



HONORING VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

The historic Nehalem American Legion Cemetery, located on Necarney City Road between Nehalem and Manzanita, is the resting place for many veterans of wars, including the Civil War, Spanish- American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. 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 grave sites for two Civil War veterans of the Alley family. 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 lived in California until 1882, when they headed to Oregon, where they settled on their new homestead on the North Fork of the Nehalem River. 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 Janay Myers. John and Thomas might be surprised to learn that 144 years after they arrived, Nehalem would still be home to more than 100 of their descendants.



Gravestone of Thomas Alley with an official Civil War 5-star medallion grave marker.



John Alley in his Civil War uniform



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CIVIL WAR VETERANS BURIED IN THE NEHALEM AMERICAN LEGION CEMETERY

**JOHN BATZNER,
3RD INDIANA CAVALRY**

**HENRY DOWNING
8TH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER
INFANTRY**

**WILLIAM FINLEY
1ST MICHIGAN CAVALRY**

WILLIAM GILMORE

**FELIX ROY
FIRST CHOCTAW AND
CHICKASAW MOUNTED
RIFLES**

**MATHIS SPRINGER
104TH REGIMENT, OHIO
INFANTRY**

JACOB WOMELSDORF

MANZANITA'S POPULAR LODGING WAS MILITARY HOUSING IN WORLD WAR II

During WWII, Manzanita and the surrounding North Oregon Coast were on high alert. Beaches in the Nehalem and Manzanita area were patrolled by local militia and U.S. Coast Guard personnel, often on horseback. Surveillance of the coastline was conducted by U.S. Navy blimps from the Naval Air Station Tillamook (NAST) in Tillamook. They regularly patrolled the North Oregon coast, including the areas near Manzanita, Seaside, and Rockaway Beach. These "K-class" airships were used to search for enemy submarines.

Coastal patrols, beach blackouts, and air raid drills to counter potential Japanese invasions were all part of living here during the war years.

Military personnel lived in Manzanita, too, during those years. What is now the Ocean Inn was originally built in the early 1940s as a single apartment building, and served as officer housing, specifically what are now suites 101-104. The building stayed in its original structure until changes and expansion occurred in the late 1990s, when the "Oceanview" building (suites 105-110, office, and laundry) was added.

Lodging now known as the Sand Dune Inn originated as officers' barracks at Camp Rilea in Warrenton. In 1946, after WWII, the barracks were moved to Manzanita and placed on Dorcas Street to accommodate the growing number of visitors returning to the Oregon Coast.



Now the Ocean Inn, this building housed military personnel in oceanfront apartments.



The Sand Dune Inn was once officers' barracks at Camp Rilea in Warrenton. The barracks were moved to Manzanita in 1946.



U.S. Coast Guard often patrolled the beaches on horseback.

U.S. Navy blimps, stored in the huge Hangars at Naval Air Station Tillamook, frequently flew over the north coast searching for enemy submarines. Photo was taken at Seaside.



NEHALEM VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS, DONORS AND SPONSORS

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What happens when a historical society joins the 21st century?
You can now renew your membership or make a donation online - with a credit card!

For memberships:

<https://nehalemvalleyhistory.org/membership-application/>

For donations:

<https://nehalemvalleyhistory.org/donation/>



What your membership, donations and sponsorships do to help NVHS

Our job at Nehalem Valley Historical Society is to collect, protect and preserve the history of our corner of the world. We take our work seriously because we want to honor your support. While we seek grants to fund our ongoing projects — such as newsletters, programming events, digital preservation of archives, and caring for our local cemetery — it's our members, donors and sponsors that keep our doors open and projects ongoing.

Thank you to our members, donors and sponsors for all you do to keep our history preserved and shared.

***Thank you for
your support***

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NEHALEM VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

**IMPORTANT
MESSAGE
FROM
TOM
CAMPBELL,
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
OF NVHS**



VOLUNTEERS ARE EVERYTHING

When I think about the accomplishments of the Nehalem Valley Historical Society, I can't help but remark about what a group of volunteers can do. NVHS has no paid staff. None of us has any background in running a museum or an archive. What we know is all self-taught.

Our upcoming program for Memorial Day is a project that we took on when community members realized that no one was organizing that year's event. They turned to NVHS. Board member Eileen Nordquist stepped up and arranged for speakers and musicians, such as Bob La Torre. The event has grown; last year, more than 200 people attended the ceremony.

Our programs are the result of volunteers, too. Board members think of topics that will be of interest to our community and find first-class speakers to come to NCRD to provide engaging, educational presentations on our history. Then there are the volunteers that do the presentations, among them are Mark Beach and Carl Vandervoort who produced videos about our logging history and notable settlers. Their recent program about the 1996 floods brought Lorraine Ortiz and Vivi Tallman to the front. Board members Tom Mock and Carl Whiting gave a fascinating talk about new finds on the search for artifacts of the Beeswax Galleon.

Our newsletter and website are coming together with the help of volunteer president, Nan Devlin. On the website you can find our digital archive, developed by Steven Gibson and Mark Kuestner. Others have promised to help organize those collections by doing back-office work. And Will Sonnenfeld's accounting skills have upgraded our financial reporting.

This year, thanks to the generosity of Jan Bell, we sold the recreational steam tug, the Captain Bell, owned by our departed board member, Dave Bell. Rob Borgford and Tom Mock spent months finding a buyer. With proceeds of the sale, we established the Bell Family Memorial Scholarship to benefit a deserving student from Neahkahnne High School interested in a future in the trades. The first award will be made in May. We hope to grow the fund to a self-perpetuating endowment.

The museum is open on Saturdays with volunteer docents. We organize work parties for cemetery clean-up and help with historical research. All of this is done because our volunteers want to strengthen the community and preserve its history. I couldn't be prouder of everyone. Interested in volunteering? We have lots of activities for you.



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NVHS is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to preserving the history of the Nehalem Valley