

# PASS IN REVIEW

"Shedding Light on Idaho's Military History"



The official newsletter of the  
Idaho Military Historical Society  
and Museum | Summer 2016

## 2016 Open House and Military Vehicle Show





## Interesting 'Artifacts' now on display ...



Tunic and equipment as worn by an AEF "Doughboy" during WW1



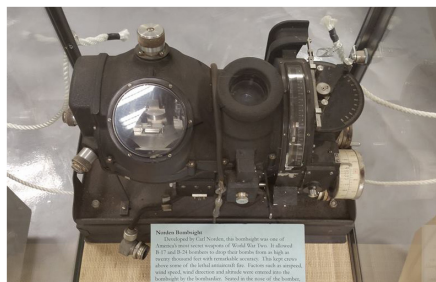
Cadet sword carried by Paul Gowen, the namesake of Gowen Field, while a cadet at West Point



"Officer's Saber" carried by Lt. Gowen for formal events



GAU-8/A Avenger 30mm cannon from an A-10 Thunderbolt II



WW2-era Norden bombsight used to train B-24 and B-17 bombardiers on Gowen Field. The bombsight was so secret that it was to be destroyed if the bomber carrying it was shot down.



WW2 women's Red Cross volunteer dress



Medal of Honor awarded to Sergeant David Bleak for heroic actions in Korea



Ship's bell from the first U.S.S. Boise (CL-47), a Brooklyn-class cruiser commissioned in 1938 and decommissioned in 1946

### PASS IN REVIEW

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Your comments or article suggestions are welcomed. Call the museum at 208-272-4841 during our scheduled hours or visit us on line at [museum.mil.idaho.gov](http://museum.mil.idaho.gov).



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# Major General John (Jack) F. Kane, 1944–2016

*Major General John F. Kane, Idaho's Adjutant General and Commanding General of the state's National Guard from 1995 to 2005, passed away May 31, 2016. The following excerpts come from an obituary published June 5, 2016 by The Idaho Statesman.*

"Major General John (Jack) F. Kane passed away on May 31, 2016, in the presence of his wife, Sandra, of 45 years, his son, Matthew and his wife Cherie, and close friends. Jack was preceded in death by his son, Dustin Tyler Kane, and is survived by sons, Matthew and Scott Kane, his brother, Raymond Kane and his wife, Judy.

General Kane assumed duties as Adjutant General and Commanding General of the Idaho National Guard on February 26, 1995, retiring on February 1, 2005. He served a total of 43 years in the United States Army in service to the State of Idaho and his country.

A Boise native, Jack graduated from Borah High School in 1962, enlisted in the Idaho National Guard in 1962 and obtained his Business Degree from Boise State in 1970. General Kane graduated from the U.S. Army War College and was an honor graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

During his tenure, General Kane improved Gowen Field with the construction of new barracks, a state of the art Mobilization Training Center, Joint Force (Army and Air) Headquarters and new hangars for the C-130 aircraft.

During General Kane's tenure, the Orchard Training Area was preserved for perpetual use as a training site for the 116th Cavalry Brigade, the 1-183rd Combat Aviation Battalion, and the Air National Guard. The Orchard Training Area (OTA) is an example of multiple use of public lands. General Kane's foresight emphasized readiness, training and leadership, along with many fine officers and soldiers that led to training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California in 1998 in advance of a deployment of the 116th Cavalry Brigade to Iraq in 2004.

General Kane was a strong advocate for the Idaho Air National Guard, often visiting the flight line, walking through work areas and thanking airmen. He never missed saying farewell to airmen as they deployed or welcoming them home from those overseas deployments. He was instrumental in securing new missions



MG John F. Kane

for the 124th Wing after the loss of its F-4's, resulting in an increase in the size of the Idaho Air National Guard as well as adding another flying mission.

General Kane was instrumental in leading a cultural change that brought the active and reserve components together, resulting in enhanced readiness of the total force and development of its combat leaders.

Many times the commanders and the soldiers heard General Kane ask his commanders, 'Have you taken care of soldiers today?', to which they responded, 'We have, sir.'

His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Master Army Aviator Badge."

*A memorial service was held at Cloverdale Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 7, 2016. Major General Kane was laid to rest with full military honors at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery that same day.*

## IMHS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

### Is it time to renew your membership?

*Annual renewal rates:*

- |                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| ■ General Membership:               | \$25  |
| ■ Senior Membership (60 and older): | \$15  |
| ■ Associate Membership (Spouse):    | \$10  |
| ■ Student Membership:               | \$10  |
| ■ Lifetime Membership:              | \$375 |

(Lifetime Membership payment may be spread over a one-year period)

A renewal form is available on our webpage: <http://museum.mil.idaho.gov/Application.htm>.

