

# STANWOOD AREA ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society  
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*Stanwood Area Echoes*

Issue No. 56 : Fall, 2017

## WAR FUND DRIVE IN WORLD WAR I



**STANWOOD 100 YEARS AGO** - This gala parade apparently launched one of the many War Fund Drives of World War I. Proceeding from Main to Market Street in the second car left, Walter Durgan, Cicily McDougall, Ingeborg Eide and Ruth Floe are recognized. In the center car can be seen W.B.Davis,

Frank Conners, George Mitchell, D.G. Bennie, Clyde Brokaw. A "Preparedness" banner looms at the right atop the car next to the fund subscription float. Red Cross Drug Store, Lilja's Bakery and Dry Goods signs are visible, center; the Sons of Norway Hall is right rear. - Alice Essex *The Stanwood Story Vol.2*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

The fall season is often a time of reflection and gratitude. There is Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and, more recently, Giving Tuesday leading us into the Christmas season. It is a busy season for the Stanwood Area Historical Society. We finish our History & Hors 'doeuvres series on November 19th with Tessa Campbell, Senior Curator of the Hibulb Cultural Center at Tulalip, on the life of the Snohomish hereditary leader William Shelton. That series begins again in March 2018. We welcome all to our annual Old Fashioned Christmas celebration on December 2nd and our Member Christmas party on December 7th as well as the December 10th performance of Jeffrey Cohan and his very talented troupe of players for "Jazzin' with the Classics for Christmas" at the Floyd. It's an extraordinary evening of classical music, traditional songs of the season and jazz, mixed intriguingly together for an original melodic experience.

We will host a parade, flag-raising and gathering at the Floyd on November 11th to honor veterans as we continue to put the last parts in place for the Memorial at our complex. After three years of planning, design, re-design and endless fund raising we broke ground in late summer and continue to make progress to finish this lovely tribute. Our deep appreciation again to those community members and the businesses who so selflessly gave of time, materials and money to see this project through, especially Dan Nelson, Jayme Zold, Chris Nickerson, Kevin Weiderstrom, Jim & Malynda Shipley, Harry Taylor, Ken Christoferson, Eric Flones, Bruce Aalmo, Chuck Suffern, Jason Lenz, Gordon Oglesby, Jay Lien and the Lervick Family. And, of course, a special thanks to Bill Keller and Jim Joyce who dedicated so much time and effort in pursuit of such a worthwhile monument celebrating those local heroes who answered their nation's call.

We will reach out for financial assistance this Giving Tuesday on November 28th and again in the future from friends and members to preserve the Pearson House and all the historic structures we are tasked with stewarding. Peeling paint, aging roofs and windows and decaying wood bring along with them their own sense of urgency and we appeal to the

community's continued generosity to help us succeed. The Historical Society, however, acts as more than just a custodian of grounds. To maintain these buildings is to guard the memories they hold. The history inside represents not just ideas of the past, but a learning ground for what the future can hold. We hope the greater Stanwood/Camano community will assist us in telling that story better.

*Sincerely,*

*Richard Hanks, President*

*Stanwood Area Historical Society*

## Stanwood Area Historical Society Effective January 1, 2018

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>TERM (2Yr)</u>
<b>President</b> , Richard Hanks	2017-2018
<b>Vice President</b> , Dan Lien	2018-2019
<b>Recording Secretary</b> , John Smistad	2017-2018
<b>Corr. Secretary</b> , Margaret Utgard	2017-2018
<b>Treasurer</b> , Dave Eldridge	2018-2019
<b>Past President</b> , Gail Ryer	
<u>TRUSTEES</u>	<u>TERM (3Yr)</u>
Penny Buse	2016-2018
Louis Stangeland	2016-2018
Janet Mayer	2017-2019
Sandy Robinson	2017-2019
Margaret Utgard	2017-2019
Ramona Snowden	2018-2020
Clifford Larson	2018-2020
Mary Margaret Haugen	2018-2020
Alex Gedstad	Honorary Trustee
Pat Bronson	Honorary Trustee
Newsletter Editors	Richard and Robin Hanks

