

## **Holland Marsh**

*Snohomish County - New Name*

**Township:** 30N

**Range:** 7E

**Section:** 33

**USGS Quad:** Granite Falls

**Location Description:** Swamp; 8 acres; located 3.8 mi SW of Granite Falls at 48°2'21.966"N, 121°54'49.484"W.

**Proposal Summary:** Holland Marsh: swamp; 8 acres; located 3.8 mi SW of Granite Falls at 48°2'21.966"N, 121°54'49.484"W; Name commemorates Andy Holland (d. 2008). Mr. Holland was an Everett Community College Forestry and Mathematics Professor, and community leader; Snohomish County, Washington; Sec 33, T30N, R7E, Willamette Meridian; 48°2'21.966"N, 121°54'49.484"W USGS map - Granite Falls 1:24,000.

Proposed name commemorates Andy Holland (d. 2008). Mr. Holland was an Everett Community College Forestry and Mathematics Professor and a community leader, and was a wild fire lookout for the USFS. Mr. Holland was active in the teaching community, and encouraged generations of students to pursue Forestry.

**Proponent:**

Chuck Holland

PO Box 66

Port Gamble, WA 98364

**Proposal Received:** 10/1/2019

**Initial Consideration:** 10/29/2019

**Final Consideration:** 4/26/2022

**WA Committee Decision:** Deferred

**WA Board Decision:**

**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**

Snohomish County Council - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

Snohomish County Public Works - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

Snohomish County Emergency Management - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

Granite Falls Historical Society - IN FAVOR

WA State Historical Society - WAITING ON RESPONSE

WA Farm Forestry - Upper Puget Sound Chapter - IN FAVOR

Russ Dalton - Private Citizen - IN FAVOR

Richard Atkins - Private Citizen - IN FAVOR

Ken Rose - Private Citizen - IN FAVOR

Gary Rose - Private Citizen - IN FAVOR

Jill Youde - Private Citizen - IN FAVOR

WASHINGTON STATE  
Geographic Name Application



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Proposed Name: [REDACTED] HOLLAND MARSH

New Name

County: SNOHOMISH

Controversial Name

Township: PORTION OF SW 1/4 SE 1/4 E  
30N Range: 7E Section(s): 33

Name Change

Lat. \_\_\_\_\_ N, Long. \_\_\_\_\_ W (Begin)

Location Clarification

Lat. \_\_\_\_\_ N, Long. \_\_\_\_\_ W (End)

Spelling Clarification

SEE FREP EASEMENT # 5B-086575

**Description**

Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): MARSH (TYPE A WETLAND)

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered):  
APPROXIMATELY 8 ACRES SURROUNDED BY  
EITHER SKOGEN LLC FOREST LAND OR DNR FOREST  
LAND. (SEE ATTACHED PHOTOS AND FREP MAP)

If a stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: 12 MONTHS

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names: NO

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when? NO

**History**

Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings, this might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (floods, fires, etc.) 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.

Origin of name: NO KNOWN NATIVE AMERICAN OR  
FIRST SETTLER USE. THE LAND HAS BEEN ONLY  
FOREST LAND WITH SIGNS OF PAST FIRE.  
SINCE 2008, THE SKOGEN LLC FOREST LAND  
HAS BEEN AN APPROVED AMERICAN TREE FARM  
SYSTEM FOREST LAND # WA-4110

If a commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature: SINCE 1978. PLEASE ATTACHED  
OBITUARIES ON ANDY HOLLAND AND  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2019<sup>ARTICLE</sup> FEATURING HIM  
IN THE 1930S AS A FOREST SERVICE  
FIRE LOOKOUT (NEW YORK TIMES)

## Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of feature? TREE FARM MARSH ON  
THREE SIDES. FOURTH SIDE IS WA  
DNR LAND.

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest: IT WOULD RECOGNIZE  
AND HONOR PAST EVERETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FORESTRY  
AND MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR, COMMUNITY LEADER AND  
PUBLISHED AUTHOR; ANDY HOLLAND

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? THE PROPOSED NAME  
IS NOT IN USE, DUE TO SKOGEN LLC  
SURROUNDING FOREST LANDS

Please list all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history relating to proposed name) EXISTING SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
AND USGS MAPS

What type of support is there for the proposed name?

List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

ANDY OUTLIVED HIS PEERS AND FAMILY.  
I AM THE LAST HOLLAND ALIVE AND BELIEVE  
ANDY HOLLAND SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED FOR  
HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SNOHOMISH COUNTY,  
WA STATE FORESTLANDS AND LOPEZ ISLAND

## Application submitted by:

Name: CHUCK HOLLAND  
Address: PO BOX 66 City: PORT GAMBLE State: WA Zip: 98364  
Phone #: 206.849.3417 Email: CHOLLAND@JONESSTEVEDORING.COM Date of Application: 10/1/19

I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.

Printed Name: CHUCK HOLLAND  
Signature: CH Holland Date: 10/1/19

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:

WA State Board on Geographic Names

PO Box 47030

Olympia, WA 98504-7030

(Phone: 360-902-1280 - Fax: 360-902-1778 - Email: [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov))



## MAKI, CALEB (DNR)

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**From:** Chuck Holland <cholland@jonesstevedoring.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 2:19 PM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR)  
**Cc:** Chuck Holland  
**Subject:** Re: Andy Holland Marsh

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### External Email

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Caleb,

Yes, please do change the application to Holland Marsh.

Thank you for your help last year. I look forward to working further with you on the application in 2022.

Please feel free to also use the above CC'd email address.

Best Regards,

Chuck

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**From:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** Chuck Holland <cholland@jonesstevedoring.com>  
**Subject:** Andy Holland Marsh

At the **October 26, 2021** meeting of the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names, the Committee voted to defer until the next meeting your application to name **Andy Holland Marsh** located in **Snohomish County**.

The Committee asked if you would be open to amending your proposal to "Holland Marsh". If you agree, please send me an email stating this and I will update your proposal.

The Committee also mentioned that they would like to see more local support from residents before approving your proposed name.

The next Committee meeting will be held in May of 2021, and when a date is selected, I will contact you.

If you have any questions, please call me at (360) 902-1280 or email me at [caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in geographic names.

Sincerely,

**Caleb A. Maki**

Photogrammetry Supervisor – Engineering Division  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Phone: 360-902-1280 / Fax: 360-902-1778  
[caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov)  
[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

## **MAKI, CALEB (DNR)**

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**From:** Chuck Holland <cholland@jonesstevedoring.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 1, 2019 1:58 PM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR)  
**Subject:** Andy Holland Obituaries  
**Attachments:** Everett Herald Andy Holland fostered a passion for forestry in others.docx; San Juan Islands Obituary.docx

Caleb,

Here are the two obituaries. Please see the San Juan Islands obituary for the New York Times 9/28/19 article link.

Looking forward to being any further assistance if needed.

Chuck

# Andy Holland fostered a passion for forestry in others

- By Justin Arnold Herald Writer
- Saturday, March 29, 2008 10:05pm
- **LOCAL NEWS** EVERETTLOCAL NEWS

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/andy-holland-fostered-a-passion-for-forestry-in-others/>

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EVERETT — A son of the Evergreen State, Andy Holland encouraged generations of students to embrace the forests as their own.

Born to Norwegian immigrant parents on Vashon Island, Holland grew up on a chicken farm. When he was a young teen, he lost both his parents and brother in a matter of years.

“Self-sufficiency was a must. He went to school, and with his two remaining siblings, sold eggs from the 1,000 chickens they had on the farm,” nephew Chuck Holland said.

Andy Holland was an athlete, and after graduating high school he went to Washington State University on a scholarship to study forestry. He eventually transferred to the University of Washington where he made friends with Everett’s Henry M. “Scoop” Jackson.

While at the University of Washington, Holland played baseball as a starting pitcher for the Huskies under coach Tubby Graves.

During the summers, Holland worked for the state forestry service, manning a lonely fire lookout station. He eventually wrote a book on his experiences called “Switchbacks.”

Jackson would often visit Holland on his lookout vigils, both looking forward to the “Slush Cup,” a yearly tradition at Mount Baker where people would try and ski across a slushy pond of snow and water.

Despite his passion for forestry, the Depression yielded few jobs in that field. It was then that Holland discovered his passion for teaching. Holland began teaching and coaching baseball at Tieton High School, south of Ellensburg, in 1938. He eventually moved and began teaching at Everett High School.

Holland and his wife Dolly joined the staff of Everett Junior College in 1941 where he taught mathematics, botany and forestry.

“He was amazing, had a real knack for nurturing passion in his students,” Chuck Holland said. “The impact that he had on his students still resounds today.”

Chuck Holland remembers making a business phone call when someone recognized his last name and asked if he and Andy were related.

“She told me that because of Andy, one of his students was now the head of the U.S. Forest Service for Mount Baker- Snoqualmie National Forest.”

Other students of Holland went on to careers that reflected the passion for Washington forests that they learned from their teacher. Student Dale Cole went on to become a professor of forestry at the University of Washington. Student Dale Atkins became an executive with the Plum Creek Timber.

After his retirement from education, Andy Holland and his wife moved to Lopez Island in the San Juans.

“When they moved there, Andy saw that the island had no community center, no hospice program ... so just like Andy, he did something about it,” Chuck Holland said.

Andy Holland provided the seed money for the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts. Dolly Holland died in 1993.

“Andy had so many experiences that were difficult, and I would ask him how he got through them,” Chuck Holland said. “He would tell me ‘Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone. The earth has it’s own dearth and troubles enough of it’s own.’”



## San Juan Islands Newspaper Obituary •

# Andy Holland

- Tue Mar 4th, 2008 6:50pm

Andy Holland

Andrew “Andy” Holland passed away peacefully. He was 97 years old.

Andy was born to Norwegian immigrant parents on Vashon Island. He was orphaned at age 13, graduated from Vashon High School and earned a degree from the University of Washington’s education department with a major in botany and a minor in mathematics. He was a starting pitcher for the University of Washington’s baseball team.

Andy first taught school and coached at Tieton, near Yakima, WA. Summers, Andy worked as a lookout for the U.S. Forest Service. His adventures as a lookout are chronicled in his book, **Switchbacks**, published by the Mountaineers in 1980. In the book, he wrote, “I hope the guests of wilderness will continue to become the advocates for its survival, dedicated to preserving part of the earth in its original form so that humanity can always have access to the basic virtues and values of nature.”

