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# Vancouver Barracks Military Association

## 2012 Year in Review Report

Prepared by

Jefferson Davis  
President VBMA

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## Foreword

For the Vancouver Barracks Military Association and its members, 2012 was a year of many changes, with several new hopes and opportunities. These changes began in late 2011, which has not been documented until now. In this report, I will try to summarize both the end of 2011, as well as 2012. In addition to the main body of this narrative, I have included several appendixes. Appendix A is a copy of the VBMA calendar of events for the year, which includes dates and times of public events such as open houses, fund raisers, etc. Appendix B is a copy of the dates, subjects and presenters of the military history talks presented by the VBMA members and our educational partners. Appendix C is a discussion of the Camp Hathaway Chapel Project. Appendix D is a list of valued VBMA sponsors and supporters from our beginning through 2012. For more information outside of this report, I suggest readers visit the VBMA website, where all meeting minutes, special reports and newspaper articles are archived.

Jefferson Davis  
President VBMA

The year 2012 began with the VBMA involved in managing the Veterans Museum housed in one of the remaining three historic buildings at the Veterans Administration campus in Vancouver, Washington. In World War II this was the site of the Barnes Army Hospital. Later the hospital became the property of the VA. In mid-2011, the VBMA signed a letter of Agreement with the VA to design and set up displays, and staff the museum. The museum is a small, brick building, which had served as a radio communications center for the Vancouver Barracks from around 1940 through World War II.



It took several months for contractors to finished remodeling and rehabilitating the historic building before the VBMA could begin the process of setting up displays. It was in early September 2011, that the major displays were completed and the museum opened.

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The empty building before any displays were constructed



The displays included items from the former Barnes Army Hospital Chapel

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Which had several faux stained glass windows

As well as elements from outside the VA such the 104<sup>th</sup> Division, which was headquartered at the Vancouver Barracks for several decades



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And the Vancouver Barracks Post Cemetery

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Although the museum opened for visitors in September 2011, the all-volunteer staff had ambitious plans. The display space was only about 900 square feet, so they planned several displays for each year. For 2011, the plan included a large display set for Pearl Harbor Day in December. The VA museum welcomed many visitors as well as several Pearl Harbor Survivors. In December 2011, the VBMA planned on a series of displays as part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, to show in 2012. This would have included Civil War reenactors as well as new original displays; a VA produced traveling display board/set, and military history talks.

Regretfully, some of the plans the VBMA proposed were outside the scope of the VA plan for the museum. In March 2012, the VA dissolved the Memorandum of Agreement with the VBMA and the VBMA moved its equipment and artifacts from the VA property and placed them in secure storage. Despite this change in activity, the VBMA and its members continued, as new opportunities presented themselves.

Part of the VBMA educational plan for 2012 was to host military history talks monthly from March to October 2012 at the VA museum. Instead, the VBMA held their talks at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library as well as the National Park Service Interpretive Center at the Vancouver Barracks. This opened a new door, when the NPS also asked the VBMA to set up displays in their interpretive center, which were in place from summer to nearly the end of 2012. Please see Appendix B for a summary of the talks given by VBMA members and their partner scholars.

In addition to military history talks, the VBMA supported many other events and organizations in 2012. This included Memorial and Veterans Day activities, in association with the Community Military Appreciation Committee, the 2012 final transition of the Vancouver Barracks to the National Park Service, and others. One special event included setting up displays to support the Vancouver Barracks Post Exchange, to let the local community know it was still open, after the transition. Please see Appendix A for a longer list and description of events.

The year 2012 also saw the greatest opportunity to befall the VBMA in finding a true home. Through the generosity of the 40 et 8, Voiture 99, a local veterans group, the VBMA held monthly business meetings at their facility in Hazel Dell, WA. Between the 40 et 8 and space at the VA, the VBMA had operational space, but always in someone else's property. Early in 2012, the Memorial Lutheran Church of Vancouver, WA announced they were thinking of divesting themselves of their oldest building. Rather than demolish the building, they wanted to have another charity move the building and put it to continued use.

