



San Juan Historical Society & Museum

Winter/Spring 2016

A milestone 50 years in the making

This is a big year for us as it marks 50 years since the establishment of the Historical Museum on the former James King farmstead.

Back in 2011 we celebrated another 50 year anniversary, the incorporation of the Historical Society. In those early years members of the Society were working to secure a home where island treasures could be assembled in one place.

After searching five years for a museum site, island resident George Peacock purchased the site of the former James King farmstead and donated it to the Historical Society. Mr. Peacock, a school teacher from Detroit, came to the island for retirement. He also had an appreciation of the history of the island and was an active member of the Society in its formative years.

On May 17, 1966, Mr. Peacock formally presented the legal deed to the Historical Society Board. A gathering in the King Farmhouse was held with James Browne, Sr., Mayor of Friday Harbor, serving as Master of Ceremonies. Mayor Browne spoke of Mr. Peacock's interest in the island and his desire to do something for the community.



The James King farmhouse in the early days of the Museum.

Work began shortly thereafter, beautifying the grounds and performing work on the house to begin the transition to a museum. The Primrose and Garden Clubs were active in helping with this work as well as many volunteers.

Efforts were launched to raise funds to care for the new acquisition. Fundraising events for the first year netted \$688.26 vs. expenses of \$70.80. Donations of time, materials and the like were put forth to help get the museum established. As an added gift, Mr. Peacock covered early expenses of taxes, utilities and insurance.

In 50 years the Museum has grown from the original four historical structures to the eight building campus we are fortunate to have today. We are appreciative for all those who have worked for and supported the Museum over the years. It has taken tremendous effort to get us to where we are today.

As we look forward to the next 50 years, we need your help to record and preserve the history of San Juan Island for generations to come. Your continued financial and volunteer support will aid in our growth and development and allow us to keep a great thing going. Thank you.



County Fair Parade entry 1966. A model of the farmhouse mounted on a pickup seeking members and donations. Some things never change!

50th Anniversary Celebration and Open House ***Saturday, May 21, 11 am—3 pm***

All are welcome to join us as we celebrate our first 50 years! Tour our heritage structures, stroll the grounds and spend some time in the MHI. We'll be highlighting our own 50 years of

history, new exhibits to view, an island wide scavenger hunt and much more! Fun for the whole family and no cost admission.

MHI Update

The development of the San Juan Island Museum of History and Industry (MHI) is moving along. The entrance atrium, lime and logging wings will be open to visitors for the summer season, as detail work continues.

A very special thank you goes to The Honeywell Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation in Fredericksburg, VA, and Roche Harbor Resort.

We received a third grant award from the Honeywell Charitable Fund. This latest grant award has funded an insulated weatherproof door and a completion of the heat pump climate control system for the entire building. These enhancements will maintain appropriate temperature and humidity levels for year round comfort and artifact preservation.

Roche Harbor Resort has provided significant funding for the lime processing wing in addition to access to their impressive photo collection and period artifacts from the lime processing era.

Additional developments include: the sawmill component of the logging wing which is nearing completion, a finished entrance to the logging and farming wings from the atrium, the initial design sketches for the farming wing and much more!

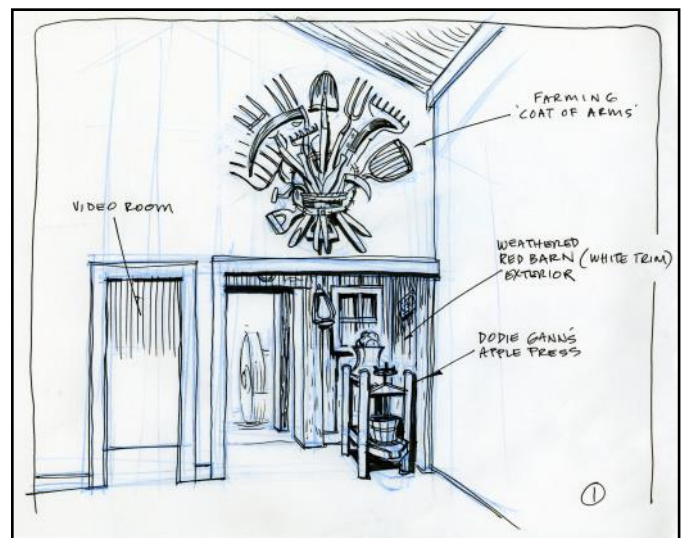
Next up for the MHI is beginning to develop video content which had been made easier by a recent donation to cover expenses for purchasing video monitors.

