During a three-decade period, between 1932 and 1965, a three-story structure that overlooked Western State Hospital (WSH) was known as “the White House.”

Better known as the “Hill Ward”, the building housed male patients who tended the hospital’s extensive farm as part of their occupational therapy. A century earlier, much of the land in the area had been used as the headquarters for the Hudson Bay Company’s Puget Sound Agricultural operation, and then the US Army purchased the land. In 1871 it became the setting for the asylum.

One story, telling about the WSH farm and its role in saving the state’s dairy herds, is available at the Suttler’s Store at Historic Fort Steilacoom, where its four restored buildings provide a glimpse back in time to the 1850s when the U.S. Army set up its operations in this area.

Over time the hilltop building was vandalized, and graffiti artists added their neon-colored creative touches (left) to the ward’s crumbling walls.

After Hill Ward closed in the mid-1960s, for the next decade the hilltop location was used as a Search and Rescue training site. More than 1,500 responders trained there to assist in emergencies such as the Oklahoma City bombing, and the 9/11 attack on the East Coast.

See HILL WARD, pg 7
President’s Message

I hope all of you found time to enjoy your family and friends over the holidays. In reflecting on last year’s accomplishments, I appreciate the progress we have made and I’m grateful for your continued support.

There is one major concern facing the Society this year. There are not enough volunteers to accomplish the goals and activities we have already started, much less start new ones. The need is not just leadership on the Board, but every aspect—museum docents and committee members. There are many opportunities and a place for anyone who loves our local history and wants to save it. A list of the specific needs is on page 6.

Not all of the projects and tasks can be handled by volunteers, so the Board will be exploring hiring a part-time Museum Director who will assist in the management of the collections and exhibits. We have set aside money in our budget to do this.

In February, the City of Lakewood will be celebrating its 20th birthday. We will be coordinating special activities with the City that will include the reinstallation of the Cityhood exhibit and a special program at City Hall. Details are listed on page 12.

In October, we are celebrating another occasion—the Museum’s 10th Anniversary. After inventorying all of the exhibits we have installed, the visitors we’ve had, and the events we have hosted, it is amazing to realize that it happened with an all-volunteer organization with the assistance of several museum consultants. A special Open House will be held for the occasion.

In November, I will have served 10 years as President of the Society. I have come to realize it is time for someone else to “carry the water”. Fortunately, we have another experienced Board member who more than meets the qualifications—Sue Scott, who has served as Secretary for the last eight years. I will be mentoring her as Vice President this year in preparation for Sue moving up to the Presidency in November 2016.

Becky Huber

Designed in 1914 by Tacoma architect and Lake City resident Ambrose Russell. Russell designed the Perkins Building, the Tacoma Armory, the Washington State Governor’s Mansion, Sunrise Lodge at Mount Rainier, and many others.

Unlike his contemporary E. J. Bresemann, whose works included 24 schools, Russell designed only one—now empty. It is hoped this historic structure can be preserved for some good use.
The **Ankh**, an Egyptian symbol for life, is prominently displayed in the front yard at 5928 Steilacoom Boulevard, S. W. It has been Lakewood Historical Society Board Director **Glen Spieth**'s logo for more than 30 years. It barely hints at the veritable Aladdin’s Cave of artifacts that are in the lower level of his home.

Owned and operated by Spieth since 1977, this unusual museum is packed with artifacts and antiquities dating from the days of Babylon and Egypt, Rome and Greece, through the mid-20th century. When you stop to visit—between 11 am-5 pm on Saturdays only (or by appointment)—be prepared to spend several hours—there’s so much to see.

Curator Spieth’s a man with an entrenched interest in history—specifically WW II history. As he escorts visitors around the nooks and crannies of his basement museum he muses, wondering why it seems that people only get interested in history when they’re older.

His fascination with the subject began because his father was a bomber pilot before WWII, and Glen and his parents, like many other military families, lived around the world, in places such as Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Germany, Morocco, as well as around the United States.

