



San Juan Historical Society & Museum

Spring/Summer 2012

San Juan Historical Society & Museum

PO Box 441
323 & 405 Price Street
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360-378-3949
www.sjmuseum.org
www.historicsanjuans.org

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### Administrative Office Hours

*Monday thru Thursday*  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### Museum Tours

*May—September*  
**Wednesday—Saturday**  
**10-4 pm**  
**Sunday**  
**1-4 pm**

Tours may be arranged at any time by appointment

Please call 378 - 3949

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Kevin Loftus, Director

## Remember the Barn Project?



It has been said that Rome was not built in a day and it is safe to say our Barn Project falls under that category. It was envisioned in 2001 as a project which would add two wings to the existing barn (built in 1985). Upon completion, exhibits were to be developed to showcase the past core island industries of agriculture, fishing, logging and lime works.

Phase One was completed in 2005 with a wing added to one side of the barn. Phase Two (the second wing) was delayed in large part by the need to make the recent critical repairs to the farm house, carriage house and root cellar.

This year the project came to the forefront and in a little over two months Phase Two was completed. Aided by a stretch of favorable weather, construction moved along and was completed before our target date of July 1. The final phase will entail planning, designing & installing exhibits, which will be unveiled at a "barn warming" planned for 2013. Stay tuned.

Much has happened since the project was envisioned in 2001. The main roof of the original middle section developed numerous leaks and it was determined the existing roof would need to be replaced. Also, the concrete entry to the barn had cracked and deteriorated and it too was replaced. Unfortunately, these necessary repairs were not covered by the matching grant funds and required the need to dip into our reserve funds to carry out the repairs.

Matching grant funds for Phase Two have been provided by individual donors, The Norcliffe Foundation, the San Juan Island Community Foundation and the Washington State Historical Society Heritage Capital Projects Fund.

To those who have contributed funding we thank you for your patience and support. Many thanks to contractor Scott Zehner and crew at Zehner Construction for a job very well done.



*The museum is a recipient of grant funding from San Juan County lodging tax funds and Town of Friday Harbor Hotel/Motel excise taxes. Thanks to the San Juan County Council, the Town Council of Friday Harbor and their respective lodging tax advisory committees for these grant awards. We thank the islands lodging owners and their guests for their continued financial support of the museum. Proceeds derived from these grants help to defray operating and advertising expenses.*

## Milk Houses: Everything you ever wanted to know

Milk houses were designed to provide a clean, cool place apart from the milking shed or parlor. Fresh milk comes out of a cow at around 90° F; however, in order to prevent the growth of bacteria that spoils the milk, it must be cooled to below 50° F. In order to do this, milk was carried in buckets or cans to the milk house, where it was placed in a trough of cold water. Early on, milk was taken to a creamery, where the cream was separated from the whole milk. Around 1900, individual machine separators, usually centrifugal, were offered at affordable prices to farmers. At first these were hand operated; later they were driven by gasoline engines or electrical motors. Although farm experts recommended the separation of a milk house from the barn itself for sanitary reasons as early as the 1900s, it was not required until the passage of a 1919 Law.

Milk houses were both separate from the barn—usually on the side away from the manure removal area and near a farm lane for convenience of cream pick-up—and close enough so that the milk did not have to be carried too far.

Sometimes the milk house was built right next to the barn but separated by a passageway or porch. Ranging from 7 to 12 feet in width and 7 to 16 feet in length, most are 8 by 10 feet, and constructed on concrete stem walls ranging from one to three feet in height. The common construction is 2x4 stud walls with either shiplap or clapboard (and sometimes shingle) siding; gable roofs were first covered with wood shingles and later metal. (Some exceptional milk houses were constructed of concrete block.) On the front, there was sometimes a roof hood or porch extending over the entrance and a poured concrete pad to set the cans on for pickup. Inside, they featured a concrete floor and poured-in-place concrete trough along one wall that was filled with water to keep the 10 gallon cans cool. Some milk houses feature a raised platform for mechanical separators and sinks for washing containers. The law required whitewashing on the interior, a screened door and screened operable windows (Noble 116; Minnesota 6.329).

*The above article was written by museum member Boyd Pratt and used by permission. Boyd is a founding member of 100 Friends of Old Island Barns.*

## ...and while we are on the topic of Milk Houses...

Our very own Milk House has been awaiting its turn to be restored and we are on track to hopefully do that within the next year. The Milk House is one of the original structures remaining from the King Farm era.

As the photo at right illustrates, time and the elements have taken a toll on the small structure. It is the last building on the grounds that needs significant restoration. While most of the other structures have been attended to in recent years, the Milk House really stands out, and not in a good way.

Recently we received a San Juan County Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$1,400. We thank the San Juan County Council for this grant award. Unfortunately, we still are in need of critical funding in order to begin the project. If you would like to help us in our quest to restore the Milk House by making a financial donation, we would be most appreciative.



Please contact museum director Kevin Loftus at 360-378-3949 or [museum\\_admin@sjmuseum.org](mailto:museum_admin@sjmuseum.org) to learn more about ways to help us reach our goal of restoring this important historical structure.

