

North Idaho History from “The Guide to North Idaho”



Installment #3: A Military Presence

After the Civil War there was growing friction between settlers and native cultures in the west. In 1877, just one year after the defeat of General Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn, **General William Tecumseh Sherman** toured the west and recommended to Congress that a new military fort be constructed on the northern shore of Lake Coeur d’Alene. The building of **Fort Coeur d’Alene**, which started in the spring of 1878, was also the beginning of a small pioneer village that later became the city of Coeur d’Alene. In 1887, the name of the fort was changed to Fort Sherman in honor of its founder. The fort was active until 1898 when most of the troops were sent to fight in the Spanish American War. Three of the original fort buildings are still in use on what is now the campus of North Idaho College. (Picture: Fort Sherman Chapel, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho).

Over the next few months, a new installment of the history of northern Idaho will be appearing under the Region Retreat 2019 tab on the Rocky Mountain Region website (rmrega.org). The new installment will appear each time Border to Border is published. With each installment, you will find a question. Send the correct answer to each question to Connie Fudge (fudgesneedleandy@gmail.com) and your name will be put into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to Nordic Needle. You do not have to attend Region Retreat 2019 – Linger at the Lake – to be eligible to win the gift certificate but you must be a member of Rocky Mountain Region - EGA. Only one (1) entry per installment question per person, please.



Question #3: What shore of Lake Coeur d’Alene was Fort Coeur d’Alene built on?

INTERESTING FACTOID: Camp Coeur d’Alene (as it was originally called) had three reasons for its existence: (1) keeping the peace in northern Idaho, (2) protecting railroad and telegraph crews, and (3) guarding the border with Canada. The first two objectives occupied the troops most of the time, as there were few problems on the northern border. – From Larry R. Jones