

# MILITARY HISTORY TALKS

THE  
HISTORIC  
TRUST

Hosted by the Historic Trust  
Presented by the  
Vancouver Barracks Military Association



All 2022 talks are FREE. They begin at 6:30 pm in the historic O. O. Howard House (750 Anderson St, Vancouver, WA 98661) and last approx. one hour.

24 March 2022

Speaker: MAJ Jefferson Davis (U.S. Army Ret.)

Title: The Custer Women at the Vancouver Barracks



1870s picture of Maggie Custer Calhoun on the left, Libbie Custer on the right.

When George Armstrong Custer and most of his male relatives and in-laws died at the Little Bighorn in 1876, they left widows and family behind. How did upper class army widows survive in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century? In the mid-1880s, war widows Elizabeth (Libbie) Custer, and Margaret (Maggie) Custer-Calhoun visited their niece, army-wife Emma Reed Calhoun. All three women took different paths to ensure financial stability in their later lives.

Jeff Davis served 32 years in the Army and Army Reserves in various capacities, ranging from the Infantry, to Military Intelligence, to Military Historian. He served in the U.S., Italy, Japan, Korea, and Southwest Asia. While at the Vancouver Barracks, he was the de facto Army Historian for the post. That is where he first encountered the personal journals of Emma Reed Calhoun and her husband, Lieutenant Frederic Calhoun.



Seating Is Limited, So Please Rsvp To [President@Vbma.us](mailto:President@Vbma.us) If You Are Attending