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U.S. Army soldiers at Fort Vancouver in 1860.

Birth of Freedom

New Exhibit shares Civil War story of Vancouver Barracks

The National Park Service at Fort tifacts from Gettysburg National Vancouver National Historic Site Tuesday launched a new exhibit: A New Birth of Freedom: Vancouver Barracks During the Civil War.

This exhibit will explore the role of Vancouver's military post in the 1860s, as well as some of the larger themes of the conflict. Ar-

Military Park and Fort Vancouver National Historic Site will be on display, along with costumes of the period and information about other national park units tied to the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration.

The Pacific Northwest, "neither north nor south," was nonetheless involved in the political and social upheaval that surrounded the Civil War. Residents held strong views on the national debate over slavery pressing issues here as well, however, such as efforts to remove Native peoples from their traditional homelands and continue American settlement to the Pacific Coast.

Vancouver was also home to the March 30.

Vancouver Arsenal, an important munitions manufactory and storehouse that was the target of an unsuccessful sabotage plot by a pro-Confederacy group.

"The history of the Civil War is much more than the eastern battlefields. Though they are an important part of the story, the conflict affected every corner of the young nation, in different ways," said Fort Vancouver NHS Curator Theresa Langford.

Featured in the exhibit are a numand states' rights. There were other ber of artifacts on loan from Gettysburg National Military Park, including a canteen, a belt buckle, and a percussion cap box found on the Gettysburg battlefield.

The free exhibit will run through

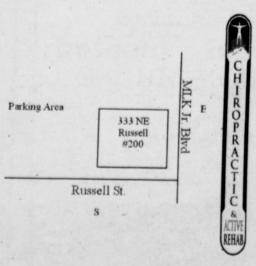
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