



San Juan Historical Society & Museum

Spring 2019

*In partnership with the San Juan Island Library,
please join us for the*

3rd Annual Show and Tell Night

*Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:00 p.m.
at the San Juan Island Library*

We are back again for another fun-filled evening of seldom-seen artifacts, evocative photographs and delightful trivia. Some of our dedicated and talented volunteers will be on hand to share their discoveries. Also get updates on new projects and developments happening at your museum. Refreshments courtesy of Friends of the Library.



Clockwise from top left: A tricycle riding child and the Friday Harbor Fire Station in the 1950s, 1957—58 Friday Harbor Elementary School first grade class, the Hotel de Haro at Roche Harbor c. 1930s and an unknown island farming family c. 1910.

Museum of History and Industry Updates

The MHI is abuzz with the sounds of hammers, saws and the like as we enter into spring. The main section of the farming exhibit is taking shape as well as the farming annex wing which will pay homage to island pioneer and Renaissance man, Jim Crook. The annex space **will be filled with Crook's weaving equipment**, mostly notably his homemade carding machine which prepared wool for weaving. The Crook family lived at English Camp in the years between the joint military occupation and the establishment of San Juan Island National Historical Park, from 1875 to 1972.

The main section of the farming exhibit will feature the largest exhibit space in the MHI. The museum archives contain a wealth of agricultural artifacts which will find a fitting home in the space. The agricultural history of the island will be interpreted from ancient times up until today and nearly everything in between.

Work also continues on the completion of the Lime wing, including the early stages of

developing video content. Starting with the Lime wing, each of the four exhibit areas will feature interactive video components covering various aspects each industry and the people who worked in them. A series of short, one to two minute video programs will draw from the collection relevant images, written diaries, oral histories and ephemera.

This is an exciting time as we make our next big push of development. There is still work to be done and funding needed to complete the entire project. If you would like to assist in helping us get closer to completion we are here for you. Consider an in person visit and a personal guided tour of the space to learn more. Seeing is believing and those who visit come away impressed with the quality of the work and the content of information. We are so very grateful to everyone who has helped with this project to this point. Please help us to complete it!

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

Coming soon, an udderly fantastic new exhibit for the milk house

The smallest structure on the museum campus and one of the four remaining from the original King farm, is the humble milk house measuring in at 8 x 10 ft. Despite its diminutive size it has some tales to tell and we are helping to make those come alive.

Work on a new exhibit to be ready for the upcoming summer season is nearing completion. A series of interpretive panels (example at right) will highlight the past use of the building, provide an overview of dairying and detail aspects of the islands past dairy industry. Research has shown a total of 14 dairies had operated on the island in addition to a creamery in two locations.

Funding is being provided in part by the San Juan County Council Historic Preservation Grant Program. These funds are made available on a yearly basis and make these types of projects possible. We have been able to make great use of these funds over the years for a number of worthwhile projects. We thank the County Council for making these funds available for historic preservation projects.

From Milk to Cream...

WHAT DID THEY DO WITH THE MILK HERE?

Fresh milk comes out of a cow at around 70° F; in order to prevent the growth of bacteria that spoils the milk, it must be quickly cooled to below 50° F. Milk was carried in buckets or cans to the milk house, where it was placed in a trough of cold water. Before the advent of machine separators, it was then taken to a creamery, where the cream was separated from the whole milk. Around 1900, companies like DeLaval offered centrifugal machine separators to farmers at affordable prices. At first these were hand operated, later they were driven by gasoline engines or electrical motors. The cream was put in 10-gallon cans and cooled in the water bath to await shipment to the creamery, while the leftover skimmed milk was often fed to pigs.

WHERE DID THE CREAM GO FROM HERE?

Increased dairy production in the islands led to the establishment of a creamery in Friday Harbor in 1901. Three years later, the local newspaper reported a local record: the creamery had converted 3,000 pounds of cream to 1,000 pounds of butter in a single day. The creamery was so busy it had to introduce a night shift to run 24 hours a day. By 1907, the creamery produced 120 tons (240,000 pounds) of butter annually. Other island creameries were established in Eastport on Orcas Island, Shaw Island, and Lopez Island. In early 1907, the San Juan County Dairyman's Association built a new creamery on Spring Street. It produced butter, ice cream, and other products until 1962.

DARIGOLD

ICE CREAM - CREAM
COTTAGE CHEESE
PASTEURIZED BUTTERMILK
MILK - CREAM - BUTTER

PHONE 560 FRIDAY
HARBOR
ON 24 AFTERNOON



San Juan County
Dairyman's Assn.

DEMAND THEIR SACRED PROGRESS



Moments in Time ...

