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Perhaps passed down through generations, or found long resting in attics and basements, many military relics have lost their story, and the history associated with them is lost to time. Luckily for some, the Army Heritage and Education Center will open its doors to the public at the **Mysteries in Military History Day** and offer insight to the background of many these items on Saturday August 20, 2016.

If expert advice is what you seek, it can always be found by USAWC students, their families and the general public for free at the Army War College's Army Heritage and Education Center, which is only a short trip around the corner from the garrison's main gate.

The Ridgway Hall Library, for example, offers students and the public alike a chance to read, review and research a variety of historical references, oral histories and rare books.

One of the many gems located in the treasure-trove, which is the Army Heritage and Education Center's library, is an original copy of a Lewis and Clark Expedition journal, which sits alongside volumes and volumes of rare finds from the original War Department library.

"The Library provides research support for topics such as geopolitics, economics, strategic leadership, and military history and strategy, and has two locations, one in the lower level of Root Hall and also one in the Army Heritage and Education Center," said Greta Braungard, the acting chief of the library division.

"It's rewarding to provide our expertise and skills to visitors, and we encourage both students and their families to visit both locations of our library, as we have a treasure trove of discoveries to be made, that can be applied to academics and research, or just for fun," said Braungard. "We are excited to meet and get to know our new students and their families."

Over the course of the academic year the library also offers students help with their research projects by offering 'bring your strategic research project topic' appointments to the student body, which help

locate resources for the student's projects. Signups with the research staff for these tailored appointments will begin in mid-September.

The library offers students and researchers access to a unique collection of oral histories and stories collected from senior leaders in the Army's history. The senior officer oral history program was started in 1970 by Gen. Westmoreland, and now includes many Senior Army leaders, former Chiefs of Staff and Vice Chiefs of Staff, such as Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Maj. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy.

"You really get a broad sense of what these general officers went through, from being a child, to a general officer. It covers also what they're doing today. These interviews are biographical in nature, so they really are comprehensive," said Brent Bankus, the Chief of the Oral History Branch of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education's Military History Institute.

The library also boasts an extensive written and oral history collection submitted by our nation's veterans. Many of the collection's histories date back to the Spanish American War, and continues to grow as veterans of current operations submit their stories as well.

In addition the Army Heritage and Education Center hosts many unique events throughout the year. The Mysteries in Military History Day for example will be held on Aug. 20, the Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26 and the Army Heritage Days will take place in May.

Fun for the whole family found at USAHEC

The Army Heritage and Education Center hosts a wide variety of unique events and historical presentations to both entertain and educate visitors. From the **Army Heritage Trail** to the **Army Soldier Experience Gallery**, the Army Heritage and Education Center has something to suit the interest of almost anyone.

Perhaps its most prominent feature, the Army Heritage Trail can be seen as you drive along Interstate 81. The trail, which is circular a mile, represents almost every major conflict in U.S. Army history through exhibits and displays made to appear as they might in their proper time periods.

The trail starts with the French and Indian War and continues through representations of current operations. Display highlights include a WWI Trench, Civil War Cabins and a UH-1 Iroquois "Huey" helicopter.

Kids enjoy exploring the WWII site and the American Revolutionary War Era Redoubt. Adults enjoy morning runs along its scenic path, said Lindsey Strehl, of AHEC Outreach and Programs.

Inside the Visitors and Education Center adults and kids alike enjoy the Soldier Experience Gallery, another interactive attraction.

“The trail used to be the children’s favorite, because you can run around, climb up over the trenches and protect the pillbox. Children love that hands-on feeling, but when we opened the Soldiers Experience Gallery and added all the bells and whistles that is now the children’s favorite.” Strehl said who noted the indoor simulated marksmanship range is always popular.

Special events entertain and educate students and public alike

Mysteries in Military History is open to the public and admission is free. If you plan to attend and wish to bring a firearm for the experts to examine, however, you must call 717-245-4427 prior to arriving at the event and speak to Army Heritage and Education Center personnel who will direct you as to how you should present the firearm upon arrival.

On Aug. 26, **Women’s Equality Day**, the Army Heritage and Education Center will welcome Dr. Daisy Nelson Century as she presents a portrayal of Sojourner Truth an escaped slave and early proponent of the Women’s Rights Movement.

“We support the Army, we support the war college, veterans, the public, military historians, researchers and education groups. We offer a huge breadth of information and programs to cover all of these”

“Our mission is the history of the Army, so we have every time period, every topic, and are still collecting,” said Strehl.

Lear more about the library and special programs at: <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/index.cfm> or phone: 717-245-3972 the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, is at 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA, which is easily accessible from interstate 81.