Step inside this veritable cave of wonders and start looking. On the left there’s a collection of cuneiform tablets, an assortment of Egyptian jewelry and figures, Roman coins, and more. But there’s much more. Further along the aisle are uniforms—Confederate and Union Civil War-era uniforms—and could those really be a pair of **General Custer**’s boots sitting on top of a box?

There are plaster castings taken of **Abraham Lincoln**'s face from 1861, and another cast made a few months before his assassination. There’s **Teddy Roosevelt**’s famous “Rough Rider” hat. Glen’s exhibits include military school uniforms, German officer uniforms, and Japanese pilots’ uniforms. Tucked back in the corner is a photo (reproduction) of **Amelia Earhart**. Glen has two theories about what happened to the famous aviatrix, which he’ll be happy to share.

Several photos show **WASP**s, (Women’s Air Service Pilots), a photo of the **Enola Gay**, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and there’s also a list of D-Day landing orders. Glen also has a gallery of autographed photos of renowned pilots, beginning with **Charles Lindbergh**.

There’s a collection of historic deeds and documents. Display cases are filled with canteens, swords, medals, hats, helmets, clocks—including an ornate ormolu version—and on and on.

There are bits of aviation materiel—radios, stabilizers, bombing sights, to name a few—even cloth from the Wright Brothers’ Ohio airplane assembly plant.

Some of this memorabilia is for sale, some just to enjoy, Spieth says.

There are several paintings of the **Swamp Ghost**, and he’s glad to tell about his role in helping salvage that famous B-17 that was downed in New Guinea.

Glen’s stories about these artifacts are perhaps even more intriguing than the items themselves. He’s an author of numerous historical articles, lecturer, a former advisor for **Seattle’s Museum of Flight**—don’t miss the photo over there of a plane purchased with nickels and dimes from Seattle children—a plane named **Chief Seattle**.

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Outside there’s more to see in the backyard,
Just inside the entry to the Western State Hospital Cemetery in Fort Steilacoom Park stands a covered kiosk filled with information about the cemetery’s restoration project under “Grave Concerns.” About 3,000 patients are buried there.

This past October on Make a Difference Day 2015, Laurel Lemke, Grave Concerns president, said 30 more gravesites were marked—the organization’s project is ongoing.

While all the stories about the people buried here may never fully be known, at least one man’s story—Patient #1395—has been researched. That story is displayed on the kiosk. Former News Tribune writer Bart Ripp wrote the story about #1395, Charles V. Faust.

Faust was born on Oct. 8, 1880 in Marion, KS. The eldest of six children born to German immigrants John and Eva Faust, Charles was said to be slow-witted. Undoubtedly that was a disappointment to his father, John, who’d hoped his son would one day take over the farm’s operation. But Charlie was a child of the bleak plains country, and, until the summer of 1911, just plodded his way along. A trip to the county fair changed his life, after he met a fortuneteller.

Later that summer the lanky 6 ft.-2 in., 180 lb. 30-year-old told New York Giant owner John McGraw that a fortuneteller had predicted that Charlie would pitch the Giants to the Championship. (The Giants were based in New York from 1883-1957 when they became the San Francisco Giants). McGraw gave Faust a try-out. It soon became apparent that Faust was definitely not a ballplayer, but McGraw played a joke on the earnest young man and had him run the bases. Faust arrived at home plate dusty and disheveled, his clothes ripped to shreds. Final score that day was 9-0 for the Giants. Because of Charlie’s “presence” and base-running skills, the Giants won the next two games as well.

When it came time to commit to the earnest young man, McGraw gave Charlie the run-around. Then, as the team was setting out on its return trip from St. Louis to New York, Charlie was left behind when the train pulled out of the station. Somehow, though, when the Giants arrived at the Polo Grounds, Charlie was there, determined to achieve the fame the fortune teller had predicted—he had a destiny to pitch the Giants to their championship!