Andy married Dolly (nee Helberg) in Aberdeen, WA in 1938. They made their first home in Everett where Andy was on the staff of Everett High School, teaching biology and coaching baseball. The Hollands loved spending time in nature and traveling. In his memoirs, Andy wrote, “... my wife and I had the yen to travel.” They enjoyed seeing the world together and their motto was “Live until we die.”

Both of the Hollands joined the faculty of Everett Junior College (now Everett Community College). Andy taught mathematics, botany and forestry. Many of his forestry students became professional foresters.

Upon retiring from the College, the Hollands moved to their home on Mud Bay, Lopez Island. Lopez was the Hollands’ Eden and they enjoyed entertaining friends and family, golfing, the bounty of the beach, an abundant garden and orchard and volunteering in the community.

Andy is credited with helping start the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts. He and Dolly are honored annually with the island’s Community Spirit Award and the baseball field adjacent to Lopez High is named in memory of Andy Holland.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/28/us/fire-lookout-tower-washington.html>

**From:** [Chuck Holland](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Everett Herald story on Holland Marsh  
**Date:** Friday, April 1, 2022 11:20:07 AM

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External Email

Good Morning Caleb,

I was contacted by this Everett Herald journalist Zachariah Bryan on the Holland Marsh naming. Please read the emails below for how he found out about the naming from a colleague.

I spoke to Zachariah this morning. He will be writing an article that will appear in the Herald sometime in April.

I wanted you to be aware of this in advance. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your help throughout this application process.

Chuck

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**From:** Zachariah Bryan <[zbryan@heraldnet.com](mailto:zbryan@heraldnet.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 11:35 AM  
**To:** Chuck Holland <[cholland@jonesstevedoring.com](mailto:cholland@jonesstevedoring.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Everett Herald story on Holland Marsh

Sure, I'll plan to call at 10. Thank you.

On Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 11:33 AM Chuck Holland <[cholland@jonesstevedoring.com](mailto:cholland@jonesstevedoring.com)> wrote:

Zachariah,

Would you like to call me at your convenience before your 11 AM meeting? That would be the most convenient for me.

My phone numbers are:

home: 360.297.0011

cell: 206.849.3417

Thank you so much for your interest in the marsh naming and my uncle. There are some people in our lives who live on despite no longer being alive. Andy is one of them.

Chuck

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**From:** Zachariah Bryan <[zbryan@heraldnet.com](mailto:zbryan@heraldnet.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 11:27 AM  
**To:** Chuck Holland <[cholland@jonesstevedoring.com](mailto:cholland@jonesstevedoring.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Everett Herald story on Holland Marsh

Yes, I did read that article, as well as the application for the name change. He sounds like a great guy. Would you have time tomorrow to talk? I'm pretty free outside of an 11 a.m. meeting. I am also curious if there's any particular reason for naming this specific marsh.

(Maybe there isn't much of a reason, and that's fine too.)

On Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 11:02 AM Chuck Holland <[cholland@jonesstevedoring.com](mailto:cholland@jonesstevedoring.com)> wrote:

Good Morning Zachariah,

Perhaps this article will help you understand why I am seeking to have the marsh named after my uncle.

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/andy-holland-fostered-a-passion-for-forestry-in-others/>

If the Committee agrees, the marsh will be named **Holland Marsh** after Andy.

When is a good time for us to chat?

Thank you so much for contacting me and for your and the Herald's interest.

Chuck

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**From:** Zachariah Bryan <[zbryan@heraldnet.com](mailto:zbryan@heraldnet.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 3:28 PM

**To:** Chuck Holland <[cholland@jonesstevedoring.com](mailto:cholland@jonesstevedoring.com)>

**Subject:** Everett Herald story on Holland Marsh

Hi Chuck,

I'm the environment reporter with The Daily Herald newspaper, in Everett. A colleague of mine came across your proposal to name a marsh after your uncle, Andy Holland, and I thought I would write a short story about it, maybe for the weekend.

Would you have time to chat about why you want to name the marsh this week?

Thank you. Hope you're well.

--

**Zachariah Bryan**

Reporter

The Daily Herald | 1800 41st Street, S-300 | Everett, WA 98203

425-339-3431 | 50820 | [www.heraldnet.com](http://www.heraldnet.com)



--

**Zachariah Bryan**

Reporter

The Daily Herald | 1800 41st Street, S-300 | Everett, WA 98203

425-339-3431 | 50820 | [www.heraldnet.com](http://www.heraldnet.com)



A nameless marsh near Granite Falls could one day be called Holland Marsh. (Chuck Holland)

## Granite Falls marsh may be named for Everett college teacher

Andy Holland inspired generations of students to pursue forestry. Now his nephew wants to honor his legacy.

By Zachariah Bryan

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 1:30am | [LOCAL NEWS](#) [ENVIRONMENT](#) [EVERETT](#) [GRANITE FALLS](#)

**GRANITE FALLS** — A no-name marsh somewhere near Granite Falls could soon have a tie-in to a local legend.

If approved, the eight-acre marsh would be named after Andy Holland, [an Everett Community College teacher and fire lookout](#) who taught generations of people to pursue forestry.

His nephew, Chuck Holland, had the idea to name the wetland Holland Marsh. He inherited some of the surrounding forest from his uncle and maintains it to this day as a tree farm, a few miles south of Granite Falls.



“This is part of my idea to a legacy,” he said. “A legacy to Andy, and all he’s done for others.”

The proposal is before the state Department of Natural Resources Committee on Geographic Names. At a meeting April 26, the committee will decide whether to recommend the name to the department’s Board on Geographic Names. Then, if all goes well, the board will transmit the proposed name to the feds.

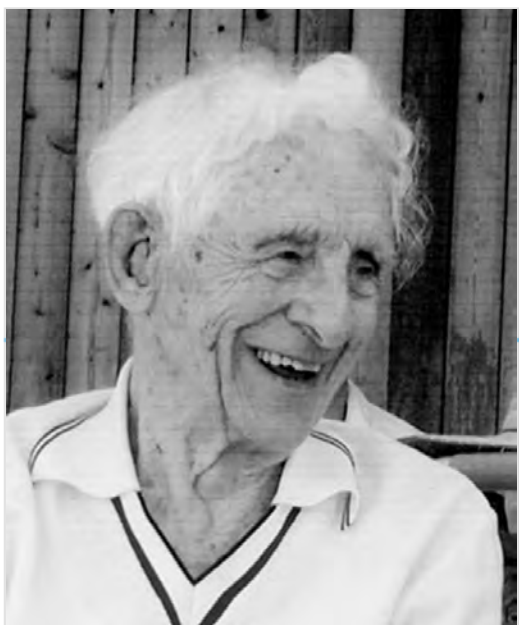
One might view the quest to name this marsh as peculiar. There’s no easy public access, and no way to see it, unless perhaps you are a bird or have a drone.

That doesn’t diminish its importance, Chuck Holland argued. It’s “so vital to the Pilchuck River watershed,” he said. It’s part of the Natural Resources forest riparian easement program, he said, meaning he can’t do anything with the wetlands without state approval, and vice versa.

“As often happens with tree farms, there’s special places like this marsh, which have no public access or visibility,” Chuck Holland said.

During visits, Chuck Holland said, he has had to bushwhack his way to the marsh with a machete. The pond is framed by a “forest cathedral” of old growth, he said. A stream runs through and dumps into a nearby lake. Salmon use the marsh, as do beavers.

As the marsh has risen and fallen, trees have died, fallen, and become snags that provide yet more habitat.



Andy Holland

Chuck Holland said the marsh — and all the creatures that take advantage of it — should be left undisturbed.

Andy Holland led a storied life. Born in 1910 to Norwegian immigrants, he grew up on a chicken farm on Vashon Island. He lost his parents and his brother early in life, leaving him and his two remaining siblings to fend for themselves — going to school and selling eggs from about a thousand chickens.

He studied forestry at both Washington State University and the University of Washington. He was a starting pitcher for the Huskies baseball team and

befriended local legend Henry M. “Scoop” Jackson.

Andy Holland spent his summers working as a fire lookout, eventually writing a memoir titled, “Switchbacks.”

In 1938, he taught and coached baseball at Tieton High School, south of Ellensburg. A few years later, he and his wife, Dolly, joined the staff of Everett Junior College, where he taught math, botany and forestry. There he inspired countless students.

When they retired, he and his wife moved to Lopez Island. She died in 1993.

Andy Holland spent his final days in senior housing in Anacortes. Friends, family and folks from the island often stopped to see him, his nephew said.

“He was like a filling station,” Chuck Holland said. “He was a very astute listener. ... He could live his life like he did before through people’s experiences, by listening.”

“In turn, those people became nurtured,” he continued. “You always went away feeling better than when you arrived.”

Andy Holland died in February 2008 at the age of 97.

One of the people he inspired was his nephew.

“I’ve always had an interest in forestry,” Chuck Holland said. “... Some people like to take down trees, I like to plant them. He saw that in me, and said why don’t you have the tree farm?”

Talking about his uncle, Chuck Holland still gets choked up.

“People like that, you never get over,” he said. “They’re always with you.”

*Zachariah Bryan: 425-339-3431; [zbryan@heraldnet.com](mailto:zbryan@heraldnet.com). Twitter: [@zachariahtb](https://twitter.com/zachariahtb).*



Zachariah Bryan is an environment reporter and assistant news editor with The Daily Herald. He previously covered breaking news and the criminal justice system. [Learn more about Zachariah.](#)

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- If you have an opinion you wish to share for publication, send a letter to the editor to [letters@heraldnet.com](mailto:letters@heraldnet.com) or by regular mail to The Daily Herald, Letters, P.O. Box 930, Everett, WA 98206.
- [More contact information is here.](#)

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**Comments**

**Received**

**From:** [John Olson](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Subject:** Holland Marsh naming  
**Date:** Monday, April 18, 2022 9:10:12 AM

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External Email

I am writing in support of the proposal to name Holland Marsh in Snohomish County.

The factors that are considered by the committee per WAC 332-160-040 include two that are very relevant to this proposal. The first is that names "...strongly supported by local residents will be favored." As a resident of Snohomish County I strongly support this proposal, and to date have seen no evidence of any objection to the proposed name from any local residents. The second factor is related to the historical significance of the proposal. The Holland family has a long legacy in this area, dating back to the early 1940s when Andy and Dolly Holland joined the faculty of Everett Junior College. The relationship of the name to the property has also been established as the Holland family owns much of the property that surrounds the marsh, and has for over 50 years.

