



San Juan Historical Society & Museum

FALL 2014

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 November—March

by appointment
Please call 378 - 3949

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Building the dream continues...

Great progress on the **San Juan Island Museum of History and Industry (MHI)** has been made in recent months, aided by local contractor Bobby Ross joining the development team. It is an exciting time with the MHI taking shape.

The 3-D topographical map of the island was a hit at the San Juan County Fair. Island residents and visitors marveled at the detailed content of the map. It was a catalyst in enabling us to raise funds (see *MHI news pg. 2*) for the MHI during the Fair.

Recent activity has been to add infrastructure. Upgraded electrical service was required to run the heating systems. That entailed digging a 325' trench across the property to add electrical, phone and data lines.

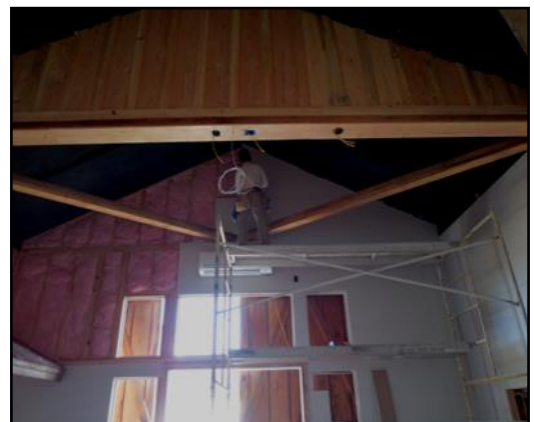
Next came interior floor leveling, electrical wiring, insulation, sheetrock and an electric heat pump added to the welcoming atrium. Flooring, painting, lighting and video are next for the atrium. We project the atrium to be finished early in the new year.

Development of the fishing wing has added the front wall of the "cannery" with the "dock" to follow.

**Partial funding of the barn expansion project was made possible by grants from the Heritage Capital Project Fund administered by the Washington State Historical Society.*

Looking ahead, we are currently developing artist renderings and exhibit ideas for the Lime and Logging wings as we plan to develop those wings concurrently.

We appeal to you, our members and friends, to please consider making a year end financial contribution to benefit the MHI. We are making great strides and we need your support to continue. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!



In other MHI news...

As noted in our last newsletter, we were included in the San Juan Island Community Foundation's matching grant program during the run of the San Juan County Fair. We not only met the maximum match total of \$7,500, but exceeded it netting \$9,630 for the MHI.

As a chosen recipient of proceeds from this years Concours d'Elegance car show, \$4,500 for the MHI was awarded from the Rotary Club of San Juan Island in conjunction with the Sports Car Club of the San Juan Islands.

Kiwanis Club of Friday Harbor and Islanders Bank have each awarded \$1,000 to the development of the MHI.

We acknowledge the in-kind donations and discounts on materials and labor from Browne's Home Center, San Juan Heating, Pacific Rim Insulation, Egg Lake Cedar & Shake, Harbor Rental & Saw Shop and Bobby Ross Construction.

Thank you to all our generous contributors for your much appreciated support!

Give the gift of a brick for the MHI



With the season of giving upon us please consider our Buy a Brick program to help pave the way to the MHI. For a m i n i m u m

contribution of \$250 you can become a sponsor of the MHI. In return, a 6" x 9" paver will be custom engraved and permanently placed in the entrance area of the MHI.

You can have up to four lines of text with a limit of 20 characters per line. There will be plenty of space to put a message of your choosing.

Whether you would like to honor a loved one or have your family remembered as a supporter of the MHI, the choice is yours.

Order in person at the museum or go to our website, sjmuseum.org and click on the brick icon on the right side of the home page. From there you will go to our online ordering page. It's as easy as that!

Help us with the continuing development of the MHI. Become a part of a legacy of information and education which will benefit current and future generations of San Juan Island residents and visitors.

The annual tradition continues

Thursday, December 4, 5:00—8:00 p.m.

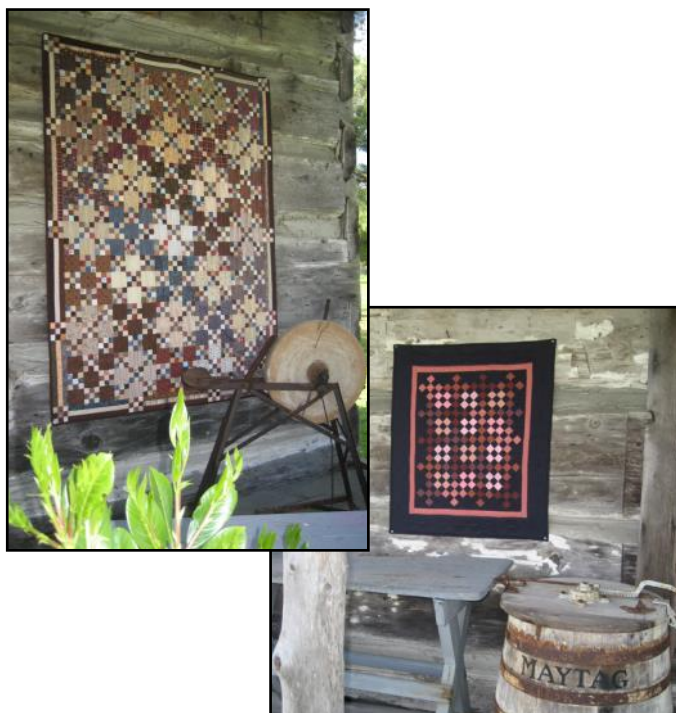
An Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration

Ring in the season with your friends, neighbors and island visitors. Santa will be here to add to the festivities and the winter wonderland train set will delight children of all ages. We'll be serving up Ivar's Clam Chowder, chili from Ernie's Cafe, hot apple cider, delectable baked goodies galore and plenty of holiday cheer. Please join us for a time honored island celebration. It is a free event and donations will be accepted to benefit the MHI.