The U.S. Army constructed this building during World War II as a chapel, on a portion of the Vancouver Barracks, known as Camp Hathaway. After World War II, the U.S. Government gave it to the Memorial Lutheran Church. The church moved the chapel to a new location at 28<sup>th</sup> and Grand Boulevard, in Vancouver. After several weeks of discussion, in May 2012, the Church and VBMA signed a letter of intent, whereby the Memorial Lutheran Church would sell the VBMA the Camp Hathaway Chapel for \$1, if the VBMA could secure funding for the project, and turn the building into a museum. This offer would last for 24 months, until May 2014.

Over the remainder of 2012, the VBMA went through the process of identifying contractors to move the chapel, raising awareness of the chapel building and trying to find a location near the Vancouver Barrack to place the chapel building. These efforts included meetings with officials from Clark College, the City of Vancouver and other organizations. Unfortunately, the VBMA has still not secured a

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location. Despite this, they VBMA held one open house at the chapel as well as a holiday fundraiser in October 2012. Please see Appendixes B and C for more information.



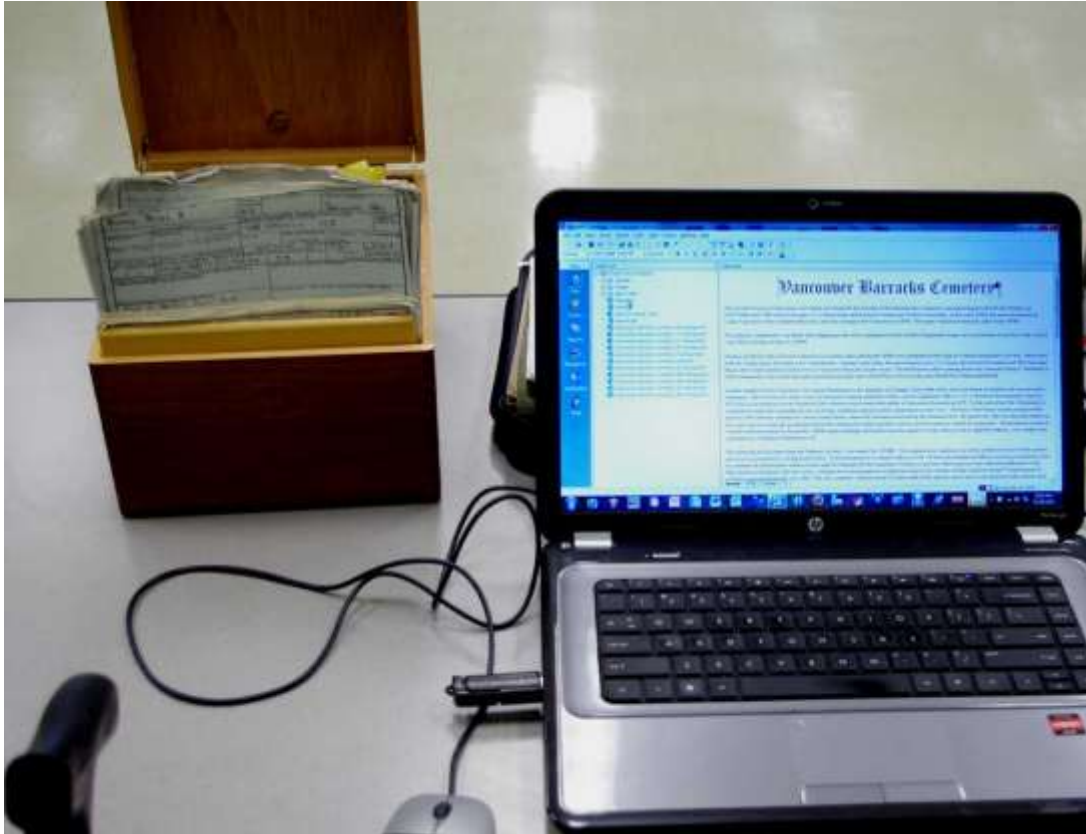
Open House at the Hathaway Chapel in September 2012, supported by refreshments from the Kamlu Retirement Inn of Vancouver.

In addition to these major plans, the VBMA and its members had other projects and interests. While the U.S. Army has given away or disposed of most of the Vancouver Barracks, they retained ownership of the Vancouver Barracks Post Cemetery.