Throughout the season, however, McGraw kept Faust out of the games even though Faust doggedly stayed around. He was good for morale, and the fans loved him. After the Giants won the pennant, McGraw relented, seeing no reason to deny Faust his dream.

Finally Charlie pitched in the final inning of the World Series. The Giants lost.

Faust hoped to return the next season, but McGraw wouldn’t change his mind.

In the end, Faust, only 35, was diagnosed with dementia, succumbed to tuberculosis, and died on June 18, 1915 at Western State Hospital, where he’s buried. His part in the Giant’s history remained buried as well, until 2000 when former Giant centerfielder Fred Snodgrass told the story “In the Glory of Their Times” to sportswriter Lawrence Ritter.

Gabriel Schechter picked up the tale in his own book, concluding: “Faust has become a cult figure among baseball aficionados, deservedly so, considering the incredible performance of the Giants under his influence.”


The Grave Concerns Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to the restoration of the historic Western State Hospital Cemetery located on the grounds of Fort Steilacoom Park. The organization grew from John Lucas’s desire to rededicate the prairie cemetery where more than 3,000 former patients are buried, but few markers were visible in 2000.

Grave Concerns is a 501C3 organization, registered as a nonprofit in the State of Washington, which raises funds to replace deteriorating numbered markers with names, etched in granite. It organizes installation events, celebrations, fundraiser projects, and provides educational opportunities and outreach. It also teams with community organizations and businesses to complete its mission: to restore and enhance the patient cemetery.
By Nancy Covert

In mid-October 2015, Lakewood Historical Society members had a rare opportunity to visit the Boatman-Ainsworth House, off 112th Street in Lakewood, across from Clover Park High School. During that “Open House” they learned about early area Pioneer Willis Boatman and his wife, Mary Ann. (For their story, see the Fall 2015 issue of The Prairie Gazette.)

John Commingers Ainsworth (June 6, 1822 - December 30, 1893) was a later owner of the house. Who was he, and what were his contributions to northwest history?

Captain Ainsworth was a large investor in Tacoma real estate and was prominently identified with the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company between the Columbia River and Puget Sound.

Following his relocation to California in 1880, he was largely interested in local banking as well as in the initiation and promotion of other business enterprises in that state. He financed Redondo Beach, making it what it is today: one of the finest seaside resorts on the Pacific coast. Expending nearly three million dollars in this undertaking, Ainsworth later sold the resort to H. E. Huntington.

Ainsworth’s plans were always wisely formulated and carefully executed, and he displayed a notable mastery of detail that enabled him to use each point of the business to its best advantage.

Captain Ainsworth was married three times: his first wife died six months after their marriage. His second wife was Jane White, a daughter of Judge S. S. White, a pioneer of 1845 who settled in Oregon City. To this marriage was born George J. Ainsworth. The second Mrs. Ainsworth died in 1863. The Captain was then married in San Francisco to Miss Fanny Babbitt, a daughter of General Edwin Babbitt of the United States Army. The couple had six more children: J. C. Ainsworth, of Portland; H. B. Ainsworth, of Los Angeles, California; Laura Ainsworth, the wife of John S. Baker of Tacoma; Daisy Ainsworth, wife of Percy T. Morgan of San Francisco, Maud Ainsworth of Portland; and Belle Ainsworth, wife of Ralph Jenkins of Portland.

ALADDIN’S CAVE from page 3

where Glen has a pair of planes under tarps awaiting restoration.

Given this area’s early history—beginning in 1849 at Fort Steilacoom up to the present—spending time at Spieth’s Museum Antiques and Aviation Museum is well worth the time invested. You never know what you’ll learn that you may not have known before.

If you plan to check out the treasures in this “Cave”, phone Spieth at (253) 584-3930 or visit his website at http://www.museumantiques.net
As the Society continues to grow its membership, expand its impact on the community, improve the museum operation and accomplish our fund raising goals we must have a cadre of loyal volunteers to fill various roles and perform certain tasks. Up until now we have over-utilized the Board members to fill the committees, often times not meeting our objectives. We now reach out to our members and community to meet these needs.