In a broader sense, the connection between the Holland family and the entire forested area of Snohomish County and beyond is strong, primarily through Andy Holland's work with the United States Forest Service, as a college instructor in forestry, and through both Andy and Dolly's work in retirement on Lopez Island. The Holland family has a strong reputation in both Snohomish and San Juan counties, making significant contributions consistent with the preservation of the marsh that should be named after the family. This is consistent with the commemorative naming standard favoring proposals where the name commemorates someone who has "...either some direct or long-term association with the feature or have made a significant contribution to the area in which it is located..." The Holland family has both.

My work at Everett Community College puts me into contact with many alumni dating back to the 1940s. I often hear of the impact of the Holland family members, including the three members of the family who taught here. Andy, Dolly, and their son Jerry (who owned much of the property surrounding the marsh) are mentioned by many former students. These former students include the former head U.S. Forest Service for Mount Baker- Snoqualmie National Forest, a forestry industry CEO, a University of Washington forestry professor, and others who gained an appreciation of protecting the land for public benefit. Andy's friend Henry M. Jackson was one of the most influential members of Congress when it came to the preservation of our country's wilderness areas, and thousands of acres are named in his honor. The Holland family has earned the honor of having their name on this small marsh for their contributions, and I ask the committee to vote favorably on this proposal.

--

John Olson  
Executive Director, Community and Government Relations  
Everett Community College

Dear Committee Members -

I am in earnest support of the proposal to name a peak in the Twin Sister range "Dallas Kloke Peak", after Dallas Kloke.

Dallas was my friend. I am so grateful to have known him! What was so special about Dallas? There was no one more passionate about the mountains, and his enthusiasm for climbing was boundless & infectious. He was always willing to take a novice under his wing, both on the rock and in the peaks of the North Cascades. This is how I met him in 2002 despite being intimidated by his reputation as a local climbing legend, in person I found Dallas to be incredibly warm, humble, encouraging & supportive. He mentored many young aspiring climbers in Washington state over the course of his life. He was generous of his time, knowledge & skills.

Being in the mountains with Dallas was so much fun! He was so full of energy, often giddy, & just happy to be outside, with friends, doing what he loved. I was with Dallas on his last day of life on the Pleiades, and he was characteristically joyful & embracing life. At 71 years of age, Dallas had been climbing for **50** years, we all thought of him as invincible. Sadly, we were mistaken.

Losing Dallas was such a shock to our community & to the many people who loved him. Naming a peak in the North Cascades after him would be a very fitting and enduring memorial to his many contributions to the people of Skagit Valley and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of this honor.

Sincerely, Jill Youde, Anacortes WA.

**From:** [Bob Layton](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Holland Marsh Support  
**Date:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 11:55:23 AM

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External Email

To The Washington State Committee on Geographic Names  
c/o Caleb Maki  
[caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov)

It is my understanding that the naming committee has asked for public support for Chuck Holland's proposal. As President of the Upper Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association ( <https://www.wafarmforestry.com>); I'm writing to ask you to approve the proposal to name the marsh on Chuck's tree farm near Granite Falls - **Holland Marsh**.

Our Chapter's members include over 90 small private landowners (tree farmers) in North King, Snohomish, Skagit and Island Counties. Chuck Holland is a long-time member and former officer of our Chapter. We often have on our tree farms special places such as the marsh on Chuck's property, which have no public access or visibility. The marsh is not visible from any public road. The public does not therefore know of this marsh.

I have personally bushwhacked into this particular marsh with Chuck. It is vital to the Pilchuck River watershed, providing clean water and valuable wildlife habitat. This marsh is included in the WA State Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP), protecting its adjacent old growth forest and clean water for perpetuity.

We tree farmers are uniquely positioned to offer you the requested public support for naming this marsh **Holland Marsh**. Thank you in advance for approving this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Layton

President

Upper Puget Sound Chapter

Washington Farm Forestry Association

425-220-5711

**From:** [Gary Rose](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Subject:** Granite Falls Marsh naming  
**Date:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 1:27:28 PM

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External Email

Attn: Mr. Caleb Maki, Sec. Wash. State Committee on Geographic Names

Dear Mr. Maki,

I would consider Mr. Andy Holland the perfect person for the naming of the marsh near Granite Falls, WA. Andy was my college instructor at Everett Community College 67 years ago. His class dealt with forest management and his knowledge and teaching skills left a definite mark on me. I learned from him topographical map reading, map drawing skills, timber cruising, how to read section corner marking and how to lay out simple property lines using a compass plus much more. His humor, skills in the woods and backcountry impressed not only me but the whole class.

Sincerely,

Gary Rose  
Edmonds, WA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**MAKI, CALEB (DNR)**

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**From:** Fred Cruger <abbott1912@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:03 PM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR)  
**Subject:** Andy Holland Marsh proposal

External Email

Hello Mr. Maki,

I would like to support the naming of the Andy Holland Marsh as a recognition of Mr. Holland's dedication to our forestlands. However, I did notice that all the documents refer to it as a marsh that is 3.8mi SW of Granite Falls, when it is actually 3.8mi SE of Granite Falls, close to Menzel Lake :-)

Fred Cruger  
Granite Falls Historical Society



Caleb Maki Executive Secretary Washington Committee on Geographic Names  
PO Box 47030 Olympia WA 98504 7030 (360) 902-1280 caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov

Hello Mr. Maki,

I received a request from Chuck Holland asking if I might submit support to your agency regarding the naming of a marsh on the Holland tree farm that would commemorate his late uncle, Andy Holland. I wish to do so now.

I feel as though I know Andy Holland better than I should. I met Andy twice. The first time was in 1991 when he came by the North Cascades National Park Marblemount Ranger Station where he met the staff at the Wilderness Office and discussed their carrying a copy of his memoir called Switchbacks. The second time was in July of 2002 when he was attending the Poets Rendezvous in Newhalem. The gathering of Park and Forest workers and supporters as well as poetry enthusiasts marked some seventy some years of fire watching from towers and the interesting people who were drawn to that work. Andy Holland was one of the colorful speakers to attend.

For the past five years I was posted at the Miners Ridge Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness. This was the same location that inspired Andy to write his book Switchbacks, which not only recounts his days living in that remote location but his appreciation of the wildlife and especially the forest surrounding him. That book became my "go to" resource when I was meeting the many visitors to the lookout and I wished to tell them some of the history of the ridge, and the dedicated lookouts who had served there. After a while it became easy for me to quote from Andy's book and to share what also came to be his and my own enthusiasm for the wonderful wilderness that been preserved there.

Recently I was discussing Andy Holland with a Park Service friend who had retired from a long career as a fire fighter, and learned that the same friend had taken forestry classes from Andy when he was teaching in Everett. The friend said that Andy was an excellent teacher who was very keen on sharing his knowledge of managing--nurturing even--our native forests. It was a great experience that lead my friend and so many others that he knew to take up a career in Forestry.

That same desire that Andy had to save and manage our forests could be said to extend to the marshland on the very tree farm that Chuck Holland is managing today. It would be a fitting tribute to Andy's memory and career to name the marsh in his honor.

Sincerely,

*Russ Dalton*

Russ Dalton

11633 Martin Rd.  
Rockport, WA  
98283  
360-770-0504

## MAKI, CALEB (DNR)

---

**From:** Dick & Marie Atkins <atkins@olympen.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 11:09 AM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR)  
**Cc:** Chuck Holland  
**Subject:** Andy Holland Marsh

Dear Mr. Maki:

This email is in support of naming a marsh in Snohomish County Andy Holland Marsh.

I graduated Arlington High School in 1952 and worked on a Forest Service trail crew in the Darrington District that summer. I was a shy, 17 year old average student who thought I would give college a try. Forestry seemed like a good option, although I had only a vague idea of what a "forest ranger" would do. I enrolled at Everett Junior College, which consisted of one brick building and several surplus Army temporary wooden classrooms. Professor Andy Holland taught forestry to about eight students in one of those classrooms that year. I took Dendrology and a course in practical forestry that was deemed by University of Washington to be below their standards, with credits not transferable. That course, and Andy Holland, sparked my interest in forestry into a full-blown flame that led to a degree in Forest Management from the University of Washington in 1956 and a long career in industrial forestry at Plum Creek Timber Company. Among other things, Andy took our class to his private tree farm near Machias. It was a work in progress, but we could see that by hard work and patience it was possible to earn a profit from tree farming. I went right home to our farm in Arlington and pruned and thinned our three acres of Douglas-fir trees. I purchased my own 40 acre tree farm 42 years ago and built it up to 875 acres today, with ownership split among our family.

Along with being an enthusiastic instructor, Andy provided me with individual guidance and help. When I thought I might fail my physics course, I called on him, and he helped me try to understand some concepts that were really foreign to my brain. I passed the next test with a "B" and finished with a "C". Many in the class did worse. Andy recommended I take a course in speech. It was tough for me, but helpful for my career. He urged me to go right on to University of Washington because the Spring quarter Pack Forest class was going to be changed to summer soon, which would prevent me from earning enough during the summer to pay for the next year's school.

I never saw Andy Holland after that year at Everett Junior College, but over the years I have run into several other foresters who knew him and let me know my experience was not unique. I recommend his legacy be marked by the official naming of Andy Holland Marsh.

Richard Atkins  
Certified Forester

**MAKI, CALEB (DNR)**

---

**From:** Linda Rose <kenlinda.rose@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 29, 2019 3:17 PM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR)  
**Cc:** chuckholland11@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Naming of Andy Holland Marsh

Dear Mr. Maki,

As a cousin of the late Andy Holland, I was thrilled to recently find out that a final hearing has been set with the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names for May 2020.

I am writing this e-mail to express my support for naming the marsh near Menzel Lake as “Andy Holland Marsh”. This honor is well deserved due to Andy’s commitment to preservation of wilderness areas. This quote from Andy’s autobiography (Switchbacks, 1980) where he chronicled his experiences as a Forest Service fire lookout exemplifies his dedication to nature:

*“I hope the guests of wilderness will continue to become the advocates for its survival, dedicated to preserving part of the earth in its original form so that humanity can always have access to the basic virtues and values of nature.”*

Not only was Andy dedicated to nature, he also was a long-time active member of the Lopez Island community, often taking on leadership roles in endeavors to improve life for residents and visitors of this rural, tight-knit island population. Andy and his wife of 65 years (Dolly, who passed away 15 years prior to Andy) started advocating for the creation of a community and arts center. After Dolly's passing, Andy was credited with helping to start the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts. His donation of \$50,000 got the ball rolling with the fundraising efforts which resulted in the center being debt free upon completion. He also played an instrumental role in the creation of a baseball field adjacent to Lopez School (Pre-K -12<sup>th</sup> grade).