In 2011 and 2012, VBMA members gave numerous walks and talks through the cemetery. Although the cemetery was established in the early 1880s, several of the bodies buried there date to the mid-1800s, having been moved to their present grave sites. There was a website set up by a man named Robert Crouch, with a list of interments by name. Unfortunately, it disappeared from the Internet in 2012. The VBMA hopes to reestablish an online cemetery guide in 2013.

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Re-entering cemetery data into a new website from original cemetery records



The VBMA had a series of displays in many locations. These include displays at the National Park Service, the City of Vancouver property at the Vancouver Barracks, the Vancouver Barracks Post Exchange, and the new U.S. Army Reserve Training Center in Orchards, WA.

While the VBMA has put out artifacts for displays, they have also accepted other artifacts into their collection. The largest collection was donated by Mr. Randolph Schlechter, a retired U.S. Army soldier.

Although the VBMA accepted the loan of the artifacts in October 2012, they could not accept a true donation until late 2012, after cataloging part of the collection. In December 2012, several volunteers gathered, to clean artifacts, photograph them, describe things such as uniform types, eras, patches, awards and decorations, etc., and then to enter them into a data base.

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Last, but certainly not least, are the people and organizations who supported the Vancouver Barracks Military Association from its very beginning. All of our members have donated hundreds of hours of their time and expertise to the various projects mentioned in this report. People who stood out included Keri Conway, Jack Giesen, Bill Hauser, Chris Heagy, Bruce Mulkey, Monique Martin, Elaine Thatcher, Jan Wojciechowski, Lyle Wold and my wife Janine. Many VBMA members work or are retired, with families who miss them. Therefore, I want to thank their families for allowing our volunteers to take away from home to work with us. Many other people and companies have donated goods and services to the VBMA, which include anything from financial consultations, to printing and design, to meeting space, to items for the VBMA charity event. Others have donated valuable museum artifacts and monies to support the many VBMA programs. As President of the VBMA, on behalf of the organization, I wish to thank you all for your support in the past two years and I hope to work with you all in 2013. For a complete list of VBMA sponsors, see Appendix D.

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## **Appendix A Events in 2012**

Note: Monthly military history talks are highlighted in Appendix B.

**Saturday 19 May 2012**

**Military History Displays**

**Subject: The History of the Vancouver Barracks**

**Location: Vancouver Barracks Post Exchange**

**Vancouver Barracks, WA**

With the imminent change of ownership of the Vancouver Barracks from the Department of Defense to the National Park Service, one remnant of the U.S. Army days will remain. The Post Exchange. In the late 19th century, the Armed Forces Exchange System, a non-profit retail outlet, catering to the needs of the uniformed services began at the Vancouver Barracks. The Vancouver Barracks Post Exchange held an open house to let the public know they were open and the public could purchase certain items there. The VBMA will provide displays on the history of the Barracks as part of the event.

**Monday 28 May 2012**

**Memorial Day and Post to Park**

**Subject: The History of the Vancouver Barracks**

**Location: Vancouver Barracks**

**Vancouver Barracks, WA**

The VBMA will support the annual Memorial Day observances held at the Veteran's Memorial, as well as the Post to Park commemorations at Building 638, at the Vancouver Barracks. The VBMA will provide historic display boards on the history of the Vancouver Barracks and the 104th Division. They will also provide a display of artifacts from the World War II 104th Division Command Post. The VBMA also provided historic information and photographs used by the City of Vancouver, the Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC) and the National Park Service for a new historic interpretive panel to be unveiled at the Post to Park Ceremony.

**Saturday 7 July 2012**

**Public Outreach:**

**Location: Saturday Market at Esther Short Park**

**Vancouver, Washington**

Many different charities are invited to set up interpretive displays at Esther Short Park. The VBMA will participate.

**August 2012 thru December 2012: The VBMA will provide interpretive displays and boards to the National Park Service Interpretive Center at the Vancouver Barracks.**

These displays include a static display depicting the Field Headquarters of the 104<sup>th</sup> Division in World War II. It includes an actual field desk and other items used by the soldiers of the Division Headquarters as well as reproductions of the battle maps and overlay for the Battle of the Maas, the first major combat operation the 104<sup>th</sup> Division fought in. Following World War II, the 104<sup>th</sup> Division, also known as the Timberwolves were activated in what became the Army Reserves with the Division Headquarters stationed at the Vancouver Barracks from 1946 until 2011.