These are the current needs:

1. **Society Board.** Time commitment: 2 year term, depending on committee assignment, 10-15 hours/month. **This is the most urgent need!** We currently have a vacancy for Secretary (to replace Sue) and Treasurer (to mentor with Gary this year) and 3 directors. Without strong leadership the organization cannot function well. People with previous non-profit board or job-related leadership experience or who want a challenge. Each Director chairs a committee that reports back to the Board for approval of proposals. Will be involved in making future critical decisions to include: Hiring a Museum Director and potentially moving to a larger museum space.

2. **Museum Docent.** Time commitment: 4 hour shift per month. It only takes someone who enjoys meeting new people. Be assured, we don’t expect you to know all the history of Lakewood or to be an accomplished speaker. You'll gain the knowledge and confidence as you work. You will receive a general orientation from one of our current docents. More specialized training will be offered based on your interest.

3. **Society Committees.** Time commitment: 6-8 hours/month. Most committees meet monthly. More details about committee responsibilities available to interested parties upon request.
   
   a. **Program Committee:** We need at least 4 members. After an initial brain-storming session, you will be assisting in planning and coordinating the programs and activities three to six months in advance. You will work closely with the Marketing Committee.

   b. **Membership Committee:** We need at least 4 members. Responsible for mailing renewal notices; expanding and maintaining database; developing and implementing membership campaign to solicit new members.

   c. **Collections Committee:** We need at least 3 new members. Primary responsibility is the management of the artifacts and donations made to the Museum that may eventually become part of an exhibit or display. Need at least two members who use the museum software, Past Perfect. Under the supervision of the Museum Consultant.

   d. **Marketing Committee:** We need at least 3 new members. Responsible for planning and implementing the marketing plan that promotes the programs, events and activities of the Society and Museum. Work closely with the Marketing Specialist in maintaining the website, Facebook page, and publication of the quarterly newsletter.

   e. **Budget and Finance Committee:** Need 3 new members. Oversees the budget and financial obligations of Society. Coordinates Annual Fund Campaign and grant applications.

   f. **Committee for Special Fund Raising Event:** Need at least 4-6 members. Additional volunteers during the last 3 months prior to an event. Plans and coordinates an annual fund raising event that provides additional funds to meet financial obligations.

This is **YOUR** Society and we need your active participation. When the work is shared it makes the jobs get done more quickly and easily. And besides—you’ll have fun doing it!

So please contact me, Becky Huber, at 253-582-8682 or e-mail: craftyhubers@comcast.net. I would be happy to discuss with you in more detail if you have any questions about any of the jobs listed. I welcome your suggestions and your commitment to dedicate whatever time your “crazy life” permits. Thank you for your support.
As part of the City of Lakewood’s park renovations in the early 21st century, an asphalt pathway, leading to the one-time Hill Ward, now gently curves up the hillside from the parking lot below.

Between 2007-09 the City of Lakewood and the State of Washington partnered to create a community memorial that paid tribute to the people who lived and worked here.

A remnant from Hilltop Ward’s chimney is located at the base of the trail.

Looking down from the hilltop, wintry sunlight reflects through the trees, off the surface of glacier-carved Waughop Lake.

On a calm, late autumn afternoon, with enthusiastic sounds of several soccer games rising from the restored green fields below, a walk to this memorial site, completed in 2009, is an ideal spot to reflect about the ward’s role in South Sound history and to speculate about what other uses this regional park will fill in the future.

The small lake was named for an early hospital superintendent. Across the spacious ward site, concrete slabs are placed, inscribed with details about historic events that occurred in the region. They serve as reminders about the importance of this area.
Many residents know the area between Fort Steilacoom Park and Western State Hospital is especially historic. Land that once was part of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company eventually was sold to the U.S. Government. In 1849, Fort Steilacoom was established and, in 1871, a psychiatric hospital was built on the property.