Beginning in 2000, the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts has honored an individual, couple, or partners with an annual award called The Andy and Dolly Holland Spirit Award. The award was created to honor people who give unselfishly to the community in extraordinary ways, just as Andy and Dolly did for many years.

Myself and my family thank you for the work your committee does. We look forward to hearing the decision made by this committee and are hopeful that you are in agreement that it is appropriate to make the naming of Andy Holland Marsh a reality.

Sincerely,

Ken Rose

(Lopez Island resident 1990-2017)

(currently residing in Sedro Woolley, WA)

360-317-5480

**MAKI, CALEB (DNR)**

---

**Subject:** FW: Andy Holland Marsh - Geographic Name Opinion Request

**From:** Simmonds, Rob <Rob.Simmonds@snoco.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 12:44 PM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Andy Holland Marsh - Geographic Name Opinion Request

External Email

Not a fan of the name. Drop Andy from the name and it would be whole lot better.

Rob Simmonds, IT



# Andy Holland Marsh - SHOHOMISH COUNTY

Granite Falls  
(3.8 mi to the NW)

Andy Holland Marsh

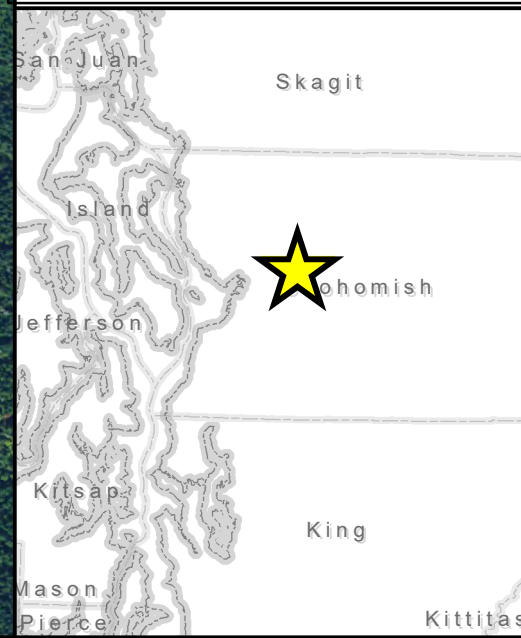
Menzel Lake

Swamp; 8 acres; located 3.8 mi SW of Granite Falls at 48°2'25.895"N, 121°54'46.956"W.

Proposed name commemorates Andy Holland (d. 2008).

Mr. Holland was an Everett Community College Forestry and Mathematics Professor and a community leader, and was a wild fire lookout for the USFS.

Mr. Holland was active in the teaching community, and encouraged generations of students to pursue Forestry.





# Andy Holland Marsh - SHOHOMISH COUNTY

Granite Falls

Andy Holland Marsh

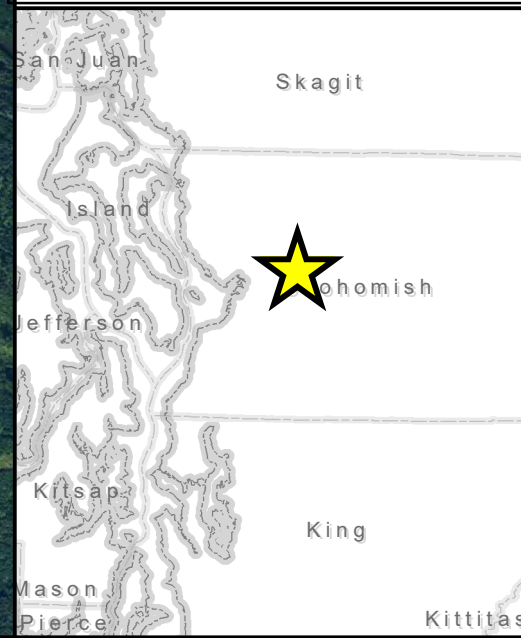
Menzel Lake

Swamp; 8 acres; located 3.8 mi SW of Granite Falls at 48°2'25.895"N, 121°54'46.956"W.

Proposed name commemorates Andy Holland (d. 2008).

Mr. Holland was an Everett Community College Forestry and Mathematics Professor and a community leader, and was a wild fire lookout for the USFS.

Mr. Holland was active in the teaching community, and encouraged generations of students to pursue Forestry.





## **Basket Island**

*San Juan County - New Name*

**Township:** 36N

**Range:** 2W

**Section:** 9

**USGS Quad:** Eastsound

**Location Description:** Island; 0.15 acres; located in West Sound off Orcas Island, NE of Picnic Island.

**Proposal Summary:** Basket Island: island; approx. 0.15 acres; located in West Sound off Orcas Island, NE of Picnic Island; the name is associated with the adjacent Picnic Island; San Juan County, Washington; Sec 9 T36N R2W, Willamette Meridian; 48°37'43"N, 122°57'28"W USGS map - Eastsound 1:24,000.

The name was chosen by the proponent in reference to nearby larger Picnic Island. The name "Picnic Island" appears on Google Maps, but is not the official name according to the GNIS. BLM maps have referred to the feature as "Trinka Rock", due to correspondence from 1969 from the proponent of Picnic Island. The proponent for Picnic Island stated that "it was given the name after my little girl, because it has always been her island, as she spent free time on the rock as a little girl."

In 1969, the US Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey said that it was not feasible to name the island "Trinca's Island", as it was too small to appear on nautical charts.

**Proponent:**

Alex Levine  
14 Virginia's Lane  
Eastsound, WA 98245

**Proposal Received:** 10/15/2019

**Initial Consideration:** 10/26/2021

**Final Consideration:** 4/26/2022

**WA Committee Decision:** Approved for Final

**WA Board Decision:**

**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**

San Juan County Council - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

San Juan Historical Museum - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

San Juan County GIS - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

San Juan County Emergency Management - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

San Juan County Public Works - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

WA State Historical Society - WAITING ON RESPONSE

Catherine Bryant (Landowner) - WAITING ON RESPONSE

Betsy Wareham - IN FAVOR



Approved

Promulgation authorized  
Executive Secretary  
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES  
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

**Basket Island**: island; approx. 0.15 acres; in San Juan Islands National Monument (Bureau of Land Management) in West Sound off Orcas Island, NE of Picnic Island; the name is associated with the adjacent Picnic Island (BGN 1977); Sec 9, T36N, R2W, Willamette Meridian; San Juan County, Washington; 48°37'43"N, 122°57'28"W; USGS map – Eastsound 1:24:000; Not: Trincas Island, Trinka Rock.

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=48.628488&p\\_longi=-122.957862](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=48.628488&p_longi=-122.957862)

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature

Map: USGS Eastsound 1:24:000

Proponent: Alex Levine

Administrative area: San Juan Islands National Monument (Bureau of Land Management)

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: No record

Local Usage: Trincas Island; Trinka Rock (Bureau of Land Management; local environmental and ecological groups)

Published: Basket Rock (Google Maps, 2020); Trinka Rock (BLM maps, 2008; BLM Wilderness Review documents, 1980; BLM “San Juan Islands National Monument Site Catalog”, 2017; BLM “San Juan Islands National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement”, 2018; University of Washington Burke Museum Herbarium specimen labels, 2018; *Islands’ Sounder* article, 2017)

Case Summary: The new name Basket Island is proposed for an officially unnamed 0.15-acre island in West Sound off Orcas Island in San Juan County. The name is a reference to the nearby, larger Picnic Island (BGN 1977) located just to the southeast and connected at low tide. The island is a parcel of land in the Bureau of Land Management’s San Juan Islands National Monument.

The island is currently labeled as Basket Island on Google Maps and the proponent provided this as evidence that it had no other name in local use. However, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has used the name Trinka Rock for this island since the 1980s. More current documents, including the BLM’s 2017 “San Juan Islands National Monument Site Catalog” and the 2018 “San Juan Islands National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement” (and subsequent final reports) refer to the island as Trinka Rock, while noting that other islands in the National Monument are unnamed. BLM documents do not note the origin of the name, but the documents from the 1977 BGN decision for the nearby Picnic Island do.

In 1969, the owner of what was then officially known as Sheep Island wrote to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS) to ask that his island’s name be changed on charts to Picnic Island. He also stated that the island now proposed as Basket Island “has been referred to as Trinkas Island ever since I first occupied Picnic Island. It was given this name, after my little girl, because it has always been ‘her’ island. She spent all of her free time on this little rock as a little girl and I feel it only proper that it should bear her name.” In a subsequent letter, the owner of Picnic Island used the spelling “Trinca’s Island.” In response, the C&GS replied:

“It would not be feasible for us to add at this time the name Trinkas Island to the unnamed rock you described. Cartographically the feature is too small to be named on charts of the scale that are now being published. Although in general the Board on Geographic Names policies, to which we adhere precludes the naming of features for living persons, it is always possible that such a ruling will have been altered by the time we publish charts large enough to include the name.”

The individual named Trinca is still living, and it is unclear when or why the BLM began using the spelling “Trinka.”

The island is unnamed on USGS maps, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration charts, and State of Washington maps.

BLM received a comment from a San Juan County resident in response to the 2015 “San Juan Islands National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement—Scoping Report” which stated:

“I am aware of numerous rocks or small islands in the San Juans that carry local or informal names. A few examples: Iceberg Point Rocks, Outer Bay Rocks, Trincas Island in Westsound, Indian Island in Eastsound, Pear Point Rocks, Dinner Island Rocks, Pudding Island. None of these are approved names and thus, may not appear on federal documents (e.g., charts or topos). As BLM will be managing some of these, I think identifying these locations (as well as formalizing their names) would be an important activity.”

Proposed by: Alex Levine  
Submitted by: same  
Prepared by: M. O’Donnell  
Case ID: 5452  
Reviewed by: J.Runyon

Date: 10/14/20  
Date: same  
Date: 12/21/20  
Quarterly Review List: 442  
Date: 12/21/20

# APPENDIX C.

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey**

## Domestic Geographic Name Report

**1.** Use this form to recommend a feature name or to suggest a name change.

**2.** For features on Federal lands, coordinate requests with the agency (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) for the administrative area in which the feature is located.

**3.** On the reverse side of this form give information on the local usage and authority for recommended name.

**4.** For more information about the Geographic Names Information System or the National Gazetteer program, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at 703-648-4544.