**Saturday, 8 September 2012, 4:00p.m.-10:00p.m.**

**National Park Service Event, Campfires and Candlelight 2012, at the Fort Vancouver Stockade**

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Campfires and Candlelight is the park's largest costumed re-enactment, only possible with the help of more than 150 costumed interpreters, with around a third under the age of 18. It's an afternoon and nighttime event, and it's free to the public. Formally known as the Candlelight Tour, it has flourished over the years and now includes two parts:

First, visitors travel back in time outside the stockade walls of the fort. They walk through the Timeline of History by visiting camps from different eras. From vintage vehicles and WWII to the Indian Wars of the 1870s, many camps portray the military heritage of the site. Outside though, is a camp of Oregon Trail families, families of the Fort Vancouver Village, and a plowing demonstration. Everyone in costume outside the stockade talks to the public in the third person.

**Saturday 15 September 2012**

**Event: Public Outreach, Clark County Sherriff's Association**

**Location: Clark County Sherriff's Public Safety Complex**

**505 NW 179th ST**

**Ridgefield, WA**

The VBMA will have an interpretive display and information handouts at this event.

**Tuesday, 18 September 2012 11AM to 11 PM**

**Event: Fund Raiser**

**Location: Joe's Crab Shack**

**101 SE Columbia Way**

**Vancouver, WA 98661**

**360-693-9211**

Joe's Crab Shack, one of Vancouver's funnest seafood restaurants will support the Vancouver Barracks Military Association fund raising plans to relocate the former Camp Hathaway chapel by donating 10% of the dinner check from participating diners on 18 September 2012. The time of this charity event will be from 11 AM to 11 PM. Diners must present a coupon available from the VBMA at the time they pay. Joe's Crab Shack is located on one of the historic piers of old Vancouver, adjacent to Waterfront Park. It is on the east side of the Interstate Bridge, believed to be within the original footprint of the Vancouver Barracks.

**Saturday 22 September 2012, noon to 4 PM**

**Event: Open House**

**Location: Memorial Lutheran Church**

**2700 E. 28th St.**

**Vancouver, WA 98661**

The Vancouver Barracks Military Association (or VBMA) announces an open house at the former US Army Camp Hathaway chapel on Saturday 22 September 2012, from noon to 4 PM. The church recently signed a letter of intent to give the chapel building to the Vancouver Barracks Military Association (VBMA), if the VBMA can secure funding to move the chapel to a new location, and turn it into a military history museum and interpretive center. On Saturday, 22 September 2012, the VBMA will host their first open house, inside the chapel building from noon - 4 pm. There will be information on the VBMA as well as their plans for the building.

**Saturday 27 October 2012**

**Charity Fundraiser - Happy Halloween at the Hathaway Chapel**

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**Location: Memorial Lutheran Church  
2700 E. 28th St.  
Vancouver, WA 98661**

To raise funds for the Hathaway Chapel Move Project, the VBMA is holding a charity fundraiser at the Camp Hathaway Chapel on the evening of 27 October 2012. The theme of this event will be a traditional Halloween party, with costumes, dancing and light refreshment. There will also be ghost stories from the Vancouver Barracks and surrounding area, as told by VBMA Chairman, emcee and author, Jeff Davis. Tickets will go on sale on 1 October and will cost \$10 each. The maximum number of guests is 100 people. The VBMA will also hold a charity raffle. For more details, which we will update as more information becomes available.

**Sunday 11 November 2012**

**Memorial Day Event**

**Location: Vancouver Barracks Post Cemetery**

**1304 Fourth Plain Boulevard**

**Vancouver, WA 98661**

The VBMA will support the Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC) with a cemetery walk, following the main commemorations.

## **Appendix B VBMA and Partner Military History Talks**

Beginning in spring 2012, the VBMA began supporting military history talks on a variety of subjects. So far, most of the talks had a theme revolving around the Vancouver Barracks, or the Pacific Northwest. However other talks were so interesting they were included. While most of the speakers were members of the VBMA, others, such as Captain Richard Ingby and Mr. Frank Krone were not. While the VBMA does not have a permanent home or museum, these talks have taken place in several locations, from the Fort Vancouver Public Library, to the Clark County History Museum, to the National Park Service' Interpretive Center at Fort Vancouver.