# VETERANS DAY PARADE & CELEBRATION

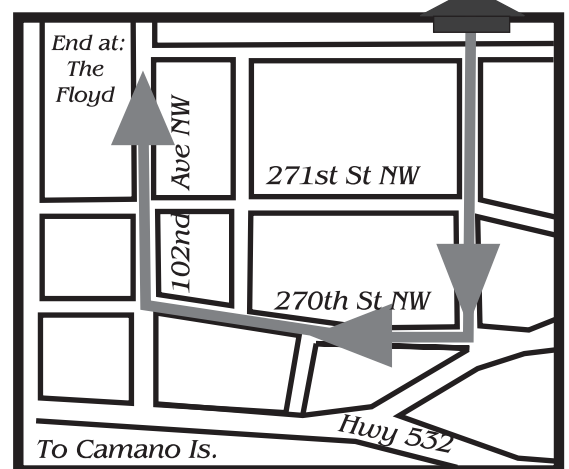
## November 11, 2017 • 11 AM



**Please join us to recognize the selfless service of all Veterans. Meet at the Josephine Caring Community at 11 am and walk or ride to the new Community Veterans Memorial for a flag ceremony, speakers, food, drinks & music.**

### PARADE ROUTE

Start at: Josephine Caring Community



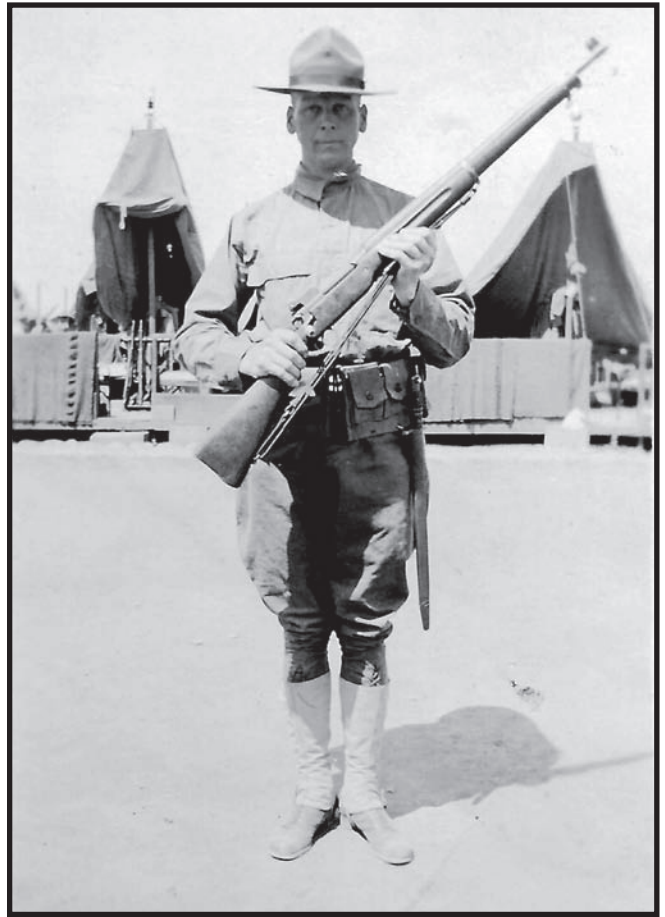
## WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE

Eliza Bruseth could not accept the news that came to her door by telegram in December 1918: "...it is officially reported that private Joseph E. Bruseth died October fourth from wounds received in action." Joseph was "instantly killed on hill Chêne Tondou ... by machine gun fire." Eliza and Joseph were born just two years apart in a family of eleven children. She began a campaign to uncover more details about her brother's death who served with Company L, 111th Infantry, 28th Division of the American Expeditionary Forces in France.

Joseph's parents were John and Ellen Bruseth. John, a Norwegian immigrant, farmed in both Skagit and Snohomish Counties from the 1880s to the early 1900s. Joseph was born in Silvana in May 1890. Joseph's Uncle Nels was a well-known forest ranger and amateur anthropologist, geologist and musician in Snohomish County. Personal difficulties may have intruded on the family, separating them by 1910. John and son Gundar remained in Skagit while wife Ellen ran a farm in Elk City, Oregon with Joseph and other of their children. However, by the time Joseph registered for the draft in June 1917, he is working for the Florence Logging Company in Snohomish County.

Eliza's persistence in seeking answers about her brother's death resulted in a letter dated just over a year after Joseph was killed. It was from Company L's First Sergeant Albert P. Schad. Schad recalled Joseph and the private's unsuccessful attempt to transfer to Shad's platoon and his part in the regiment's efforts to secure the fortified ridge of Le Chêne Tondou from the Germans. The rocky outcropping along the west plateau of the Argonne Forest was the scene of prolonged fighting by the 28th Division beginning on September 28, 1918. The Division would be relieved the night of October 8th after suffering heavy casualties. The ridge would not be taken until October 7th.