- May 30, 1917 pioneer Charles McKay was honored as one of the last living participants in the Pig War crises of June to November 1959, (before the joint occupation) when he rowed to Bellingham for a U.S. flag to raise on the island in defiance of Great Britain. He reprised the event by raising the U.S. flag up the newly installed flagpole at 1st and Spring Streets.
- November 1937, Jack Settles, son of Lime Kiln Light keepers Helga & Arvel Settles, found a message in a bottle along the shore. Inside was a piece of paper with writing on both sides which read: "Marooned, Nealand, New BC" and "Help".
- July 1938, the flagpole that had been standing for 21 years at 1st and Spring Streets was moved to what is now Memorial Park. When it was originally installed in 1917, Jack Geoghegan and Ed Mosena felled seven trees at the back of Newhall's Lagoon, looking for one that didn't crack when it hit the ground. Ole Pease, with his team of horses, hauled the pole through what is now the Fairgrounds and down Argyle Ave., where it was erected under the supervision of Bill Buchanan.
- April 1939, the "Yankee Doodle" was burned at the Jensen Shipyard to make room for other work. It had been resting there since 1925, after 24 years of service. She was built in 1901 in Seattle, equipped with an N&S engine, and measured 65' long with a 10' beam and 3' draft.
- August 1966, when the movie "Namu the Killer Whale" (filmed in part in the San Juans) opened at the Royal Theater, islanders lined up for over an hour to get tickets when eventually all the showings sold out.
- November 1971, the San Juan County jail was padlocked and closed by Sheriff Don Brown with the approval of the State Department of Social and Health Services, the state jail inspector and **the County Health Department. In their words, "this jail is an insecure, unsafe and unsanitary jail that is not fit for human occupancy."** The jail was moved to the museum in 1981.



Island pioneer and blacksmith, Charles McKay (center right) reprises his 1859 act of defiance to Great Britain in this May 30, 1917 image. He would pass away the following year.

The Yankee Doodle passenger ferry and mail carrier glides through the water in Friday Harbor with Brown Island in the background in this undated image.



King Farmhouse to get a new roof

Each year the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation provides grants to local organizations throughout the state through the Valerie Sivinski Fund. Named for Valerie Sivinski a former board member and board president of the Washington Trust, this program has awarded funds to over 150 preservation projects since 1998.

We are pleased to announce that the museum has been awarded funding to assist in the replacement of the cedar shingle roof on the James King Farmhouse. The age and deterioration of the roof has necessitated the need for replacement. The work has rapidly moved up the to-do list as a number of shingles have blown off during heavy wind events in the last year.

The roof replacement will retain the use of traditional wood shingles, just like James King installed on the home in 1894. The original brick chimneys will be restored as well.

Additional funding is still needed to assist with the project. If you are interested in helping us fully fund this project, please let us know. We thank the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation for choosing to invest in this iconic part of the museum.



The iconic King Farmhouse, will be treated to a new roof this year as nature has taken a toll on the existing roof, at left. Adeline King stands on the front porch with her youngest daughter Alice in this c.1904 image above right.

May is History Lives Here month

Just around the corner is the wonderful month of May and a time in the San Juan Islands where history is celebrated. Details for a number of events are being ironed out, but stay tuned to the **San Juan Islands Visitor's Bureau website, visitsanjuans.com for a full listing of events. From history talks, walks and everything in between, you'll have no shortage of events from which to choose. We encourage you to visit the other islands as well as each island will be sponsoring events sure to delight and educate. The museum will have two events, both free of charge:**

Saturday, May 18 from 10 am—2 pm. Open house at your historical museum. If it has been a while since you visited this would be a great time. View the newest exhibit upgrades in the jail and milk house and the recent developments in the MHI.

Sunday, May 19 at 2 pm. **Roche Harbor's rustic pioneer cemetery, dating back to 1887, is the final resting place for over 27 of its lime works employees and their children. Its tranquil setting in the woods features white wrought iron and wooden fences. Join local researcher and museum board president, Robin Jacobson for a one-hour biographical tour with life stories of some of these permanent residents and their families. Hear about Elisabeth the school teacher, Christof of the Volga Valley, little Mamie, and Mr. Yasuda. Meet at the cemetery entrance next to Roche Harbor Airport.**

Board of Trustees election

Each year in March the election of Board of Trustees for the next year takes place. The Board provides an essential role in guiding the Society and Museum and staying true to its mission. Each member plays a vital role in the management and betterment of the organization by taking on areas of responsibilities. The slate of officers will be voted on prior to the Show and Tell event on March 20th, with new members being introduced at the event. Names listed in bold are the four incoming members to which we extend a very warm welcome.

Officers Slate 2019 - 2020

President, Robin Jacobson
 Vice-President, Andy Zall
 Treasurer, Christine Minney
 Secretary, Diana Mancel

Trustee Slate 2019 - 2020

Mary Jane Anderson
 Mary Jo Bolte
 Mitzi Johnson
 Romona Jones
 Jennifer Rigg
 Kevin Roth

We thank outgoing board members Paula Sundstrom and Mike Vouri for their years of service and many contributions for the betterment of the organization.

New and Renewing Members and Donations

Since last newsletter publication 12.14.18

Current Business Members

Thompson & Associates, CPA's
*Barnyard Farm Supply/
 Horshu Ranch*
Benedict Restoration & Repair
Store More Storage
Harbor Lands, LP
Ernie's Cafe
Homestead Mobile Home Park
Safe Harbor Insurance
Animal Inn & Wellness Center

Individuals & Families

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MHI Contributors

Gary & Shauna Yasuda

Emily & John Geyman

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Thank you for your generosity!

We strive for accuracy please let us know if we omitted your name.

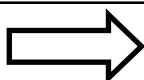
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**Check mailing label for
membership renewal date.
A handy envelope has
been provided for your
convenience.**



Legal Counsel
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Staff
Kevin Loftus,
Executive Director

The Museum is a recipient of grant funding from San Juan County lodging tax funds. Proceeds derived from this grant help to defray a portion of 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 contact me for volunteer opportunities.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

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

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

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Memorial contribution: \$ _____ in memory of _____

I wish to donate \$ _____ to the developing 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