In 2012, the VBMA scheduled seven talks, from April to October 2012. See a synopsis of subjects and presenters below. Several VBMA members would also be happy to give many of the talks they have given in the past, to new groups of interested people. Please email us with your request. Contact VBMA at [president@vbma.us](mailto:president@vbma.us).

**12 April 2012**

***Masonic ties to the U.S. Army in the Early Days of the Vancouver Barracks***

**By Major Jeff Davis (Ret.)**

The Vancouver Barracks were established in 1849 by a diverse group of soldiers. Many of the officers were born in the United States, but came from an already divided North and South. Many of the enlisted men were foreign born. Their common service could either bond them together or divide them. Many found unity in joining fraternal organizations such as freemasonry. Some of the famous (or infamous) alumni include artist Gustav Sohon, Marcus Reno and Henry Weinhard.

**3 May 2012**

***Raising the Colors: The Founding of the Vancouver Barracks***

**By Major Jeff Davis (Ret.) as part of the Clark County Historical Museum's First Thursday History Talk Program**

The United States Army took the axiom, 'One if by land... two if by sea', when planning the establishment of the first U.S. Army post in the Oregon Territory, which became known as the Vancouver Barracks. Two separate forces took the journey westward, one overland, the other by sailing ship. The first force landed in 1849, and began construction, waiting for the second to arrive. Which force was it? Come to this talk and find out. Local historian Jefferson Davis will discuss the reasons why the site of the Vancouver Barracks was chosen, and the early years on the post.

**10 May 2012**

***The 1856 Battle of the Columbia River Cascades***

**By Colonel Bruce Mulkey (Ret.)**

Late in 1855, Indian Agent Andrew J. Bolon (or Bolan) was killed by members of the Yakamas Indian Tribe. A few weeks later, the United States Army led a failed punitive expedition against the Yakamas. Early in 1856, army forces moved from the Vancouver Barracks to Fort Dalles, to begin a spring campaign against the Yakamas and their allies. The army commander, Colonel George Wright did not suspect that the Yakamas and their allies had planned an attack on the US Army post and civilian settlements at the Cascades of the Columbia River.

In March 1856, they struck with complete surprise. In a three day fight, the US Army eventually drove away the attackers. One prominent name in the fight was Lieutenant Philip Sheridan.

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**22 June 2012**

***Failure Without Consequence: The U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps, and Amphibious Preparation During the Interwar Period.***

By U.S. Army Captain Richard Ingleby

All too often nations make the mistake of planning for future wars using tactics and equipment from the prior war. When this happens, the price the military of that nation pays can be costly in terms of lives, equipment, and lost battles. In World War II, it was the primary method used to deliver combat troops to many battlefields in the islands of the South Pacific and other locations. In 1914, the U.S. Navy conducted an amphibious assault at the beaches of Veracruz, Mexico, and occupied the city as result of the Tampico Affair. Captain Ingleby who has a BA in History from the University of Utah, and a MA in Military History from Norwich University will examine the planning and preparations that the United States military conducted in the years between World War I and World War II, and how it affect operations once the war began.

**25 August 2012**

***The 104th Division at the Vancouver Barracks***

By Major Jeff Davis (Ret.)

In 1945, after the surrender of Japan, the United States and its allies believed that the last world war had been fought. The U.S. War department disbanded its military quickly, too quickly. Many military posts were decommissioned and military units inactivated before the end of 1945. Within a few months, it became apparent that the United States needed a standing army, and large force of Army Reservists and National Guard soldiers to fight. One of the units chosen for reactivation in the Organized Reserves was the 104th Division. In December 1946, it was reactivated, with its headquarters at the Vancouver Barracks, where it remained until 2011. This talk summarizes some of the activities of the division in World War II and the 60 years afterward.

**13 September 2012**

***The North Vancouver Barracks***

By Master Sergeant Jack Giesen (Ret.)

