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Lee County Genealogical Society

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The Lee County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, April 14th at 7pm in the dining room of **The Loveland Community House & Museum in Dixon**. This month's program will be presented by a special friend and fellow researcher of the LCGS/LCHS President, Jed Henry from Madison Wisconsin. Jed is an independent videographer/filmmaker who started a project to honor his grandfather's memory and those who served with him in the 3rd Armored Division during WWII. The project soon morphed into a complete investigation to an incident on Aug. 13th 1944 that resulted in, an exhumation of a WWII soldier PFC Lawrence Gordon, DNA testing, and the conclusion that resulted in an identification of a soldier previously thought unidentifiable by the US. This is a riveting story of how a team of ordinary individuals can overcome the obstacles put forth by time, faulty investigations, and lack of cooperation from the U. S. accounting community.

The following is a brief write up about PFC Gordon by Jed Henry team lead on this investigation:

PFC Lawrence S. Gordon, from Eastend, Saskatchewan, Canada joined the war effort in January of 1942. Working as a ranch hand in Casper, Wyoming, Gordon decided after the bombing of Pearl Harbor to join the US Army instead of the Canadian. He was assigned to the Reconnaissance Company, 32nd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division - which was the same unit my grandfather was in.

The small reconnaissance unit landed on Omaha Beach - June 23, 1944(D+17) with 196 men and fought all the way to the Elbe River in Germany. Through the course of the war the unit had 44 men killed in action. PFC Gordon was the only member the unit not to have the option to be returned to his family or have his name on gravestone.

He was killed on August 13, 1944 near Carrouges, France during the closing of the Falaise Gap in an effort to encircle the German 7th Army. He was listed as missing in action and later the US Army declared him "non-recoverable". In February of this year DNA tests confirmed what a small group of civilian researchers and his family thought; PFC Gordon remains were mistaken for a German soldier and buried in a German cemetery almost 70 years ago. On June 10 his remains will be returned to his family at a ceremony in France and he will be returned to Canada to be laid to rest in his hometown of Eastend on the 70th anniversary of his death. **END**

I was honored to play a small role in investigation and would urge you all to attend this talk on Monday the 14th. Not just because I had the privilege to help, but to hear this amazing story that will conclude on Aug 13th of this year in Canada.

Refreshments will be served and there is no fee. The dining room is handicapped accessible and there will be staff in the lobby to direct you. For more information, please call **The Family Tree Center**, 111 Hennepin Ave. at [815/288-6702](tel:8152886702) or email us at Leecountygenealogicalsociety@gmail.com

Respectfully,

Patrick Gorman
Pres. LCGS & LCHS in Dixon