Le Chêne Tondou provided the Germans with a dominant view of the Aire River Valley and the open ground between them and the American lines making for a perfect killing field. Americans achieved the crest of the ridge on October 1st and 2nd only to be halted in front of German trench lines on the hill's rear slope as enemy artillery took its toll. Their assaults "came to grief every time," wrote historian Edward Lengel, forcing their withdrawal to their original starting point along a sunken road. The mounting casualties greatly undermined American morale with the inexperienced troops. The slightest movement along their lines brought a response from German snipers. "Lines of wounded men were



Joseph Bruseth at camp. Photo courtesy of Diane Erickson.

constantly going to the rear," wrote Private Paul Compton.

A group of doughboys huddled together for support, one writing that, "we talk of home and God. The terror of the night is upon us. We realize the hopelessness and uselessness of it." Despite sinking morale and fatigue among troops, General John Pershing ordered another attack on October 4th insistent that the Argonne must be cleared of the enemy. Pershing's tactical doctrine was one of "open warfare." He believed that rapid movement and superior American marksmanship would break the bloody four-year stalemate which so defined the war in Europe and which now also described the condition of the 28th Division. Historian Robert Ferrell wrote that when an attack failed, Pershing's favorite tactic was simply to try again.

Those ideas were opposed by officers such as Major General Hunter Liggett who argued that such tactics were only suitable once a breakthrough had been accomplished. Pershing's ideas of rapid attacks made more sense two years earlier against Pancho

Villa in the vast stretches of the American Southwest but found little true application in the close carnage of trench combat.

In the pre-light hours before dawn on October 4th, Joseph Bruseth became part of a four-man patrol from 1st platoon led by my Corporal King, sent into no man's land to reconnoiter enemy strength and position. Schad wrote that only five minutes after the patrol left, the severely wounded Corporal King was returned to American lines by two other soldiers. King, before he died, informed Schad that Private Bruseth's dead body remained on the open field.

Retrieval of Bruseth's body was impossible as the 5:30 H-hour for the general attack along the line commenced. During the attack Schad, on his own initiative, led his 3rd platoon forward to plug a gap in the American lines, opened by heavy casualties. Advancing alone, he then attacked a machine gun nest where, using grenades, he killed the German crew and captured the guns. He and his men held the position until relieved the morning of October 5th. It was then he found Bruseth's body lying just where the men said he had fallen. Upon examination, he confirmed that Bruseth had been shot through the left lung—one exploding bullet sending shrapnel throughout his body. "From all indications, his death was instantaneous," wrote Schad, "because if he had only been wounded he would have called out for first aid when his partners left and if he had called out, I would have heard him."

Schad was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions that day as was the chaplain who buried Joseph Bruseth at the foot of Le Chêne Tondu—Lieutenant Aristeo V. Simoni. The padre, along with two others, struggled under intense machine gun fire to rescue six wounded soldiers. Simoni marked Bruseth's grave with a simple wooden cross adorned with his ID tags. We don't know if the information eased Eliza Bruseth's mind, as Sergeant Schad had hoped. The family later had Joseph's body returned to the U.S. and buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

General John Pershing's tactics of open warfare have found criticism in later years and he was accused of underestimating the lethality of the improved machine guns of World War I. On October 12, 1918 Pershing agreed to turn over command of a disorganized and exhausted American First Army to General Liggett. At war's end on armistice night, Pershing stood to offer a toast: "To the men," he said. "They were willing to pay the price."

by Richard A. Hanks

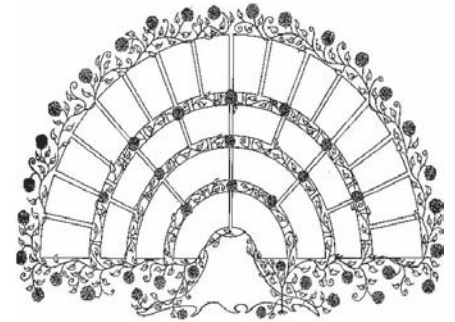


## Stanwood Area History Museum & Research Library, Pearson House & Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center

Operated By  
Stanwood Area Historical Society  
360-629-6110

Open Wednesdays  
1:00-4:00 pm  
Open for Group Tours  
Anytime by Appointment

## Family History Researchers!



Camwood Genealogy Workshop meets the FIRST Monday of each month at 1 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Stanwood Area History Museum & Research Library.