In 2012, most of Vancouver's citizens think of the Vancouver Barracks as a plot of ground and buildings from Evergreen Boulevard, south to the Columbia River. For nearly a century, the Barracks was much larger, taking in the land from the Columbia River to what is now 4th Plain Boulevard. For much of that time, this northern portion was a field training area. However, during World War II, it was converted into a series of camps and a military hospital to support World War II. This talk gives an overview of that forgotten portion of the Vancouver Barracks.

**12 October 2012**

***The Congressional Medal of Honor and the Pacific Northwest***

By Mr. Frank Krone

The Congressional Medal of Honor was created by Congress during the Civil War to recognize notable or supreme acts of heroism on the part of United States service members. Since its creation less than 4,000 medals have been awarded. Four soldiers who served at the Barracks and are buried in its Post Cemetery received the Medal of Honor. Other service members who were born in the Pacific Northwest, or served there also received the Congressional Medal of Honor and are buried elsewhere. This talk discusses the Medal, and highlights some of its recipients.

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## Appendix C The Camp Hathaway Chapel Museum Project



Camp Hathaway and its Chapel in World War II

In World War II, Camp Hathaway was one component of the Vancouver Barracks. Its buildings stood on the present day site of Clark College, in Vancouver, WA. Camp Hathaway served many functions in World War II. It was the home of the Army Quartermaster Corps Schools, of the United States Army. The Quartermaster Corps was also responsible for the incarceration of all Prisoners of War taken by United States forces. Camp Hathaway housed both Italian and German POWs in several locations. Camp Hathaway also served as the duty station for many of the African American soldiers who served in the segregated army of World War II. Many soldiers processed through the Vancouver Barracks on their way to the Pacific Theater. Some returned to the Barracks, as patients at the Barnes Army Hospital, adjacent to Camp Hathaway. Any or all of these people could have worshipped at the Camp Hathaway Chapel.

When World War II ended, the U.S. War department declared Camp Hathaway and its buildings as surplus. They gave the Camp Hathaway Chapel to Vancouver's Memorial Lutheran Church, who moved it to its present location, on 29th Street and Grand Boulevard. They have used it as a church and recreation center ever since. It may be the last surviving building from Camp Hathaway.



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## The Chapel in 2012

This building has many unique design features. During World War II, although the United States was neutral until December 7, 1941, the War Department knew that America would eventually enter the war. In 1940 and 1941, military planners drew up plans for all of the buildings and structures necessary for new bases, before America entered the war. This included houses of worship like the Camp Hathaway Chapel.

Chapels are non-denominational houses of worship, meant for people of multiple faiths to practice their religion. The plans for the Camp Hathaway Chapel were drawn up in early 1941. While they included a steeple and place for an organ, elements of Christian worship, it did not include a cross on the steeple. Nor did it include any fixed religious symbols inside. Even so, the planners and builders who constructed the Camp Hathaway Chapel included many rich woodworking options in the Camp Hathaway Chapel, which should be preserved.