Kitty's Quilts

Our sincere thanks to Kitty Sorgen for contributing many of her wonderful quilts to us for use around the museum this past summer. The quilts added a nice touch to many of our buildings and with over 250 quilts in her collection, Kitty is quite accomplished at her craft.

She has developed a series of photographs of her quilts which she had made into gift cards. She is donating all proceeds from the sale of the cards to the museum.



Pioneer Festival II

The second annual Pioneer Festival grew in popularity this year with over 400 people attending. We had pies, raffle prizes, music, fresh pressed apple cider, the list goes on. Most importantly we all had fun.

The festival is a family friendly event and fundraiser organized by the Friday Harbor Grange #225 and the museum. After the event, our friends at the Grange voted to donate their share of the proceeds to the museum! We are most appreciative of their kind gesture.



Remembering departed friends

Sadly, we have lost two members of our museum family in recent months.

Rob Roy McGregor was a generous and caring member of the Historical Society. Rob assisted in funding both of our *Images of America* publications. He also funded other projects which allowed us to make much needed improvements to the museum. We appreciate all he did for us, his appreciation for island history and his interest in helping to make the museum a better place for all to enjoy.

Born on the island, Al Sundstrom was a long time member of the Historical Society and steeped in island history. He assisted in providing a great deal of historical content for the *Images of America* publications. He was also the first person thought of when we needed to find an answer to some obscure bit of island history. Al was a long time farmer and was always happy to share a wealth of stories about his years on the island.

Return of the Old One: Repatriation of Canoe to Samish Nation

Ownership of a Samish canoe, believed to date from pre-contact, has been formally transferred to the Samish Indian Nation from the Museum.

Samish has cared for the canoe since 2011, when construction began on the second wing of the Museum of History & Industry. As the project neared completion, Samish requested that the canoe, which is in fragile condition, be repatriated in exchange for new cultural items that the museum can use to teach the history of the island's Indigenous Peoples. The museum board approved the proposal and the transfer took place when Samish Chairman Tom Wooten and board president Mary Jean Cahail signed a memorandum of agreement.

The canoe, rests on a cradle made by Samish artist David Blackinton, was carried in by eight men while Samish singers offered a paddle song. The canoe was carried once around the gathering hall, then placed in the middle of the room on blankets. Witnesses were called. A name was bestowed on the canoe: S7alexw, which means "The Old One." The Old One will rest on its cradle in a tribal gathering hall, suspended from the ceiling by cedar cordage made by Samish general manager Leslie Eastwood.

Among the items presented to the museum: a hand drum, made by Blackinton; twined yellow cedar, made by Eastwood; a cedar hat, made by 15-year-old Samish Nation citizen Madisen Cork; smoked clams strung on sinew,

by cultural director Rosie Cayou James.

The Museum had no records associated with the canoe, but Samish Chairman Tom Wooten said, "It's our style of canoe." The San Juan Islands are within the historical territory of the Lummi and Samish nations. The canoe's repatriation is mutually beneficial: "The canoe belongs here [at Samish]," he said. "And we're able to share part of our culture [with the museum]. It's a win-win."

The island's First Peoples will be included in the MHI fishing wing. Museum board member Don Nixon said materials and technology used in fishing during the settlement and post-settlement period of 1850 to 1950 became more sophisticated, "but all the techniques were there already," having been used for centuries by the island's First Peoples.

At the ceremony, witnesses said the Old One is like a gift from the ancestors, an ancient reminder of their identity as Samish people and as a canoe culture; an ancient reminder of the sacredness of the cedar tree, which gave its life to be carved by an ancestor into a canoe.

"We were taught not to expect to be rich, but to be happy with who we are," said John Cayou, of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. "It's important to show the ancestors how much you cherish what's been left."

Contributed by Richard Walker, former museum board member and Editor of the Journal of The San Juan Islands.



New & Renewing Members

(since last newsletter publication)

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Harbor Lands Company
Pacific Catalyst II*

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Stephanie Shippen family
John King
Gordon Steele
Betty Nash
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Alice Berenz
William Harrah
Judith Kotras
Dean and Leslie Kayler
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Ruthe Ramirez

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Islanders Bank

Thank you very much for your support!

San Juan Historical
Society & Museum

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Physical addresses: 323 & 405 Price St.
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The museum is a recipient of 2014 grant funding from San Juan County lodging tax funds. 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 their continued financial support of the museum. Proceeds derived from this grant help to defray operating expenses.

Please detach this form at dotted line and return with your donation

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

This is a (check one) Renewing Membership New Membership

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

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

Please make 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.