

NEWS RELEASE

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Local History Essays Published on HistoryLink

Thanks to local San Juan County writers who, in partnership with HistoryLink.org, the free online encyclopedia of Washington state history, have launched the "writing our history" project. This project will add our own -stories to HistoryLink.org, written by our own local writers, and will be available to -more than 5,000 students, teachers, journalists, scholars, government and business researchers, tourists, and -general public who come to HistoryLink.org every day.

Several new articles have recently been published.

Thank God It's Still Friday!

A history of Friday Harbor's namesake, written by the late Brenda C. Pratt and originally published in the San Juan Historical Museum's 2003 newsletter, is now included in the People's History Library on HistoryLink.org. Her article, *Thank God It's Still Friday!*, can be read at http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10671.

Pratt's research authenticates our most storied place name:

It is possible that Friday's name was Poalima. He was born on Oahu, in 1830, according to the 1880 San Juan Island Census. His Hawaiian name has been written as "Poalie," though this word has no meaning in the Hawaiian language, and therefore was most probably "Poalima," which translates as "Friday." This would have been his only given name due to his class in Hawaiian society. During his employment with Hudson's Bay Company from 1841 to 1860, he is referred to as "Friday" only.

Brenda Pratt
Thank God It's Still Friday!

Lucinda Boyce

Julia Vouri has written a fascinating account of Lucinda Boyce (1836-1916), the first Euro-American woman to live permanently on San Juan Island. Boyce was a well-respected nurse and midwife who ventured out in any weather and to outer islands to care for the sick and injured. Vouri's essay is included in History Link's Cyberpedia Library and can be found at http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10676.

Here is an insight to Lucinda Boyce's energy and determination:

Endurance, ingenuity, and a rugged physical and mental disposition were necessary for pioneer women to survive in the early days. But Lucinda Boyce didn't just endure. She thrived. While Stephen was called Hyas Tyee (great and powerful) by local Indians, Lucinda was referred to as First Lady of the San Juans. While Stephen conducted legal hearings in front of their fireplace, Lucinda might be paddling a cedar canoe to an outer island to deliver an Indian baby.

Julia Vouri
Lucinda Elizabeth Stewart Boyce (1836-1916)

A Town Called Richardson

The rise and decline of the town of Richardson on Lopez Island is told by Kathi Ciskowski and Woody Ciskowski of Orcas Islands in their History Link Timeline essay, *George Richardson receives land patent for his property at the south end of Lopez Island on November 25, 1879.*

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10417

Richardson was blessed with a deep-water harbor. The town played an important role in shipping lucrative island produce to mainland markets. This was before government-sponsored irrigation projects increased agricultural production in eastern Washington, and before new railroad lines provided fast, inexpensive transport of goods from eastern Washington farms to cities nation-wide. The same public works projects that enabled other areas to prosper, made San Juan Islands' produce inconvenient and uncompetitive.

The Ciskowskis' essay reveals much about farming, trade, and the lives of islanders living in those days, including this description from the Fagerholm family:

The abundance of fish and fruit in those years is illustrated by a quotations from an article by descendants of Lopez settler Philip Fagerholm (1867-1954): "Philip raised beautiful strawberries he would take by rowboat to Richardson from Huggins Bay. He worried that the sockeye would jump into the board and ruin his strawberries!"

The Writing Our History Project

The Writing our History project is a countywide collaborative of local researchers and writers working together to create a body of well-researched and broadly accessible essays on the history of Friday Harbor and San Juan County. We are fortunate to be partnering with HistoryLink.org for the editing and distribution of our stories.

"We are thrilled to have this talented group of writers join History Link to capture the history of San Juan County."

Marie McCaffrey, Executive Director, HistoryLink.org.

More fascinating essays are in development, and include such topics as the history of Friday Harbor's waterfront, American Camp, the Land Bank, the lime kilns of Ocean (Orcas Island), photographer James Geoghegan (Orcas Island), the journalist Virgil Frits, notable doctors and providers of health services on San Juan Island, Coast Salish woman Pearl Little, the origins of San Juan County's environmental stewardship ethic, and Friday Harbor founder Charles McKay.

Find Out More

For more information about the Writing our History project, including research and writing opportunities for other essay topics, contact Sandy Strehlou at sstrehlou@fridayharbor.org or call 360.378.2810. To support the research, writing and publishing of these and other articles, consider making a charitable contribution to History Link. All monies donated from San Juan Island donors will be earmarked for the local Writing our

History project. To make a donation contact Marie McCaffrey via email to marie@historylink.org, or by phone 206.447.8140.

For photos related to the articles mentioned in this release go to
<http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm>.