***THE WAR OF PIGS***
1859, and the “Pig War” has escalated far beyond a small boarder dispute into a full-on war between British Canada and the United States. So far, the US has only been focusing its efforts on the Island of Vancouver, which Canadian forces have moved into Washington but only a few miles past the US-Canada Border. The US has overpowered the British Navy on the seas, since the British cannot send new ships fast enough to replenish their stocks, as it requires them to go across south Atlantic, and Canadian shipyards cannot work fast enough. Because of this, the US can also hinder the amount of Canadian and British Troops entering the island from the mainland. And the Empire has been forced to the southern end of the island. The United States Navy also barricaded the Salish Sea, which cut off the majority of supplies for the City of Vancouver, and many predicted the city would soon starve.

By the summer of 1859 the British Empire has closely leaning towards surrender of the island. Even though upcoming president Abraham Lincoln was calling for peace, President Buchanan refused to budge saying, “…That here and now, the issue of American territorial sovereignty will be solved, and it will either favor this union or the Empire to the north.” The British and Canadian forces attempted to hold out until the new president was in office, but by winter, the US forces had surrounded the remaining British forces at the port of Sayward. It was here that the British forces, under Governor Douglas surrendered. Under the conditions of the surrender the British and Americans would share the water ways around the Island, but the Island itself and of course, the San Jaun Islands, would belong to the United States.

The Territory of Vancouver was created under the military occupation of the United States Army. Of course, many Vancouver Island residents were not happy with this new arrangement, however, it would not take long for them to take arms once again and take their island back.

***CIVIL WAR INVOLVMENT***

In 1861 the war was now calming down, despite civil unrest on the island. And the focus of the nation was returning to the more explosive issue of slavery. Abraham Lincoln was now the 16th president of the union, and he has taken the reigns of a nation in turmoil. Before he was even elected into office many states had already seceded from the union. As civil war was on the horizon, the Union army recalled many troops from the Vancouver Territory leaving a skeleton force behind to manage the land.

As more states began to join this new “Confederacy”, a group of Vancouverites calling themselves the Vancouver Freedom Brotherhood dispatched ambassadors to Canada and to the confederacy. They asked for assistance in a fight against the Union and fight for their freedom from the union. They offered to both groups to join them if they provided support in their uprising.

The British were hesitant to jump right back into the war they had just ended and refused to assist. However, the Confederacy was more than willing to assist anything that would be a thorn in the side of the Union. Sending supplies would prove difficult as transcontinental shipping was impossible and shipping would be extremely hard as the Union continued to blockade Confederate ports. The Confederates were able to supply experienced officers to the brotherhood to train them in guerilla warfare against the remaining union troops on the island. While the union had a small force on the island, there were some amount of stockpiled supplies still on the island, which the Brotherhood soon began to steal from and capture.

In spring of 1861 with the Civil War now in full swing, the Brotherhood officially declared that they were the Free Vancouver, independent from both Canada and the Union. Although they had not declared to be part of the confederacy, they may as well have been, as they now openly let Confederate troops on the island. The Confederal army formed the 1st Vancouver Volunteer Infantry, which consisted of many local Vancouverites and Independence fighters.

Lincoln new that expanding the war to the Northwest would pull crucial resources away from the East. So he dispatched the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry and Cavalry to quell the confederate forces until the war in the east came more tenable.

For 3 years the Oregon Infantry would fight to keep Confederate forces, keeping them at bay while undersupplied and outnumbers at almost 1 Union soldier for every 3 Rebel soldier. However, they heroically persisted, keeping the rebel forces from ever reaching the main land. Lincoln was even so impressed by their actions that he personally visited the troops in 1864, and awarded many of them with various medals of valor. That same year, Lincoln would dispatch the 1st and 2nd California Regiment to reinforce the Oregon troops.

Even as the Confederate states began to surrender, the Vancouverites refused and fighting continued

***STATEHOOD***