



## THE SOLDIER'S WAR: UNDERSTANDING A FATHER'S SILENCE

**VE80**  
**VEDAY**  
8<sup>th</sup> MAY 1945

THURSDAY, MAY 8  
RECEPTION 7 PM, LECTURE 7:30 PM

DUPORTAIL HOUSE  
297 ADAMS DRIVE, CHESTERBROOK

TICKETS \$20  
[WWW.TREDYFFRINHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.TREDYFFRINHISTORY.ORG)  
(610) 644-6759



**MAY 8, 2025 MARKS THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF VE DAY, VICTORY IN EUROPE AND THE END  
OF WORLD WAR II IN 1945**



*Karen Marshall lives in Chester County and has worked in historic preservation for over two decades, and for fifteen years was the County's Historic Preservation Officer. Retired, she serves on several nonprofit boards that convey the stories of the past and how they inform our lives today.*

*Signed copies of the "Finding My father's Footsteps" will be available for purchase following the lecture - a perfect graduation, Father's Day, etc gift!.*



In honor of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, local author Karen Marshall will share her insights from her book, *Finding My Father's Footsteps: A Journey Within the Battlefields of WWII*. She will delve into her quest to uncover the military history of her father, Lt. John Sisson, and the fascinating story behind his acquisition of Heinrich Himmler's annotated personal copy of *Mein Kampf* at the end of World War II in Europe.

Intertwining memoir and historical narrative, the book details the experiences of the 4th Infantry Division's 22nd Infantry Regiment as they fought valiantly across Europe. Lt. Sisson, who landed on D-Day with his regiment, endured significant battles, including those in Normandy and the Hurtgen Forest, and ultimately celebrated VE Day, despite having sustained injuries.

Marshall's narrative is deeply rooted in her father's secret manuscript, penned in January 1945, which not only chronicles his military service but also unravels a family mystery connected to Heinrich Himmler, the infamous Nazi leader.

*Thank you to Duportail House for hosting this lecture*