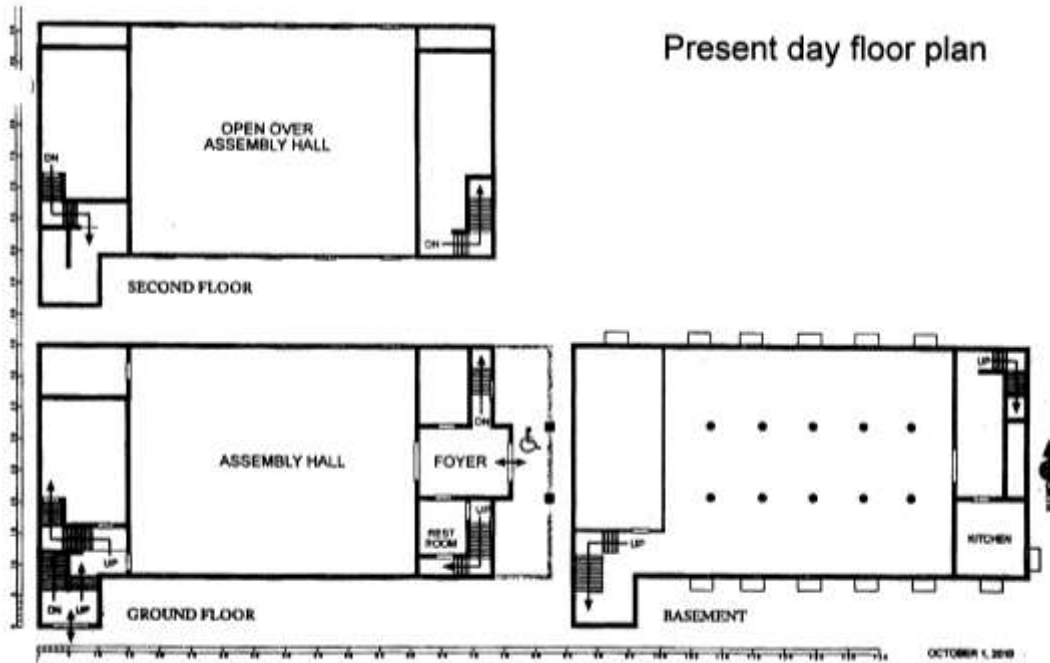


On 3 May 2012, the Memorial Lutheran Church recently signed a letter of intent to give the chapel building to the Vancouver Barracks Military Association (VBMA). This will happen once the VBMA secures funding to move the chapel to a new location and turn it into a military history museum interpretive center. This letter will be in effect for 24 months, which gives the VBMA another 17 months to procure funding for this project.

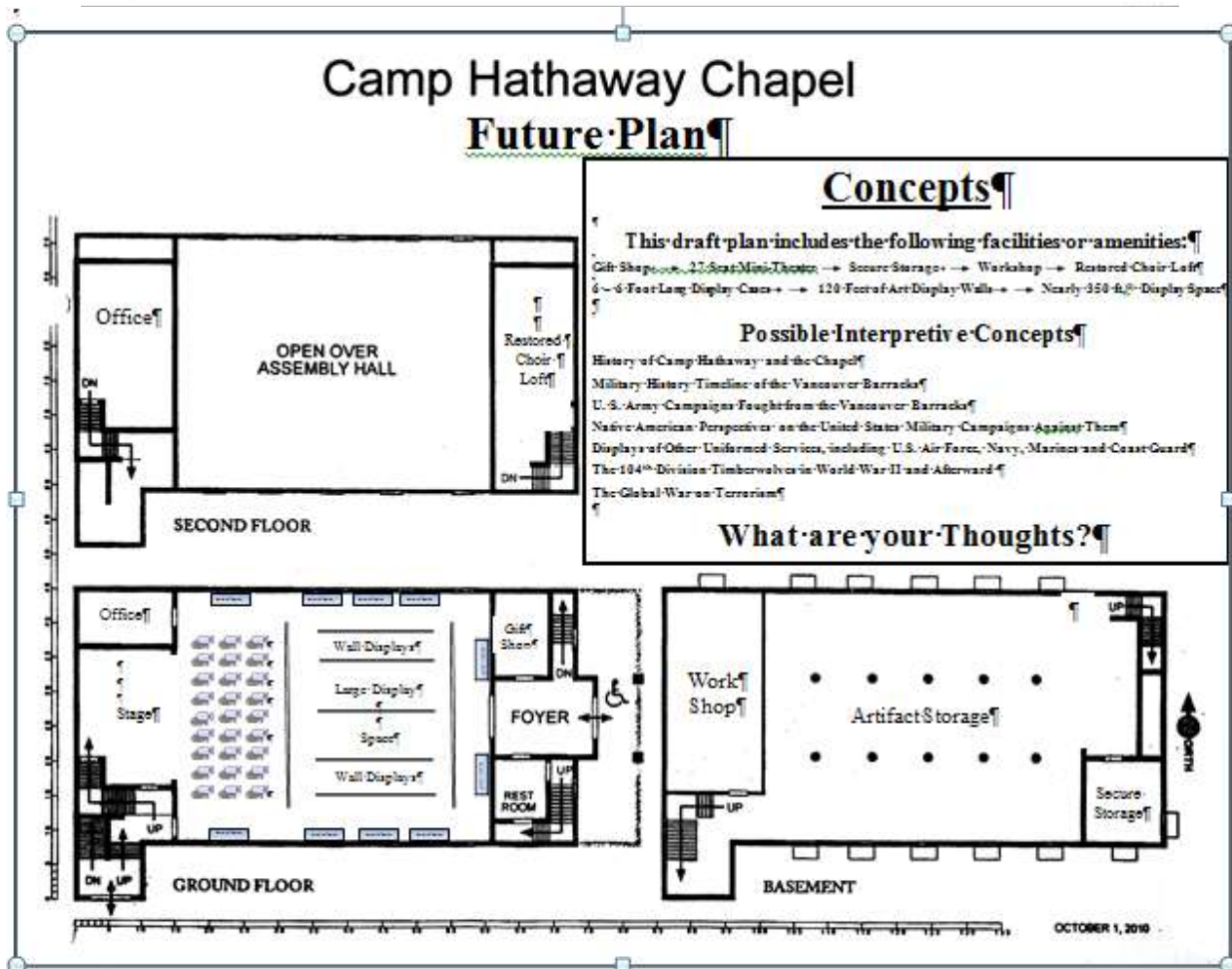
In September of 2012, the VBMA held an open house at the Chapel, to let visitors tour the inside of the building. In October, they held the first fundraiser for the Chapel Project, a Halloween themed costume ball. Between the two functions the VBMA raised nearly \$2,000. Over the course of 2012, the VBMA continued to look for sponsors as well as a site on which to move the building.