The Idaho State Tax Commission offers a tax credit for contributions to Idaho's educational entities which include "An Idaho public or private nonprofit museum." The Idaho Military Historical Society is such an organization and donations to the Society qualify for this credit. Please remember the Museum as you plan your donations for the year.



# Idaho Medal of Honor hero's headstone updated

Gayle Alvarez  
Idaho Military Historical Society

Nicholas Maher was born on 20 April 1847 in Moxahala, Ohio. He served in Co B, 191st Ohio Infantry during the Civil War from 15 February 1865 to 27 August 1865. Army life must have agreed with him as he enlisted in the US Army's Co G, 1st Cavalry on 8 April 1867.

On 20 October 1869, Maher and two other future Idahoans (Francis Oliver and William H. Smith) earned the Medal of Honor at Arizona's Chiricahua [CHEER - uh - COW - uh] Mountains. Although his name on the enlistments is spelled M A H E R, the correspondence related to the Medal of Honor spelled his name M E A H E R and thus began his brush with obscurity.

After his enlistment ended on 6 March 1872, he lived in both Jordan Valley, Oregon and Silver City, Idaho working as a stockman and quartz miner. He applied for admittance to the Boise Soldiers home and was admitted on 8 October 1912. His application noted his Civil War service but made no mention of his US Army service or being awarded the Medal of Honor.

On 25 June 1916 while on an auto trip to Reno, Nevada, he suffered a fatal stroke in the vicinity of Bruneau, Idaho. As he had no family in Idaho, his remains were shipped to Jordan Valley, Oregon where he was interred in the cemetery there. Again, his paperwork made no mention of the Medal of Honor and he became listed as "Lost to History" on the Medal of Honor rolls.

In January 2011 the Archivist at the Congressional Medal of Honor Society discovered the connection between Nicholas M A H E R and the Medal of Honor recipient Nicholas M E A H E R.

It all began with his Pension Index card which listed both enlistments and also listed his date of death and residency. Not all of them do. She contacted me and I was able to obtain the Soldier's Home information and his pension file.

In late January 2011, an application was made to the Veterans Administration for a VA Medal of Honor Marker. Unfortunately, it was at this time that the VA modified its rules and no longer provided a headstone if the grave was already marked and the veteran died prior to November 1990.

After five years of waiting in vain for a possible exception to the rule, and with the approval of the Jordan Valley Cemetery Board, an inquiry was sent to the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, the financial arm of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, as to whether they could cover the cost of a supplemental engraving on the existing headstone. They said they could and Silver Diamond, LLC of Caldwell, Idaho was contracted to accomplish the task.

The engraving is now complete and a dedication ceremony will take place at the Jordan Valley Oregon cemetery on 9 July 2016 at 1:00 p.m. local time.



VFW Post 5452, American Legion Post 67 and DAV Chapter 18 are working together to make the dedication happen.

It is often said, "Poor is the nation that has no heroes.... Shameful is the one that, having them .... forgets."

Nicholas Maher, you are not forgotten!

If your calendar permits, please join us at the Jordan Valley Cemetery at 1 p.m. on 9 July 2016.

## Any volunteers?

The Idaho Military History Museum needs volunteers to conduct an effective museum and educational program. We are looking for people with the following skills:

### **Museum Docents and Living History Volunteers**

We need docents (tour guide/ Museum host) for midweek and weekends.

### **WWII Reenactors**

Our WWII Living History Group is looking for new recruits.

Guys: If you are at least 16 years old, have parental permission, and completed a Hunter Safety Training Course, you are eligible to become a member of the group.

Gals: We need female Living Historians to portray Military Nurses and Home Front Ladies to expand our public event displays.

We are interested in forming a medical group that can staff our new military ambulance. If you are interested in becoming a WWII Living Historian Re-enactor, please contact us.

— See *Volunteers*, page 6

# Idaho's Civil War "Napoleon" Cannons ...

Capt. Robert J. Taylor  
State Command Historian

The North manufactured more than 1,100 12-pounder Napoleon, Model 1857 cannons during the Civil War while the South was only able to manufacture 600 of them. The South captured as many Northern cannons as possible to compensate for the North's distant firing power.

Two of those cannons, which were used in the Civil War, are on display at the Idaho Military Museum.

The model was the most common cannon during the Civil War for a simple reason: it fires ball, shell, spherical, and canister rounds, which meant that the armies no longer needed multiple guns to fire multiple types of ammunition.