**5.** Return this form to:

Executive Secretary for Domestic  
Geographic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
523 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192

<b>Action Requested:</b>	Recommended Name: Basket Island
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed New Name X	State: Washington
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Change	County or Equivalent: United States of America
<input type="checkbox"/> Name Change	Administrative Area
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

**Specific Area Covered:**

Latitude: 48 ° 37 ' 42.7 " N Longitude: 122 ° 57 ' 28.5 " W E Mouth End Center

Latitude: \_\_\_ ° \_\_\_ ' \_\_\_ " N S Longitude: \_\_\_ ° \_\_\_ ' \_\_\_ " W E Heading End

Section(s) \_\_\_ Township(s) East/south, \_\_\_ Range(s) \_\_\_ Meridian \_\_\_ Elevation 10 ft.

**Type of Feature** (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.): Island

Is the feature identified (including other names) in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?

Yes  **XNoX** Unknown  If yes, please indicate how it is listed: There are no names listed

**Description of Feature** (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.): This is a 50 sq ft x 50 sq ft small island directly adjacent to the better known (and larger) Picnic Island in West Sound on Orcas Island, Washington, USA

Maps and Other Sources Using <b>Recommended Name</b> (include scale and date)	Other Names (variants)	Maps and Other Sources Using <b>Other Name</b> or Applications (include scale and date)
Only Google Maps currently has it listed as Basket Island.		

)

**Name Information** (such as origin, meaning of the recommended name, historical significance, biographical data (if commemorative), nature of usage or application, or any other pertinent information):

Is the recommended name in local usage? **XYesX**      Nolf yes, for approximately how many years? **Unknown**, it is currently only visible in google maps.

45

Is there local opposition to, or conflict, with the recommended name?      Yes      **XNoX** (If yes, explain)

For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed: **According to all maritime charts, Washington state maps and published records there is currently no name that could be found for this small public island. The only evidence of a name for this island is currently Basket Island which is visible on Google Maps.**

Additional information:

Copy Submitted By (name):	Title	Telephone (day)	Date
Company or Agency	Address (City, State, and ZIPCode)		
Copy Prepared By (if other than above):	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Company or Agency	Address (City, State, and ZIPCode)		

Authority for Recommended Name	Mailing Address and Telephone	Occupation	Years in Area



**Re: [EXTERNAL] Unnamed natural feature proposal - Basket Island****BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>**

Mon 10/19/2020 11:24 AM

**To:** Alex Levine <alex.levine1@gmail.com>**Cc:** betsy <sailorcas@hotmail.com>; MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>; Carlson, Tom <tcarlson@usgs.gov>

Thanks Alex,

We'll add the reason for the name to the case file (there's no Board policy that includes "cute names" but if the local community has no objection, they may agree that it's appropriate).

Thanks for any additional support you can provide. It can be sent to us directly at BGNEXEC@usgs.gov. If Caleb decides it would be better to work through the Washington State Names Committee, he can advise you on where to send the information. But anything you send us will be shared with the State anyway.

~ Jenny

---

**From:** Alex Levine <alex.levine1@gmail.com>**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 12:57 AM**To:** BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>**Cc:** betsy <sailorcas@hotmail.com>; MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>; Carlson, Tom <tcarlson@usgs.gov>**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Unnamed natural feature proposal - Basket Island

Hi Jennifer,

Thanks for the prompt response! The name "Basket" is in relation to the adjacent larger island named "Picnic Island", cute huh?!

I will work on getting a few local residents to send letters of support. Betsy Wareham (cc'd) owns the marina adjacent to Picnic and Basket Islands. Should I have them email you directly or is there a different form of communication that you would prefer?

Thanks again :)

Best,  
AlexOn Thu, Oct 15, 2020 at 6:25 PM BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <[bgnexec@usgs.gov](mailto:bgnexec@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Levine,

This acknowledges your proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to apply the new name Basket Island to a small unnamed island adjacent to Picnic Island in San Juan County. The Board

is responsible for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal Government, and its members must approve any new name before it can appear on Federal maps and products.

Thank you for submitting the completed application by email. You are correct that our office remains closed and we have very limited access to the mail room. A physical copy is not necessary.

We will prepare a case brief for the proposal and add it to the Board's next Quarterly Review List for consideration by all interested parties. In order to complete the brief, can you provide the reason for selecting "Basket". . . is it in relation to "Picnic"?

(By the way, you may be interested to know that when the former owner of Picnic Island submitted a proposal to the Board in the mid-1970s to change the previous name Sheep Island to Picnic Island, he also asked that the smaller island be named for his daughter. However, because the Board does not allow names that honor living people, it could not be accepted. The island has remained unnamed.)

Local opinion is important to the Board, so by a copy of this response, we are forwarding your proposal to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names for its review and a recommendation. As part of its research, the WSCGN will request opinions from the county government and any local or state agencies that it determines might have an interest. We will also ask NOAA to comment, and in accordance with Federal policies regarding Tribal consultation, we must ask all federally recognized American Indian tribes if they have an opinion. If you can gather additional support from local residents or a local historical society, we would welcome that for the file. Any additional comments can be submitted to us at [BGNEXEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNEXEC@usgs.gov) or to the WSCGN at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/board-natural-resources/committee-geographic-names>. The executive secretary of the WSCGN may also contact you directly to discuss the state's naming process.

Once all parties have provided input and after the WSCGN has submitted its recommendation, we will present the proposal for Basket Island to the U.S. Board for discussion and the final decision. The entire process typically takes several months, or more likely longer since we don't know if the WSCGN has been able to meet during the pandemic. Nonetheless, we will notify you of the outcome of the decision.

Thank you for your interest in the geographic names of Washington. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,  
Jennifer Runyon, research staff  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Reston, Virginia 20192  
(703) 648-4550  
<https://usgs.gov/geonames>

---

**From:** Alex Levine <[alex.levine1@gmail.com](mailto:alex.levine1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 2:24 AM  
**To:** BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <[bgnexec@usgs.gov](mailto:bgnexec@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** betsy <[sailorcas@hotmail.com](mailto:sailorcas@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Unnamed natural feature proposal - Basket Island

Hello,

At the risk of me sending this to your physical address where there may not be anyone at the office, I am formally submitting an application to name an unnamed small island in Washington state (attached).

Please let me know if I should also send a physical copy to your offices:

U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 523  
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Thank you in advance.

Best,  
Alex Levine





0 0.25 0.5 Miles  
Copyright © 2015 National Geographic Society, I-cubed

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

November 6, 1969

C511

Mr. William C. Bryant  
P.O. Box 31  
Orcas, Washington 98280

Dear Mr. Bryant:

The name Picnic Island will appear on the next new edition of our nautical chart 6379, as mentioned in my letter to you of April 30, 1969 and inquired about in your letter of October 30, 1969. Our investigation into your request of last April convinced us that the Sheep Island to which you referred should be changed to Picnic Island, and we marked our master copies of chart 6379 for that change. Unfortunately, a new edition of that chart had been issued in January 1969 so the printed edition of this name will naturally have to wait until the next new edition is issued, which may be more than a year hence. Please be assured, however, that the name Picnic Island will replace Sheep Island when that new edition comes out.

As mentioned in my letter of April 30, 1969, the scale of our charts in that area is too small to accommodate the name Trincas Island for the unnamed rock you described. Perhaps, if larger scale charts are printed at some future date the name could then be applied. It is a policy of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that features should not be named on Federal charts after living persons, but perhaps by the time a chart of such a scale to permit the naming of that rock is published, that policy might have been altered. I am sure that you understand, however, that the charting scale prevents the naming of the rock at this time.

I hope the above has been helpful to you, and I appreciate the historical information you provided us about Picnic Island. Please let us know whenever the Coast and Geodetic Survey can be of further service.

Sincerely yours,

Albert A. Stanley  
Executive Assistant

CODE	SURNAME	DATE	CODE	SURNAME	DATE
C-511	Wright	11-6-69			

C511:AJWright:11-6-69:dlg

FILE COPY

FN 158 - 1969



H19 C 32x3  
C 511

FROM

TO

William C. Bryant  
P.O. Box 31, Orcas Washington 98280

Geographic Branch USBSA  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Received in  
October 30, 1989  
Chart Division  
Hydrography  
Geography

NOV 4 1989  
Date

Dear sirs:

Last April Captain Boyer of the Chart Division, Coast and Geodetic Survey Forwarded to your office a letter suggesting among other things that the name of Sheep Island , Chart 6379 , be changed to its locally known name of Picnic Island. We bought the island in 1952 and subsequent inquiries on Orcas indicated that no one knew where the name Sheep came from nor were there ever any sheep kept there. There was confirmation however from several of the older island pioneers that the island was used for sunday picnicking and clam feasts and prior to that a hiding place for the Indian squaws during indian raids from Canada. We have found several remains buried in squatting position under the Junipers while clearing rocks away . And of course huge clam shell mounds .

The island was called either Flower or Picnic and it is the fond wish of my family and I that the name be officially renamed to Picnic. The small rock adjoining Picnic is a Government owned island, so we have been told, and has a huge gnarled Juniper which we have protected from that peculiar breed that saws limbs off for decorations. The rock was supposed to go with Sheep but the Real Estate man goofed and is not ours. Nevertheless, the rock has been Trinca's Island named after our daughter and we respectfully request that it be given her name instead of rock which is no name. The Department of Natural Resources of the State have already earmarked her name on their maps.

Very truly yours,  
*William C. Bryant*  
William C. Bryant

Reference C 32x3



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

4-30-69  
C511

Mr. William C. Bryant  
S.S. HALAULA VICTORY  
P.O. Box 31  
Orcas, Washington 98280

Dear Mr. Bryant:

The name Picnic Island will appear on the next new edition of our nautical chart 6379 and in the next edition of Coast Pilot 7 in place of Sheep Island, as suggested in your letter of April 14, 1969. It appears that local usage favors Picnic Island, and it is our desire to keep the names on our charts as close as possible in accord with local usage.

It would not be feasible for us to add at this time the name Trinkas Island to the unnamed rock you described. Cartographically the feature is too small to be named on charts of the scale that are now being published. Although in general the Board on Geographic Names policies, to which we adhere, precludes the naming of features for living persons, it is always possible that such a ruling will have been altered by the time we publish charts large enough to include the name.

I appreciate your interest in geographic nomenclature, and please let us know whenever the Coast and Geodetic Survey can be of service.