At the start of the 21st century, hospital staff, patients and citizens organized a group called the Grave Concerns Association (GCA). Plans were discussed about ways to restore the hospital cemetery and to honor deceased patients. Patient advocates, genealogical societies, gardening groups, and cemetery restoration experts offered advice and counsel. Work parties were organized. Memorials were held to honor the dead and reveal the names of those lost to history.

The February 28, 2001 earthquake damaged buildings, and hundreds of patients were moved to other wards. During demolition old artifacts had to be moved to an abandoned ward. This afforded an opportunity to volunteers to organize those artifacts into an historical museum that would complement the work done by the GCA.

Since 2004, the WSH historical museum has been toured by hundreds of visitors, including students, elected officials, the public, and hospital patients and staff.

The museum, located in the middle of the active treatment area, is only open by reservation. Exhibits consist mainly of historical photos, although there is one “room” that represents one of the hospital’s most renowned patients—Actress Frances Farmer. “The museum is designed primarily to acquaint future psychiatric workers with the hospital’s history. Researchers use the State Archives in Olympia for specific materials,” Museum Director Kathleen Benoun said.

Because the hospital museum displays many historic photographs, anyone who has such photos—showing the farm’s operation, for example—should contact Christy Forsyth at (253) 756-2896, or Benoun, at (253) 756-2593

Frances Farmer’s sad story

Among the dozens of histories about area residents, such as Joseph Heath, who served as the Hudson Bay Company’s agent at its agricultural operation on what eventually became Western State Psychiatric Hospital, is the tabloid-type story of Frances Farmer.

While the Internet has many Frances Farmer-related sites, the State’s HistoryLink.org site contains a comprehensive story about this Seattle-born woman, who, at one time, was hospitalized at Western State and who may (or may not) have been the subject of a lobotomy.

The hospital contains a museum in which there is a section of a display dedicated to this one-time Hollywood star whose story, according to the History Link article, goes like this:

An idealistic young actress challenges the hypocrisy of her world and becomes the victim of a spiteful mother, a vengeful Hollywood, and a cabal of callous and arrogant psychiatrists. Together they force her into a state mental hospital, where she is brutalized by electric shock and other barbaric treatments; raped by orderlies, fellow inmates, and soldiers from a nearby Army base; and eventually lobotomized. Her rebellious spirit finally shattered, she leaves the institution an atomized half-woman, only a shadow of the vibrant artist she had once been.

Unfortunately, all too often stories like these about entertainers such as Farmer seem to be part and parcel of a movie career—just take a look at the grocery-store checkout counters, with scandalous headlines emblazoned across the latest tabloid pages—designed to lure the customer into making a last-minute purchase in the attempt to gain some bit of “knowledge”—mostly untrue—about the subject, whether it’s Hillary Clinton, Camilla—that “wicked” woman who allegedly destroyed the marriage of Prince...
Charles and Princess Diana, or some other target of unscrupulous writers who pander to some people’s taste for scandal. Whatever the true story, it has been eclipsed by the mythology. With the medical records closed and all the principal players long dead, little can be said with certainty about what really happened to Frances Farmer. Still, two things seem clear: the behavior that landed her in an insane asylum half a century ago would scarcely raise an eyebrow today; and yet, had she not been institutionalized, she might well have been long forgotten. Instead, decades after her death, the self-described “Bad Girl of West Seattle High” has taken on a larger-than-life role as the star of a cautionary fable.

She was drinking heavily and becoming increasingly dependent on amphetamines. Worried constantly about her weight, Farmer began using amphetamines (marketed as Benzedrine) soon after she arrived in Hollywood. At the time, the drug was widely available and often recommended by doctors as an appetite suppressant. Not until the 1970s was it discovered that amphetamines are highly addictive, have unpredictable side effects, and—taken in sufficient quantities—can produce symptoms similar to those of schizophrenia.