Design sketches for the farming exhibit have been completed. A highlight is the entrance to the farming wing from the atrium. It will have

the look and feel of walking into a barn. As the graphic below details, keys parts will be the late Dodie Gann's apple press and the farming "coat of arms" or "coat of farms," made up of vintage farming tools of the trade.

We continue to approach the development of the MHI by doing as much work as funding allows. We made the decision at the beginning of the project to not take on debt or take out loans. This approach ensures we do not place undue financial burdens on our organization. So far the method is working well for us. However, significant funding is still needed to complete the project.

We ask for your financial support in joining the many individuals, organizations and businesses who are making the MHI possible. There are many ways to help. Buy a commemorative brick, sponsor a section or portion of an exhibit area, fund a specific need. Your support will make a difference and move us closer to completion. Please contact us if you would like to learn more or would like to schedule a personal tour.



Rendering of entrance to farming wing by local artist Peter Chan.

**Partial funding of the MHI has been made possible by grants from the Heritage Capital Project Fund administered by the Washington State Historical Society.*

The MHI in pictures...



Clockwise from top left, installing insulated door just inside west side barn doors; entrance to logging wing from atrium; sawmill (nearing completion) showing log to finished product; sawmill carriage and blade; and (center) rotating trees of Douglas Fir, Alder & Cedar, historically the primary sources of lumber on San Juan Island. The trees are interactive and can be turned to see the natural side and the milled side.



Annual Membership Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Reception

**Tuesday April 12, at 5:30 p.m.
in the Museum of History and Industry**

Please join us for our annual meeting and election of Board of Trustees for the coming year. All current members of the Society are invited and encouraged to attend. We will also be honoring our volunteers who provide so much needed support throughout the year. Please join us for light dinner fare and refreshments.

Come and tour the MHI. See the progress and learn what the next steps in the development will be. You will like what you see!

Can you lend us a hand...or two?

We can't fulfill our mission of preserving and fostering knowledge of San Juan Island history without the help of our valued volunteers. Volunteering at the Museum is rewarding, fun, a way to give back to the community and to support a good cause. Some of the many benefits:

- *Learning more about San Juan Island history through our collections and research library.*
- *Utilizing your skills and talents and learning new ones.*
- *Meeting interesting people from around the world and making new friends.*
- *Free access to the Museum's research library.*
- *Flexible work schedules in a variety of volunteer opportunities.*
- *Doing something you enjoy, helping the Museum and making a difference.*

Opportunities to volunteer abound! We can work with your schedule, interests, and talents. Full training provided. Here are areas where we need assistance:

- *Greeters/Docents — Welcome visitors to the museum, give them an overview of the Museum as they begin their self-guided tour.*
- *Teacher Docents — Educators who can work with schools developing curricula and delivering programs based on San Juan Island history. Individuals who enjoy guiding larger groups of learners of all ages through the Museum's heritage structures.*
- *Gardeners — help to beautify the Museum's grounds, mowing the lawn (we have a nice riding mower) and maintaining outdoor exhibit areas and flower beds.*
- *Curatorial — Assist in cataloging and organizing the Museum's large and varied collection of books, documents, photographs and artifacts.*
- *Researchers — Assist with research requests and enhancing research resources.*
- *Administrative — Assist in the day-to-day operations of the Museum such as data entry, website and social media updates, newsletters, membership retention and special projects.*
- *Exhibit development — Develop new exhibits, maintain and freshen existing exhibits.*
- *Fundraising — Grant writers and development of fundraising strategies.*

**Please contact us today at
museum_admin@sjmuseum.org or 360-378-3949**

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Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you!

San Juan Historical
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historicsanjuans.org
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The Museum is a recipient of 2016 grant funding from San Juan County lodging tax funds. Proceeds derived from this grant help to defray operating expenses. We thank the San Juan County Council and their lodging tax advisory committee for this grant award. We thank the islands lodging owners and their guests for the continued financial support of the Museum.

Please detach this form at dotted line and return with your donation today. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

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This is a (check one) ☐ Renewing Membership ☐ New Membership

Yearly membership contribution: \$ _____ (amount of your choosing)

Memorial contribution: \$ _____ in memory of _____

I wish to donate \$ _____ to the SJI Museum of History and Industry (MHI)

Please make checks payable to San Juan Historical Society, PO Box 441, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

The San Juan Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax i.d.# 23-7022221.