Sincerely yours,

Albert A. Stanley  
Executive Assistant  
to the Director

4-30-69

C511:AJWraight:4-30-69:dlg

FILE COPY

CODE	SURNAME	DATE	CODE	SURNAME	DATE
C-511	Wraight	4-30-69			

William C. Bryant  
Chief Engineer, S. S. Halaula Victory  
p.O. Box 31, Orcas Washington 98280

To

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey  
Rockville, Md. 20852

April 14, 1969

Dear Sirs:

I would like to bring to your attention some changes that should be made to Pacific coast chart #6379. I have owned the island shown on your chart as Sheep Island since 1952. The description of the channel between my island and Orcas Island, both on the above chart and in Coast Pilot #7, is grossly incorrect. The Pilot states, "Sheep Island in the southern part of the cove, is connected to the shore at low water;...." After spending many summers and winters on my island, I have found that the channel at its narrowest part, about 125 feet, between the unsurveyed rock shown on the chart and the shore of Orcas; never has a depth of less than 1.5 feet even at a tide 3 feet below the datum (mean lower low water). The bottom here consists of soft mud and sand. Never in the memory of any Islander has this channel been dry or closed to navigation by vessels of 15 foot draft. The channel is always kept navigable by a strong current action generated by strong prevailing winds and a funneling of tidal currents between steep, rocky sides of my island and the adjacent lime Quarry.

Because many of the boats in my area use this channel and outsiders would not, otherwise know of its existence, I feel that the foregoing changes should be made. In addition the name Sheep Island is incorrect. The proper name of the island is Picnic Island. It has had this name ever since Orcas Island was first occupied by white men, for it has always been the Islanders' favorite picnic spot. The small unsurveyed island has been referred to as Trinkas Island ever since I first occupied Picnic Island. It was given this name, after my little girl, because it has always been "her" island. She spent all of her free time on this little rock as a little girl and I feel it only proper that it should bear her name. Thanking you for your consideration, I remain,

Sincerely,

*William C. Bryant*

William C. Bryant

WCB/tfh

Received in  
Chart Office  
Office of Hydrography  
and Oceanography

APR 17 1969

2 1 37' 40"  
125° 57' 25"

## MAKI, CALEB (DNR)

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**From:** O'Donnell, Matthew (Contractor) J <mjodonnell@contractor.usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR); mary.schaff@sos.wa.gov  
**Cc:** Carlson, Tom  
**Subject:** BGN: Basket Island proposal, San Juan County (Review List 442)  
**Attachments:** Basket Island proposal packet.pdf; Picnic Island correspondence mentioning 'Trincas Island'.pdf

This message has originated from an External Source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email. Contact your desktop support or IT security staff for assistance and to report suspicious messages.

Hi Caleb and Mary,

Happy New Year! How are you and your families doing? I hope that everyone is staying healthy and that you were able to celebrate the holidays in some way. My son James turned 2 in October and loved the lights, the presents, and the cookies. We were able to visit with my parents for Christmas and with my wife's parents for New Year's.

I believe the Jenny sent you a notice of the most recent [Review List 442](#), posted on December 31, 2020 and that she already notified you about the proposal to apply the new name **Basket Island** to a small island between Orcas Island and Picnic Island in San Juan County at 48.628488, -122.957862.

Caleb, were you able to follow up with the proponent about the WSCGN process?

Since Jenny notified you about the proposal in November, we discovered that the Bureau of Land Management uses the name "Trinka Rock" for the small island. Maybe you saw this as well. The island is a unit within their San Juan Island National Monument, and they have many unofficial (to the BGN at least) names for many small islands in the area. (Some of these names are in common local use and the local BLM office may come back with some additional proposals. I asked them about it right before the holidays and we'll talk about it more this month. Just a heads up.)

Trinka Rock is published in:

- [https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/San\\_Juan\\_Islands\\_20x28\\_Update080818.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/San_Juan_Islands_20x28_Update080818.pdf)
- <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/Catalog%20for%20Monument.pdf>
- [https://books.google.com/books?id=03Shp54G\\_KkC](https://books.google.com/books?id=03Shp54G_KkC)
- [https://eplanning.blm.gov/public\\_projects/nepa/49041/20008616/250010147/Proposed\\_RMP/Final\\_EIS.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/nepa/49041/20008616/250010147/Proposed_RMP/Final_EIS.pdf)
- [https://eplanning.blm.gov/public\\_projects/nepa/49041/62641/67883/Published\\_Scoping\\_Report\\_Supplement.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/nepa/49041/62641/67883/Published_Scoping_Report_Supplement.pdf) (as "Trinca Island" in an email from a local)

The name first showed up in the correspondence that led to the [Picnic Island](#) BGN decision in 1977. Trinca or Trinka was the daughter of the owner of the larger island and he wished to have that name plotted on Coast and Geodetic Survey charts in addition to changing Sheep Island to Picnic Island. He stated that "The

Department of Natural Resources of the State have already earmarked her name on their maps" but I couldn't find any official State name for the island. Does the State consider the island unnamed? The only sources I found for "Trinka Rock" were BLM sources or references that clearly derived from BLM use.

The individual named Trinca is still living and it's unclear where the spelling "Trinka" came from. The BGN could not consider this name official because it does not meet the [Commemorative Names Policy](#). However, the proposed name Basket Rock conflicts with the name in local use, even if the proponent doesn't know of any other names. Basket Rock is shown on Google Maps, but we don't know the source of this name.

We haven't notified the proponent about the name in local use and may let you take care of that through the WSCGN process.

There is no formal recommendation from BLM yet. Our Tribal comment period deadline is March 9, 2021 and I know you will also reach out to specific Tribes on your own.

I think that covers it for now. The proposal packet and the 1969 correspondence from the owner of the adjacent island is attached. Let me know if you have any questions, and please send us any updates you get from the proponent or other sources throughout the review process.

Take care and we hope to see you at a future COGNA meeting whenever that may be.

Matt

Matt O'Donnell | Xcellent Technology Solutions, Inc.  
Contractor in support of U.S. Board on Geographic Names | Domestic Names Committee  
Phone: 703-648-4553  
Email: [mjodonnell@contractor.usgs.gov](mailto:mjodonnell@contractor.usgs.gov)  
Room 2B101  
*(working remotely until further notice)*

**From:** [Alex Levine](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Basket Island Geographic Name Request  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2022 12:13:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)

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External Email

Hi Caleb,

Wanted to send these photos that show the "Basket handle" formed from the bent over tree on the Island to be added to the proposal - I think it provides a lot of context around the name proposal.

Best,  
Alex







On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 11:10 AM MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <[CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Alex! I'll add this one (and any others sent my way) to your proposal. Thanks again!

**Caleb A. Maki**

Photogrammetry Supervisor – Engineering Division

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Phone: 360-902-1280 / Fax: 360-902-1778

[caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov)

[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

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**From:** Alex Levine <[alex.levine1@gmail.com](mailto:alex.levine1@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 3:22 PM

**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <[CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Basket Island Geographic Name Request

External Email

**Comments**

**Received**



Caleb Makai  
Dept Of Natural Resources  
Olympia, Wa

Re: Unnamed Island in West Sound, Orcas Island. 48degrees 37'47"N, 122 degrees 57'20" W

My name is Betsy Wareham, and my family has owned and operated West Sound Marina since 1974. We always thought it odd, that the little Island adjacent to West Sound Marina and Picnic Island never had a name. In addition to "Basket" its been called, among other things, "Government Island" "The Little Island" and "The Rock Pile". Alex Levine suggested formally naming the island "Basket Island", which just fits. It ties right in to "Picnic Island" and also fits its diminutive size. The name has caught on here. Alex has gone through the channels to officially name the island. As a long time community member of West Sound, myself and my family wholeheartedly support naming the island "Basket Island"

Sincerely,  
Betsy Wareham  
President and Owner  
West Sound Marina, Inc

# Basket Island - SAN JUAN COUNTY



The name was chosen by the proponent in reference to nearby larger Picnic Island. The name "Picnic Island" appears on Google Maps, but is not the official name according to the GNIS. BLM maps have referred to the feature as "Trinka Rock", due to correspondence from 1969 from the proponent of Picnic Island. The proponent for Picnic Island stated that "it was given the name after my little girl, because it has always been her island, as she spent free time on the rock as a little girl."

In 1969, the US Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey said that it was not feasible to name the island "Trinca's Island", as it was too small to appear on nautical charts.



## **Cayou Channel**

*San Juan County - Name Change*

**Township:** 36N

**Range:** 2W

**Section:** 21,22,23,24,26,27

**USGS Quad:** Shaw Island

**Location Description:** Bay; approx. 1.5 sq. miles; located between Shaw Island and Orcas Island in San Juan County.

**Proposal Summary:** CAYOU CHANNEL: Bay; approx. 1.5 sq. miles; located between Shaw Island and Orcas Island in San Juan County.; Name would honor Henry Cayou (1869-1959). Mr. Cayou was a prominent member of the commercial fishing industry and processing plant in Deer Harbor and farmed on Decatur Island.; San Juan County, Washington; Sec 21,22,23,24,26, and 27, T36N, R2W, Willamette Meridian; 48° 35' 23.653" N, 122° 55' 44.763" W; USGS map - Shaw Island 1:24,000.

Currently name Harney Channel, the proponent wishes to honor Henry Cayou. Mr. Cayou was a prominent member of the commercial fishing industry and processing plant in Deer Harbor and farmed on Decatur Island. It is presumed that Mr. Henry regularly transmitted this particular channel.

**Proponent:**

Ken Carrasco

PO Box 336

Orcas, WA 98280

**Proposal Received:** 4/15/2021

**Initial Consideration:** 10/26/2021

**Final Consideration:** 4/26/2022

**WA Committee Decision:** Approved for Final Consideration

**WA Board Decision:**

**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**

San Juan County Council - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

San Juan Historical Museum - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

San Juan County GIS - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

San Juan County Emergency Management - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

San Juan County Public Works - WAITING FOR RESPONSE

WA State Historical Society - WAITING ON RESPONSE



Washington State  
Geographic Name Application

Washington State Department of  
Natural Resources

**Proposed Name:** Cayou Channel (a renaming of Harney Channel)

**County:** San Juan

**Township:** 36 N **Range:** 02 W **Section(s):** 22-27

Name Change

**Lat.** 48° 35' 28.73" N., **Long.** 122° 56' 39.36" W (Begin)

**Lat.** 48° 35' 06.41" N., **Long.** 122° 53' 51.24" W (End)



## Description

**Type of feature:** Marine waterway

**Description of feature:**

Harney Channel, as it is currently named, is the navigable marine waterway between Shaw and Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands. Its western limit is the longitude of Orcas Village according to Volume 10 of the US Coast Pilot. The eastern limit is at Hankin Point at the northeastern extreme of Shaw Island and can be thought to tend northeast at some undefined angle. The channel is about a half-mile in width and roughly two miles long.