Whether she was mentally ill or simply suffering the effects of alcohol and drug abuse may never be known. After she lost her job in television, Farmer went into two business ventures with a friend, but both failed. She was arrested once more for drunk driving and had her license suspended for a year. In 1968, she resumed work on her autobiography. The book was not yet completed when she died of esophageal cancer on August 1, 1970, six weeks before her 57th birthday, leaving unanswered many questions about the sad trajectory of her life.

CONTINUED from previous page

Western State Hospital in the 1940s

By any measure, Western State Hospital during Farmer’s residency in the 1940s was a dismal place. More than 2,700 patients—500 more than the official capacity—were crammed into its antiquated wards. In a 1949 investigative series, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported that only 15 graduate nurses were on the staff, assisted by 23 student nurses. By National Committee for Mental Hygiene standards, a hospital with that many patients should have had 107 graduate nurses. There were only about half the recommended number of orderlies on the payroll, and 14 doctors of the minimum of 20 needed.

Many patients were housed in decrepit, turn-of-the-century buildings, similar to one that had been destroyed by fire (killing two patients) in 1947. After the fire, a makeshift ward had been established in an unheated breezeway originally used as an exercise court. The area had been enclosed with canvas, but it provided little protection against wind, rain, and cold. The P-I found that it was still being used as a ward two years later.

Because of staff shortages, patients were being put to bed around 4 p.m. and kept there 12 hours. Inadequate salaries and poor living quarters complicated the problem of getting efficient help. Live-in ward attendants were housed in a basement with sagging floors and crumbling cement walls. Dr. William N. Keller, hospital superintendent, said the hospital needed about $8 million to improve the facilities and expand the staff, a figure far greater than what the Legislature was willing to provide.

“People seem to be more interested in how cheaply they can take care of their mentally ill rather than how well.”

—Dr. William N. Keller, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 18, 1949.
LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM
2015 Sponsors - Business Members and Donors

The Museum Annual Fund Drive and special fund raising efforts generated $29,017 during 2015 in grants, business sponsorships and contributions from 185 individuals and families and 52 local business Sponsors.

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- Carla and William Pelster
- Kathleen Perry
- Dave and Mary Lou Peterson
- Shirley Petersen
- Karen Petrillose
- Kate Read and Mark Pfeiffer
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### Income - 11 Months YTD

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<td>Newsletter printing/mailing</td>
<td>$3,936.20</td>
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<td>Graphic Design Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Site Hosting/Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Programs/Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum Exhibits/Displays</td>
<td>$4,082.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acquisitions/Collections</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Markers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$58,186.43</strong></td>
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### Closing Cash on Hand - 11/30/2015

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Money Market</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,508.20</strong></td>
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</table>
Winter 2016 Programs & Events

**Tues, January 5th, 10 am-12 noon- Cake Day**, at Lakewood Senior Activity Center, 9112 Lakewood Dr SW. Stop by the Society’s table at the Center’s monthly event. Learn more about upcoming programs and events.

**Sat, Jan 16th, 10 am-noon- Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**, McGavick Conference Center, Clover Park Technical College, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood. Attend the 13th annual celebration highlighting our City’s diversity. Key Note Speaker: **Dr. Lonnie Howard**, President of CPTC.

**Tues, February 23rd, 7 pm- How Our City Came to Be**, City of Lakewood City Hall, Council Chambers, 6000 Main St SW, in Lakewood Towne Center. In celebration of the City’s 20th Birthday, we look back at the incorporation process and the accomplishments made in the last 20 years.

**Sat, February 27th, 1 pm – Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of Cityhood Exhibit**, Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr SW. Exhibit of Cityhood with updates made in the last 20 years.

**Tues, March 22nd, 7 pm- Stealing Puget Sound,1832-1869**, St Mary’s Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Dr SW. Noted educator, author and historian, **Dr. Jerry Ramsey**, will talk about his latest book, the subject of which is the occupation of Puget Sound by the British. The book will be available for sale with a book signing.

*Find us on Facebook (Lakewood Historical Society-Washington-State) or check our website for more information and current events: www.LakewoodHistorical.org*