The Model 1857 was the last cast bronze gun used by the U.S. Army and was known for its safety, reliability and killing power. It is light enough to be pulled by a team of horses.

The cannons came to Idaho in the 1880s or 1890s and found their way to the front of the original state veteran's home. Their wooden carriages rotted during the 1960s and they were moved to the new veteran's home and placed in cement when it opened. There they sat and collected decades of beer cans, trash and bird nests before Ken Swanson secured a \$20,000 grant to restore the cannons on replica carriages.

At the time, Swanson oversaw the Idaho State Historical Museum. He then served as the Idaho Military



This 12-pounder Napoleon, Model 1857 cannon is among the oldest items in the Idaho Military Museum's collections. It was used during the Civil War and still fired several times a year today. (IMHS photo)

Museum's Executive Director and curator after retiring from that position until 2014. He is now the museum's Director Emeritus and Curator.

The cannons were transferred to the Idaho State Historical Society after their repair and are now on loan to the Idaho Military Museum.

"Allowing people to see these civil war weapons being fired at public events is certainly better than having them sitting in concrete doing nothing," Swanson said.

The cannon entered service in France in 1853 and was named after Emperor Napoléon III, the grandson of the famed general. The United States adopted the cannon in 1857 and its design was so simple, yet effective, it was easy for the South to replicate during the Civil War.

The weapon was effective at all ranges. With a propellant charge of 2.5 pounds of black powder, it can fire a 12-pound solid shot to a range of 1,440 yards at five degrees elevation.

The cannons on display were made in 1862 in Boston by the Revere Copper Company, which was founded by famed patriot Paul Revere.

The cannons are among the oldest items in the museum's collection. Idaho Military Museum staff and volunteers fire both cannons several times throughout the year, including the Veteran's Day ceremony at Veteran's Memorial Park.

## 'Starfire' jets replaced Idaho's Sabre Jets in 1955

The Lockheed F-94B Starfire, Idaho's first 2-seat, twin engine jet interceptor, arrived in 1955 to replace Idaho's F-86A Sabre Jets, but spent less than a year on Gowen Field, leaving in 1956 replaced by the F-89 "Scorpion" jet interceptor. The "Starfire" was Idaho's first fighter with a pilot and a radar operator, who became known as the "GIB," or "guy in the back."



Lockheed's F-94B "Starfire," the 2-seat, twin engine jet interceptor that replaced the IDANG's F-86A Sabre Jets in 1955. (IDANG archive photo)



# Idaho National Guard in the Spanish American War

On the same day that Congress formally declared war, telegrams were sent by the secretary of war to the governors of the several states advising them of the allotment of troops under the President's call for volunteers.

The secretary also stated that it was the President's wish that the National Guard should be used, as far as their numbers would permit, for the reason that the men were already drilled, armed and equipped.

As soon as Governor Steunenberg received this notice from the war department, he issued his orders for the companies composing the First Regiment to mobilize at Boise. Idaho's quota was two battalions of infantry of four companies each. As an example of how enlistment was encouraged, the

Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mining Company offered \$100 to each employee who enlisted, with a promise of employment upon his return, and other companies in the state made similar offers.

The companies mobilized at Boise as rapidly as transportation accommodations could be provided and were mustered into the United States service in accordance with the President's call of April 23, 1898. A flag presented to the boys of the First Idaho regiment and flown throughout its service in the Philippines is now preserved under that order.

On May 19, 1898, the regiment entrained at Boise under orders to proceed to San Francisco. There it remained in Camp Merritt until

— See *"Idaho National Guard,"* page 7

## Any Volunteers? from page 4

### Carpenters

Display construction and diorama layouts. Several indoor display cases need to be repaired before they can be used to display artifacts.

### Oral History Development

Lots of stories need to be recorded before it is too late. There is a lot of interest in this project. We need a project director.

### Fund Raising

We are a non-profit organization trying to build up an Endowment and maintain day to day operations. We are also looking for experienced Grant Writers.

### Library and Archival Operations

We need a computer savvy volunteer with basic knowledge of Excel would be helpful.

We are also looking for an assistant librarian.

### Historians/Historical Researchers

We have several items and projects in need of an historical researcher.

If you're interested in serving in the Idaho Military History Museum in any volunteer capacity, email Jeff Packer at [jpacker@imd.idaho.gov](mailto:jpacker@imd.idaho.gov) or call the museum at (208) 272-4841 during business hours.