**If a stream, number of months of flow:** N/A

**Is this feature identified by other names or spellings?** No other names known.

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when?

Harney Channel is so named on federal NOAA charts and on commercial charting programs and maps. It is listed in the US Coast Pilot as a Minor Channel.

## History

Origin of name:

Indigenous peoples can be assumed to have used this waterway for thousands of years, but their names for it are not known to these applicants. It was first described post-contact by the European culture in 1841 by the US Exploring Expedition led by Charles Wilkes. There is no record, that we know of, of any name given to this waterway by Wilkes' party. That expedition typically named features in our county after naval heroes of the War of 1812 but, as General William S. Harney (1800 – 1889) was too young to participate in that conflict, it is unlikely that Harney Channel was named by the US Ex Ex for him.

Rather, the name Harney Channel is first found on British Admiralty charts of 1861 according to the researcher and author Richard Blumenthal<sup>1</sup>. However, the reasoning behind the name is a mystery to us as General Harney's anti-British sentiments were well-known at the time and Harney had only been to the San Juan Islands once, for an inspection trip lasting only a couple of days, and most probably stayed in Griffin Bay well to the south of this channel. And far from contributing to the well-being of our islands, he almost brought war here during the Pig War (below).

We are proposing this name change because we feel that General William S. Harney committed a range of reprehensible crimes against humanity and is unworthy of the honor of commemoration in the state of Washington. A partial list of major incidents would include:

- As a colonel in 1855, Harney commanded a massacre by 600 soldiers on a village of about 250 Brulé and Oglala Sioux in Nebraska in "The Battle of Ash Hollow" (aka "The Battle of Blue Water Creek")<sup>2,3</sup>. After first initiating a false peace talk with their chief so that his cavalry could sneak undetected behind the tribe, Harney ordered the attack which killed at least 86 Native Americans — the dead included not only warriors but also unarmed women, children, and the elderly. The survivors were forced to march over 140 miles to the nearest fort where they were imprisoned; many of them walked barefoot since most had been asleep in the early morning attack and their belongings were either kept by the soldiers after the battle as souvenirs or were burned. Harney's biographer, George Rollie Adams, stated that "Although Washington officials who ordered the punitive expedition

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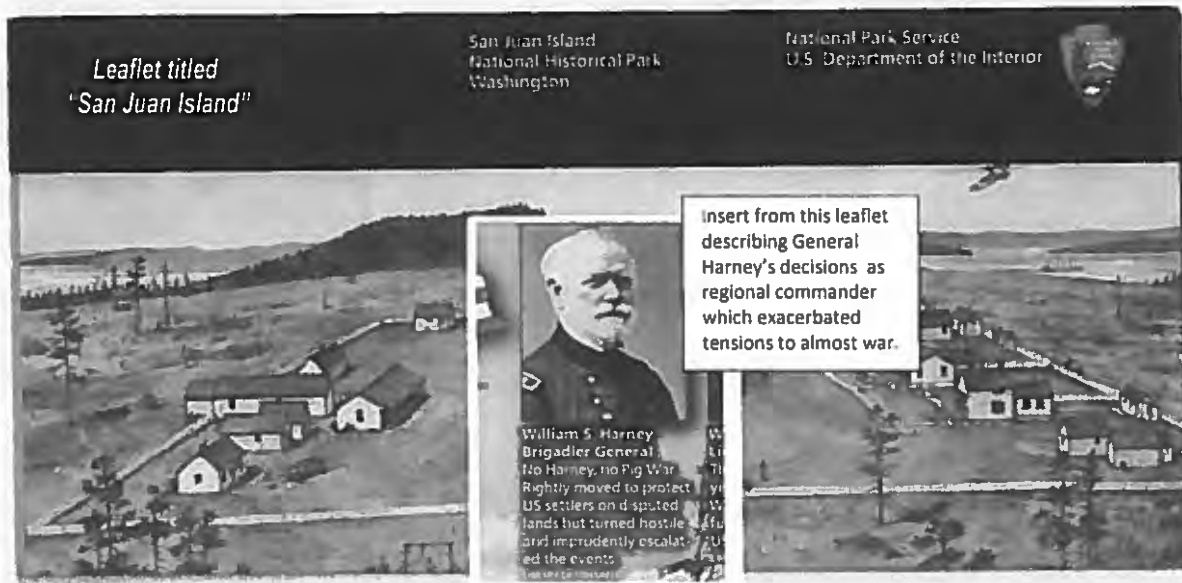
<sup>1</sup> Blumenthal, Richard. 2012. *Martitime Place Names: Inland Washington Waters*. Inland Waters Publishing Company, Bellevue, WA .

<sup>2</sup> Adams, George Rollie. 2001. *General William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

<sup>3</sup> Hendee, David. May 30, 2017; updated October 16, 2019. *Artifacts that tell story of massacre in Nebraska Territory will be displayed at state historical park*. Nebraska World-Herald, Omaha, NE.

must share blame for the slaughter, Harney carried out the assignment with uncommon ferocity and vindictiveness” (page 133 in Adams 2001).

- In 1836, Major Harney beat a woman to death with a rawhide whip. She was a black slave owned by a relative, and Harney thought she knew where his keys had been placed so he beat her until she would tell him. A coroner’s jury ruled that she “came to her death by wounds inflicted by William S. Harney” and a county grand jury indicted him for murder. A subsequent trial found him not guilty, but commentators felt this result was to be expected concerning the death of a black person at the hands of a white in the 1830s.
- In 1859, General Harney famously drew the United States very close to armed conflict with Great Britain during the Pig War<sup>4</sup>. It was Harney who placed our military to confront Britain, and it took the Commanding General of the United State Army, Winfield Scott, to personally come to the Pacific Northwest from Washington D.C. to correct Harney’s impudent acts and lessen the possibility of war. One of the applicants of this proposal (Ken) is a military veteran and it has been an interesting exercise to speculate on the intensity and duration of such a war if Harney’s superiors had not intervened; thought of now as a quaintness from a previous age, that war actually could have spread into a protracted and expanded conflict with global ramifications.



<sup>4</sup> Vouri, Mike. 2016. The Pig War: Standoff at Griffin Bay. Discover Your Northwest, Seattle, WA.



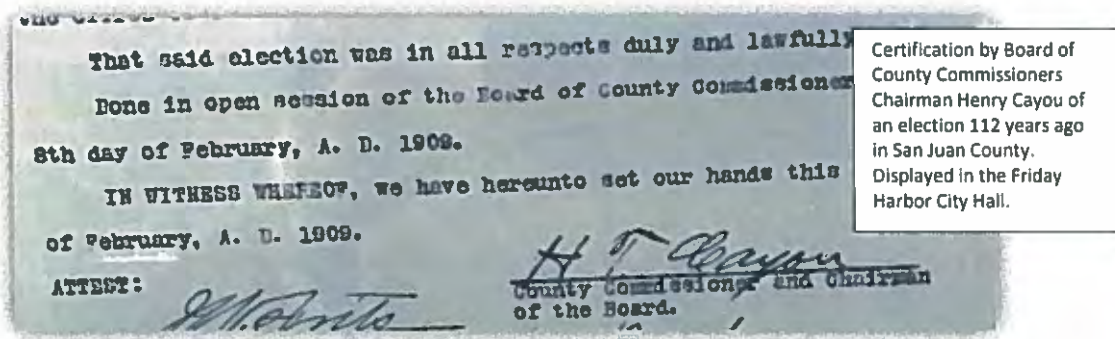
If a commemorative name, provide a summary of the life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature.

All of Henry Cayou’s 90 years of life were spent in the San Juan Islands, in dramatic contrast to General Harney, and he can be presumed to have often traveled this channel which lies between his residences and businesses at Orcas’ Deer Harbor and Decatur Island.

Henry Cayou was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and was interred on Orcas upon his passing in 1959. His father was a trapper who was a very early settler of Orcas Island and his mother was from the longstanding indigenous villages on the shorelines of what is now known as Mitchell and Garrison Bays on San Juan Island, and she had Samish and Lummi relations. Henry Cayou’s first wife is often spoken of as Tlingit, but there is some question; certainly, though, she was Coast Salish. Many Native people in our area consider Henry Cayou as a relative and his relations can be found throughout the Salish Sea including Lummi, Swinomish, and Samish.

Henry Cayou also moved easily in the white world. He was a highly successful commercial fisherman (trapping and seining), and his fish processing plant at Deer Harbor was so successful that it kept local people employed even through the depression in the 1930’s. He was also an early local maritime leader, owning a steam tug and a successful boatyard in partnership with his brothers-in-law at Reads Bay of Decatur Island. He also farmed a 500-acre tract on Waldron Island and participated in the initiation of the local electric cooperative in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century which is now known as OPALCO (Orcas Power and Light Cooperative).

Henry Cayou was elected to the San Juan County Council, where he served 29 years and was chair when Friday Harbor was incorporated. He is the only Native American to have been elected to this county’s board or council. Henry Cayou moved easily through both the Native American and white cultures and can be seen as a bridge between these cultures.



## Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of this feature?

This channel is used by vessels including Washington State Ferries, other commercial craft including fishing boats and whale watching tours, recreational vessels, and residential houses also overlook this waterway.

Safety was a concern; the applicant Ken Carrasco, a US Coast Guard veteran who currently holds a captain’s license, was initially concerned about potential navigational confusion during the interim period while the new name becomes commonplace. However, two unequivocal and very obvious navigational points of reference – the state ferry landings – lie within this channel, are well-marked on charts, well-lit at night, and are commonly referred to while navigating.

**Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest:**

The proposed new name of Cayou Channel will finally give wide recognition to a life-long resident who was instrumental in shaping the economic and political framework of our county including the infrastructure we depend upon and enjoy today. Again, he was a bridge between the indigenous and white cultures, and adopting his name will honor the First Peoples who lived in harmony with the natural world for millennia before us.

**How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom?**

The term “Cayou” has not yet been applied in any way to this channel. Otherwise, in the region the name Cayou is currently applied only to a small commercial marina in Deer Harbor near the location of his former fish processing plant and to a tiny island off Decatur Island in southern Lopez Sound. Cayou Island is only about one acre in size and lies between Rim and Ram Islands at the western entrance of Lopez Pass near the former location of “Reed and Cayou” [Boatyard]. The story of why this island was so named has apparently been lost to history.

We feel the marina and island are sufficiently distant from the channel and are of such different types of landmarks that they would not be confused.