**Memorial donations**

*(since last newsletter publication)*

**For Jim Cahail**

William Landahl\*

*(\*Friday Harbor High School Class of 1952)*

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To all our contributors **Thank You!** Your support makes a real difference!



*The Annual 4th of July Pig War Picnic, presented by the Friday Harbor Kiwanis and held on the museum grounds, is always a crowd pleaser. And what a crowd attended again this year! Attendance this year was estimated at over 2,000!*

## The Cahail Trail

Besides the Barn Project, we had another project going on as well this past spring. A brick paver path was installed on the grounds which connects our heritage structures and outdoor exhibits. The path was made possible through generous financial donations made in memory of Jim Cahail, former Friday Harbor mayor and museum volunteer. Jim passed in December 2011. In Jim's honor, it was decided to name the path the Cahail Trail.

The idea behind the path was to make an appealing, yet unobtrusive enhancement to the grounds. Before, visitors would have to walk across the lawn and in less than ideal weather conditions, the situation did not lend itself to a pleasant experience. Another situation remedied were various uneven areas of the grounds between the structures made it sometimes difficult to navigate for visitors with physical limitations.

The path system was designed by volunteers Doug McCutchen and Steve Ulvi. A team of enthusiastic volunteers over the course of several Saturdays brought the project together and kept it on track. Besides the generous financial donations, additional donations of time, talents, materials and equipment made the project a complete success.

Along the way cost savings were realized through numerous in-kind donations of materials and equipment. When all was said and done, the project came in \$1,677.82 under budget and donations in Jim Cahail's name paid for all but \$147.18 of the entire project.

Many thanks are due to all who assisted in making the Cahail Trail a nice addition to the grounds. Our thanks to Browne's Home Center, Mike Carlson Enterprises, Cattle Point Rock & Topsoil, Lawson Quarry, Harbor Rental & Saw Shop, Harvey's Excavation, San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan Island Trails Committee, Doug McCutchen, Steve Ulvi, Thom Pence, Ross Lockwood, Craig Greene, Bruce Robinson, Detlef & Kathy Wieck, Shirley Zyph, Daniel Wainright, Teresa Hill, David Jenkins, Romona Jones, Diane Timm, Mary Jean Cahail, Geody Howden, Deven Foss, FHHS varsity baseball team & Coach Rich Warin, Mark Cunningham, Cloud Oakes, Jill & Loren Johnson, Lloyd Thompson, Jim Lawrence, Lee Taylor, Lincoln Bormann, Al Mauldin and FHHS Student Community Service Project participants Jessica Mauldin and Felix Baldwin.



## Announcing - The Living Lesson



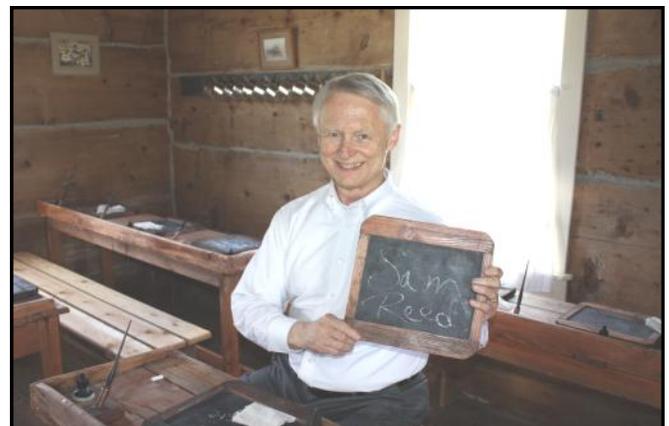
The Living Lesson is an authentic recreation of an 1896 San Juan Island Schoolhouse experience. The program was developed by board member Fred Yockers, a retired school teacher. Fred developed and planned the Lesson for over a year and built all of the period recreated furniture and accoutrements. Fred also conducts the lesson under the persona of Bert Cahail, Jim Cahail's grandfather who taught school in Iowa in 1896.

The program began this spring as an outreach program with sessions held for local elementary school students from grades 1-5. Students in the program begin with a viewing of a short film on life in a one-room schoolhouse, then dress in period clothing and assume the name of an actual San Juan Island school child from the 1890's.



From there the students take part in a one hour school lesson in a replicated 1896 school classroom located in one room of the Scribner Cabin. During the Lesson, students use slate chalkboards, quill pen and inkwell, authentic "McGuffey" Reader books and have lessons in spelling, recitation and penmanship. They discuss history, geography & current events of 1896, focusing on San Juan Island. There is even a "Dunce Corner" for added effect.

A break is held during the lesson in which the students enjoy an old time favorite treat of whole wheat bread with apple butter. After the session concludes recess games are held featuring the long time favorites Red Rover and Tug of war. The experience concludes with a class photograph reproduced in sepia tones and given to students as a keepsake.



*Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed recently toured the museum while visiting Friday Harbor. Secretary Reed has quite an interest in history and especially liked the recreated one room schoolhouse. Here he poses after writing his name on a reproduction writing slate.*

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