If you are a military retiree, veteran, military history buff, or student who enjoys history and wants to help serve the community, give us a call or visit the museum. You may discover that we have just the volunteer opportunity you have been looking for.

## You're invited to attend museum board meetings

The museum's Board of Directors extends an ongoing, open invitation to anyone interested to attend and participate in monthly museum board meetings. The meetings are usually held the last Wednesday of the month at the Museum starting at 18:30 and last for about 60 minutes.

We want and value the involvement and help of our fellow museum supporters. We welcome both questions and suggestions. We don't claim to have all the answers, so we can always use the input, ideas and enthusiasm of our board members and supporters.

Anyone interested in contributing as a future member on the board is encouraged to attend and learn how they might help to make the museum better and better.

If you are interested in attending, call Jeff Packer at 208-272-4841.



— Heroic Past... Proud Future —

### Endowment Donations

Stan Herzinger  
*in memory of*  
Major General  
John F. Kane

Ron and Marilyn Jennings  
*in memory of*  
Major Charles Carman  
U.S. Army (Retired)

## Military History Class and Live Fire Event



### Idaho National Guard in the Spanish American War from page 6

June 26, 1898, when it embarked on board the steamer Morgan City for the Philippine Islands. On August 6 the troops landed at Parañaque.

For about a week the regiment was stationed at Camp Dewey, serving part of the time on trench and outpost duty. At the battle of Manila, August 13, 1898, it was in the trenches before the city but was not actively engaged. On August 18, 1898, it occupied the barracks at Malate and during the remainder of the year was engaged in outpost and patrol duty.

Early in February 1899, The regiment became attached to the command of General King. It was during the same month that the long expected outbreak of the Filipinos commenced, and General King's command was attacked early in February at Santa Ana.

Major Edward McConville was the first man of the Idaho regiment to be killed. He was shot dead at the very commencement of the battle. Instead of being terrified by this the Idaho regiment was greatly incensed and an advance being ordered, they started on the double quick. General King, knowing that they were greatly outnumbered, feared the result and attempted to order them back, but the Idaho boys continued their advance and the General finally said,

"There go the Idaho savages and all hell cannot stop them," and made no further effort for their recall.

On February 10, 1899, the Idaho regiment participated in the battle of Caloocan, in which the enemy suffered another severe defeat. The action at Malaban followed and in both of these battles the boys from Idaho distinguished themselves by their bravery and discipline.

The regiment was then put upon outpost and patrol duty in the district of San Pedro Macati until April, when a portion of the regiment accompanied General Lawton's Laguna Bay expedition and took part in fighting at Santa Cruz April 9-10.

On July 29, 1899, the insurrection being ended.

*Taken from "History of Idaho, The Gem of the Mountains," James H. Hawley, Editor; Volume I; Illustrated; Chicago, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company; 1920; Pages 566-574.*

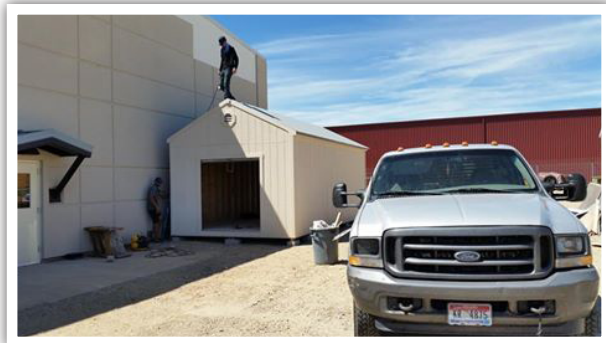
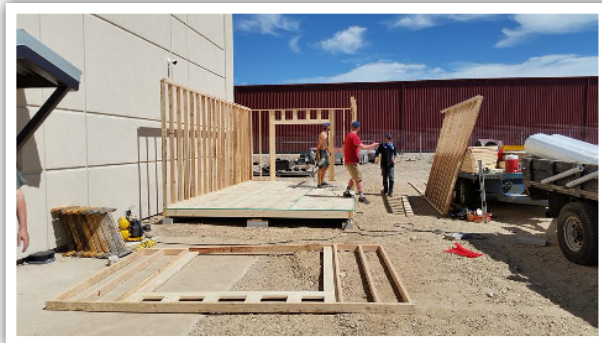
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# New storage shed is a work in progress!



## Idaho Military Historical Society

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Boise, ID 83705-5004

*"Shedding light on Idaho's military history"*



*It's a record! 2,700 museum visitors so far this year.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

A brass quartet from the U.S. Navy Band will perform at the museum at noon on Saturday, Aug. 27.