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## Camp Hathaway Chapel Future Plan



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## **Appendix D VBMA Sponsors, Partners and Donors**

### **Cash Donations**

#### **\$1 to \$99 Cash Donors**

5-Guys Burgers and Fries

Ms. Linda Hansen

Ms. Krista Wells

#### **\$100 to \$999 Cash Donors**

Association of the United States Army (Columbia River Chapter)

Joe's Crab Shack Restaurant

Ms. Tammy Koivisto, Battle Ground, WA

Sheryl Lee, DMD, Vancouver, WA

Mr. Mel Morasch, Portland, OR 97230

Military Vehicle Collector Club of Oregon, Oregon City, OR

National Timberwolf Association

Mr. Don Olson, Vancouver, WA

Dr. Robert Schubert, Vancouver, WA

#### **\$1,000 to \$9,999 Cash Donors**

40 et 8 Voiture Locale 99, Vancouver, WA

#### **\$10,000 to \$49,000 Cash Donors**

### **Donations in Kind**

#### **\$1 to \$99 (Goods, Services or Gift Certificates)**

A Touch of Athens

Bimart

Blockbuster Video

Burgerville USA

Clatsop County Historical Society

Costco

Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum

Kiggins Theater

Olive Garden Restaurant of Vancouver, WA

Paper Tiger Coffee Co.

Pied Piper Pizza

Portland Trailblazers

Portland Walking Tours

Red Lobster Restaurant

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Robyn Mclure Massage  
Rose's Restaurant and Bakery  
Seattle Mariners  
Tanger Outlet Mall  
Yankee Candle

**\$100 to \$1,000 (Goods, Services or Gift Certificates)**

Anonymous Donor (\$500 in Display supplies)  
Batcave Games, Vancouver, WA  
Boy Scouts of America  
Corwin Beverages, Vancouver, WA  
English Estates Winery  
Fort Vancouver Regional Library  
Mr. Paul Hamner, Seattle, WA  
Mr. John Hansen, Vancouver, WA  
Kamlu Retirement Inn, Vancouver, WA  
Liberty Inn, Lincoln City  
Lincoln City Visitor's Center and Chamber of Commerce  
Lucky Eagle Casino  
Memorial Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA  
National Park Service  
Nautilus Fitness  
Norseman Ventures Publishing, Vancouver, WA  
Oregon Wildlife Safari  
Robb Photography, Vancouver, WA  
Michael Sanders CPA, Vancouver, WA  
Seattle Seahawks  
Sylver Gryphon Jewelery, Issaquah, WA  
Young Marines

**\$1,000 to \$9,000 (Goods, Services or Gift Certificates)**

40&8 Voiture Locale 99, Vancouver, WA  
Columbia Credit Union  
Free Geek Computers  
Mr. Tim Shotwell, Vancouver, WA

**\$10,000 to \$49,000 (Goods, Services or Gift Certificates)**

Mr. Randolph Schlechter