



MAY NEWSLETTER

Meeting Tuesday May 11th, 5:30 at Montlake Library:

We are closing out the season of monthly meetings with two enduring subjects. On April 13th we heard a participant's description of an Indian battle that ended with no one killed, but rather a long legal struggle to restore some of their sovereignty. The Indians won this time with the hugely important Boldt court decision. The speaker was Alvin Ziontz, the lead attorney for the Indians. May's meeting will be a good follow up. Our season ends with John C. Jackson speaking about an interesting historical figure we all know by his name, but hardly more than that, Meriwether Lewis.

Jackson writes, "Meriwether Lewis is usually portrayed as the leader of the Corps of Discovery and his career before that appointment and following it, has been largely ignored or distorted through sentimentalization and unfounded speculation." With Thomas Danisi he produced the first fully documented study of Lewis' life to correct imputations upon his character. At the May meeting he will present incidents from Lewis' life to give a fuller understanding of a misunderstood young man who might, had he lived, become the next member of the famous Virginia dynasty. The talk will include comments on the pandemic malaria that drove him to his death and tormented everyone in the deadly river valleys of the emerging west.

Jackson, describing himself as "part beaver, part beaver tale," has been documenting the mythic fur trade for over fifty years. His first book on *David E. Jackson*, concerns one of the founders of the Rocky Mountain hunt is now out of print as is his *The Piikani Blackfeet*. But Oregon State press put the *Children of the Fur Trade* back on the shelf. And his *Meriwether Lewis* is going into a second printing along with the fall publication of *By Honor and Right: How One Man Boldly Defined the Destiny of a Nation*. A major narrative history of "The North West Company Columbia Adventure" is being completed and will provide new insights into fur trade activities on the Pacific Slope.

Please Note the time and place: 5:30pm at the Montlake Branch Library (2401 24th Ave E.) on Tuesday May 11th.

Coming Events:

January 11th the Historians Guild will hold its Annual Banquet with Jack Nisbet as our guest of honor and speaker. He is a teacher, naturalist and one of the region's best known authors with several admired books on Northwest history.

Garry Schalliol sends an alert on the **Civil War in the Pacific Northwest**

- 1). Fort Steilacoom Living History Open House – Fort Steilacoom, May 1 and 2

- 2). Battle for Fort Steilacoom – Fort Steilacoom Park, Lakewood, May 1 and 2
- 3). Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable – Seattle, May 20
- 4). James McPherson Speaking – Oregon Historical Society, March 18

For more information, please contact Garry at garrys@wshs.wa.gov

Guild Board Events:

On June 1, president-elect Robert Foxcurran will take office and Paul Spitzer will retire to a one year position on the board. To Junius Rochester and Dan Peterson on their retirement from the board, we extend our thanks for their years of service.

Rob may be reached at robert.r.foxcurran@gmail.com and Paul, who will continue sending out the Newsletter, is available at bornbutonce@gmail.com. Judy Bentley continues as treasurer. Other remaining members of the board include Trish Nicola, Jodee Fenton, Jon Olivera and Bridget Murphy

Beginning in June, Junius becomes president of the Pioneer Association of Washington State. The society focuses on the era prior to statehood (1889). He continues as the historian aboard cruise boats on the Alaska-Columbia River-Intracoastal Waterway.