For more information, call Bill Blandin,  
360-387-3375



## NOVEMBER 28TH — A DAY OF GIVING

Since 1890 the home of D.O. Pearson has been a constant reminder of Stanwood's origins and history. A dedicated group of volunteers, starting in 1972, have worked to maintain this area treasure, one of only two buildings in Stanwood on the National Historic Register. These efforts would be in vain, if not for the generosity of the community to financially support repairs and maintenance of this building along with our museum and the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center. Upkeep includes restoring windows, decaying wood, roofing and paint.

Experts from the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation consider the Pearson Heritage House a valuable artifact. So do members of the Stanwood Area Historical Society but, by necessity as a non-profit society, we must constantly seek resources to preserve the home's integrity and continued operation. We ask for your help in this endeavor. On Giving Tuesday November 28, 2017, we hope that you'll put the D.O. Pearson house on your list of donations. Help us keep this important center of learning and memory.

SC  
GIVE

Nov. 28, 2017

#GIVINGTUESDAY · SCGIVE.ORG

**BOARD & MEMBER MEETING**  
Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm on the second floor of the museum. Everyone is welcome!

# AT THE FLOYD

November 11th • 11 a.m.

*Veterans Day*

*Parade & Celebration*

**Flag Ceremony & Refreshments**

November 19th • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

*History and Hors d'oeuvres*

*The Story of William Shelton*

*Tessa Campbell, Senior Curator*

*Hibulb Cultural Center*

December 2nd • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Old Fashioned Christmas*

**Free Professional Photos with Santa**

**Goodies, Crafts & Fun**

December 10th • 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

*Jazzin' with the Classics for*

*Christmas with Jeffrey Cohan*

January 28th • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

*Spiritus Winds Returns with*

*Bassoonist Jeff Eldridge*

## The Following Memorial Donations Were Received In Memory of:

Sandy Charles - Carl & Nancy Garlow  
- Larry Norgaard

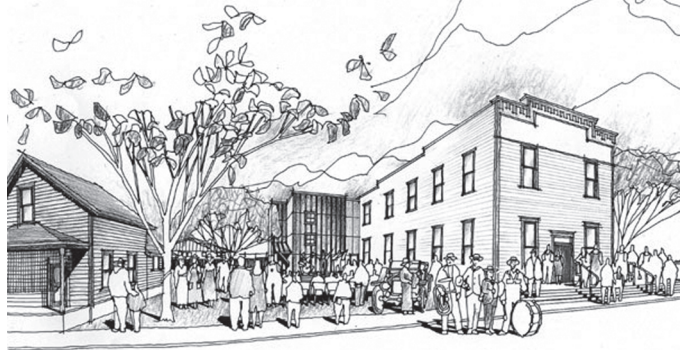
### SAHS Donations

- Nancy Hutchinson  
- Gene Spangrude



"Like" us on  
**facebook**

# RENT THE FLOYD



The Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center Public Hall is available for arts, music, theater, cultural events as well as a banquet hall for family events, weddings, reunions, birthdays, & business meetings.

Proceeds from rentals and events benefit the continuing preservation and rehabilitation of the Public Hall and SAHS educational and historical projects and programs.

Call 360-629-6110 or visit [www.sahs-fncc.org](http://www.sahs-fncc.org)

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# GET INVOLVED...STAY IN TOUCH

The Stanwood Area Historical Society is a special place. It collects and conserves the wondrous treasures of history that define our community. Your participation would not only assist in this crucial protection of our past, but would make you part of our important work. You can make a difference. Join SAHS today!

*Memberships are due annually in January. This is a significant means of support for the Society and now includes a subscription to the newsletter and 10% off all publications, rental of The Floyd and special events for most memberships\*. SAHS is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and depends on gifts, bequests from individuals and groups, fundraising activities and membership dues for its financial support. Your contributions are tax deductible and will be used only for the preservation of the history of our area.*

Individual Membership: **\$20.00**

Student (Under 15) Membership: **\$5.00\***

Family Membership: **\$25.00**

Lifetime Individual Membership (+65 yrs of age): **\$100.00\***

(\*Newsletter Only)

Name [Please print] \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, STANWOOD, WASHINGTON

P. O. Box 69 ~~~ 27112 102nd Ave. N. W., Stanwood, Washington ~~~ www.sahs-fncc.org Photographer: G. D. Horton, circa 1886, Stanwood Stillaguamish River Waterfront

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