DOCENTS WILL BE THERE
TO GREET YOU**

TO PRESERVING OUR HISTORY, WE NEED YOUR HELP

A major goal of NVHS is to preserve the history of the Nehalem Valley by digitizing our archives and historical records. While we've accomplished quite a bit of that work, we still have a lot to do - **about \$20,000 worth**. Our archivist, Steven Gibson, volunteers his time to organize the digital process, and other volunteers are helping with cataloging. If you are interested in donating, please email us at info@nehalemvalleyhistory.org. You'll be an important part of preserving Nehalem Valley history for generations to come.



**Pernal F. Tindel,
U.S. Coast Guard,
patrolling the
Nehalem River
1943**

**Pernal with
Ellen Edgar
Tindel,
Nehalem
1943**



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: EILEEN NORDQUIST

Eileen Nordquist, NVHS board secretary, has long roots in our community. Her family homesteaded in the Nehalem and Tillamook areas over 100 years ago. As a child, she stayed with her grandparents in Nehalem each summer through high school. This story by Eileen is about her parents.



My dad, Pernal F. Tindel, joined the U.S. Coast Guard in San Francisco right after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He was stationed in Astoria, Seaside and then Ketchikan. While stationed in Astoria, his duties included patrolling the Nehalem Bay and River.

While off-duty, he met my mother, a hometown girl from Nehalem, Ellen V. Edgar, daughter of George and Alice Edgar. Mom was in the class of 1942 at Nehalem High School. My father met her at the Natatorium in Rockaway Beach in the roller skate arena. They dated for about a year, then married in 1943. I came on the scene the following year, followed by my sister a year later, then my brother in 1948.

After the war, our family moved to Marysville, California, but my sister and I spent all our childhood summers in Nehalem on my grandparent's farm with our many cousins - the Edgars and Halversons. We herded cows, picked berries for homemade pies baked on a wood stove, and walked to town. During this time, I met the Scovell, Woodward, Crawford and Porter families.

I married a Beale Air Force Airman and upon his discharge, we moved to a different Marysville, the one in Washington, and started a family. When I retired, I knew where I wanted to land: in the Manzanita/Nehalem area. I've been here for 24 years now and wouldn't change my decision for anything.

HONORING CIVIL WAR VETERANS

The historic Nehalem American Legion Cemetery, located on Necarney City Road between Nehalem and Manzanita, is a memorial to area residents born in the 1800s, as well as for their descendants. It is the resting place for many veterans of wars, including the Civil War, Spanish- American War, World Wars I and II, and Korean, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

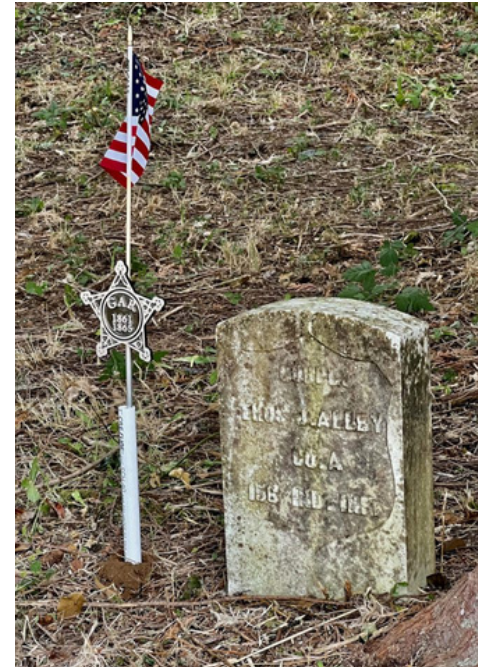
However, it's not the only final resting place for veterans. Pioneer families buried their loved ones on their property, close to the homestead. That's where we found gravesites for two Civil War veterans of the Alley family of Nehalem. John Marshall Alley and his brother, Thomas Jefferson Alley, both sons of an Indiana family, were drafted into the U.S. Union Army to serve during the Civil War, John in 1861, and Thomas in 1863. John was assigned to the 99th Regiment, Indiana Infantry, and his brother Thomas to the 156th Regiment, also Indiana Infantry. They both survived the war, and were discharged in 1865, John as a First Lieutenant, and Thomas as a Corporal.

After being discharged, John and his wife Martha migrated from Indiana to the west coast via New York on a ship that took them all the long way to Panama. From there, they traveled by boat and land across the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean. They first stopped in San Francisco, then onto Grass Valley, California, where they lived from 1866 to 1882. During that time, they had two children, Herbert and Olive.

On October 22, 1882 they headed to Oregon where they settled on their new homestead on the North Fork of the Nehalem River, arriving here on October 31. Thomas, five years older than John and a teacher in Indiana, eventually followed his brother to Nehalem.

They built a home and farm, which is still standing and remains in the family, now owned by descendant Helen Knight. John and Thomas might be surprised to learn that 140 years after they arrived here, Nehalem would still be home to 100 of their descendants.

John died in 1911 at the age of 75, and Thomas in 1920 at age 89. Considering their history in the Civil War, and long, arduous treks getting to Oregon, they lived full and adventurous lives. They are both buried in the family's private cemetery on the farm where they spent the majority of their lives.



Gravestone of Thomas Alley with Civil War insignia.



Janay Myers, descendant of the Alley brothers, on the original homestead.

NEHALEM VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER

Our success is measured by our members. Without you, we wouldn't be able to preserve and share local history for future generations of researchers, students, writers and history buffs.

To renew or join, send a check to NVHS, PO Box 704, Manzanita, OR 97130, or drop off your form at NVHS at 225 Laneda Ave. in Manzanita. We're here on Saturdays from 1-4 pm, or by appointment. **Contact us at info@nehalemvalleyhistory.org**

Visit our website
nehalemvalleyhistory.org

MESSAGE FROM TOM CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NVHS



The Renaissance of NVHS is exciting. If you look at our history, beginning in 1986, NVHS has been a vibrant organization. We held regular meetings for members, and members researched and wrote books about our local history. For a while, we lost our focus and couldn't agree on direction. Those days are over. We have dedicated, enthusiastic board members and an intriguing series of programs. Mark Beach is a prolific reporter of our history. His teaming with filmmaker Carl Vandervoort, Riverbend Players and local musicians provides inspiration for what we can be. Let's keep this momentum. Talk to us about contributing to NVHS. We welcome your ideas.

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Nehalem Valley Historical Society



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NEHALEMVALLEYHISTORY.ORG

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