**List all sources of information used for your research, including background history:**

Should our application be passed through your Initial Consideration phase, we will formally list a bibliography.

The source of information regarding General William S. Harney is plentiful; he has his own page on Wikipedia, a Ph.D. dissertation was written about his life which was ultimately published as a popular book (the reference of George Rollie Adams mentioned above), and multiple Army records exist. In addition, there are multiple smaller references to his life – even highway markers in Nebraska noting the location of the Battle of Ash Hollow.

The sources of information on Henry Cayou are expectedly more vague but do exist. Some, however, are family sources. There are citations available at the Orcas Historical Library as well as other similar organizations. Again, we will include them in our final evaluation.

**What type of support is there for the proposed name?**

We are publicizing this proposal in our community through the media, both print and social, including guest columns published in the three local county newspapers.

We also initiated a petition on a commonly used website at the link [change.org/renamemarney](https://www.change.org/renamemarney), and at the time of this update we have 843 signers to the petition.

Notably, our proposal has attracted national coverage in the Native American community. The well-respected news source *Indian Country Today* has given our proposal wonderful coverage with both a 7-minute newscast and an extensive article:

The newscast starts at minute 19:00 and can be accessed at:  
<https://indiancountrytoday.com/newscasts/mary-kim-titla-04-27-2021>.

The article is located at: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/a-bridge-between-cultures>

We were interviewed on KUOW, the National Public Radio affiliate in Seattle, and are published on their podcast at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/efforts-are-underway-to-rename-harneychannel-near/id1044408194?i=1000518729417>.

Incidentally, we were contacted by a descendent of General Harney when we first initiated this process and he apparently speaks for the family. He is very supportive of the name change as they feel he should not be honored by having a channel named for him. In 2016, Harney's descendants, in fact, were instrumental in helping to change the name of Harney Peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota to Black Elk Peak.

### Application submitted by:

**Name:** Ken Carrasco (Orcas Island) and Stephanie Buffum (Shaw Island)

**Contact address:** (Ken is contact) PO Box 336      **City:** Orcas      **State:** WA      **Zip:** 98280

**Phone #:** (360) 820-5014      **Email:** acmeleaf@gmail.com      **Date of App:** Original April 15, 2021; Updated: October 15, 2021

I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.

**Printed name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Ken Carrasco \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ (signature is on original April 15 application) \_\_\_\_\_

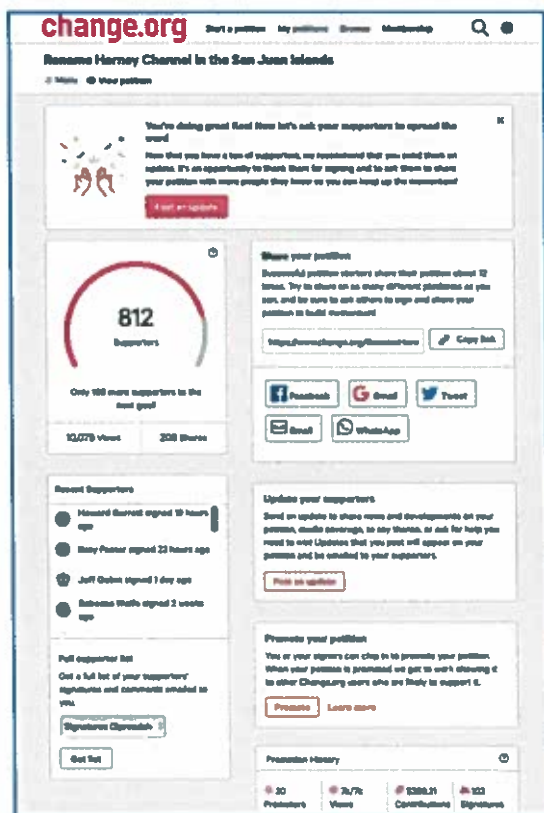
# Supplement to the Application to the Washington State Board of Geographic Names to rename “Harney Channel” in the San Juan Islands to “Cayou Channel”

Ken Carrasco (Orcas Island) and Stephanie Buffum (Shaw Island), email: [acmeleaf@gmail.com](mailto:acmeleaf@gmail.com)

## Results of our petition on Change.org as of 9/21/21 *List of signers available upon request*

### Page:

- 1 Petition “Dashboard” showing 812 supporters (signers) as of September 21, 2021.
- 2 Initial Change.org petition, posted online April 15, 2021
- 4 Update to petition, posted May 5
- 6 Comments left by petition signers





## Rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands



[Ken Carrasco](#) started this petition to Washington Department of Natural Resources Washington State Committee on Geographic Names

We are proposing that Harney Channel, a body of water in the San Juan Islands of Washington State, be renamed. It was originally named by the British around 1860 for General William S. Harney (1800-1889). A group of us who reside in the islands feel that General Harney does not deserve the honor because he was responsible for a number of heinous incidents to Native Americans and black people which do not reflect the values we hold today – or even at that time.

Instead, we are proposing that this water be renamed for Henry Cayou (1869-1959), who lived in the San Juan Islands through his entire life of 90 years and was a major figure in both the Native American and white communities. He was truly a bridge between cultures.

General Harney is particularly notorious for the following incidents, and we encourage you to consult Wikipedia or other online sources for more information:

- In Missouri in 1834, then-Major Harney killed a young black woman with a cane. The act, which of course would be considered murder today, was considered heinous even by 1830s standards. At that time, the Cincinnati newspaper called him “a monster!”.
- In Nebraska in 1855, Brigadier General Harney commanded about 600 soldiers in the Battle of Ash Hollow (aka Battle of Blue Water Creek and also as the Harney Massacre). Harney engineered the killing of 86 Sicangu Lakota warriors, taking their 70 women and children, many of them wounded, as prisoners. The chief of the Sicangu Lakota, Little Thunder, had tried to de-escalate the situation the night before, but Harney was adamant in his demands which led to the battle. Harney engaged the chief in false peace talks while his soldiers crept around and took

positions behind the Sicangu Lakota. Their belongings either torched or taken as souvenirs, the survivors were forced to walk 140 miles to the nearest Army fort, most of them without shoes. - As the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army's Department of Oregon, which included the San Juan Islands, he is widely considered to have needlessly escalated the potential for armed conflict during the so-called Pig War of 1859-60 by sending troops to the island. The Commanding General of the Army had to recall Harney from his command and bring us back from war.

In contrast, Henry Cayou was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and passed away in 1959. He is interred on Orcas Island. His father was a trapper who was a very early settler on Orcas and his mother was Lummi; her people's point of origin story is centered on San Juan Island. Henry Cayou's first wife was Tlingit and many Native people in our area consider him their ancestor. His relations can be found throughout the Salish Sea, including at Lummi, Swinomish, and Samish.

Cayou was a highly successful commercial fisherman (trapping and seining), was an early local maritime leader (owner of a steam tug and several fishing boats), farmed a 500-acre tract on Decatur Island, and was a co-founder of the local electric cooperative. Very notably, Henry Cayou was a member of the San Juan County Board of County Commissioners for 29 years and was chairman for a significant time on the commission. His signature is on Friday Harbor's incorporation documents displayed in Friday Harbor Town Hall.

We realize that the renaming of a body of water can have implications to navigation, but Harney Channel, which is just two miles long and averages a half-mile wide, has other landmarks such as two state ferry landings which are routinely used by mariners as points of reference. The authority of marine charting, the Coast Pilot published by the U.S. National Ocean Survey, considers Harney Channel to be a minor passage.

A precedent for renaming a topographic feature named after Harney occurred in 2016 when Harney Peak in South Dakota's Black Hills was renamed to Black Elk Peak by the state and federal governments in response to a proposal by local tribes and citizens.

We will be applying to the Committee of Geographic Names of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and public support is essential for adoption of a name change.

Naming landmarks and bodies of water is important for our convenience in navigation, but has also traditionally served as an opportunity to honor people, especially residents, who have had a lasting influence culturally and economically on the land and the community. The names we choose help tell the story of a place. Renaming this channel to honor Henry Cayou will satisfy this opportunity.

Thank you for signing this petition. You will be supporting our efforts to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel – in recognition of an Indigenous islander and 20th century fishing, maritime and political leader. Our email address is [renameharneychannel@gmail.com](mailto:renameharneychannel@gmail.com).

*~ end of initial petition ~*

PETITION UPDATE

## The petition to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel has over 700 signers!



**Ken Carrasco**  
Orcas, WA, United States



*Contemporary rendition of Battle of Ash Hollow (aka Battle of Blue Water Creek), Colonel William S. Harney commanding. Nebraska, 1855. Library of Congress*

MAY 5, 2021 —

THANKS TO YOU, we now have over 700 signers to the Rename Harney petition!! And a double thank-you to those who included their reason for signing. We are already aware of opposition to this proposal so support from each and every one of you is crucial!

Media coverage has been wonderful, including from the indigenous communities. *Indian County Today*, the preeminent national First Nations news source, has given us tremendous coverage with both a 7-minute newscast and an extensive article:

Newscast, starting at minute 19:00: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/newscasts/marj-kim-titla-04-27-2021>

Online story: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/a-bridge-between-cultures>

And then an interview with KUOW, Seattle's NPR

affiliate: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/efforts-are-underway-to-rename-harney-channel-near/id1044408194?i=1000518729417>

In addition, our story has run in all three of the local newspapers in San Juan County.

We also have a Facebook page, Cayou Channel. Please "like" us so you can keep up with our progress with this proposal.

We have already been communicating with the staff at the State of Washington responsible for the geographic names process and they are encouraging. They told us that we are going about this renaming process in the right way. The committee may be meeting in June and, thanks to your signatures, we will be ready.

Thanks again for your support, and please help spreading the word about this proposal! The website, again, is: [change.org/renameharney](http://change.org/renameharney)

By the way, we have more information about Harney's conduct as commander at the Battle of Ash Hollow against the Sioux (pictured here in a public domain drawing). And, although it's behind a paywall, the Omaha-Herald ran an extensive article on July 21, 2017 about the battle. Finally, we see that the Ellsworth American on July 15, 1855, quoted the Boston Journal about that battle which General Harney commanded:

*"... a cold-blooded massacre, in which the rule of civilized warfare was disregarded, and in which every sentiment of honor and humanity were outraged. The course pursued by General Harney, in abusing the flag of truce, seems to us as treacherous and as criminal as that of the pirate on the ocean, who displays a friendly flag until he has lured his unsuspecting victim within his reach, and then runs up the skull and cross bones, and pours forth his death dealing broadsides."*

~ end of update ~

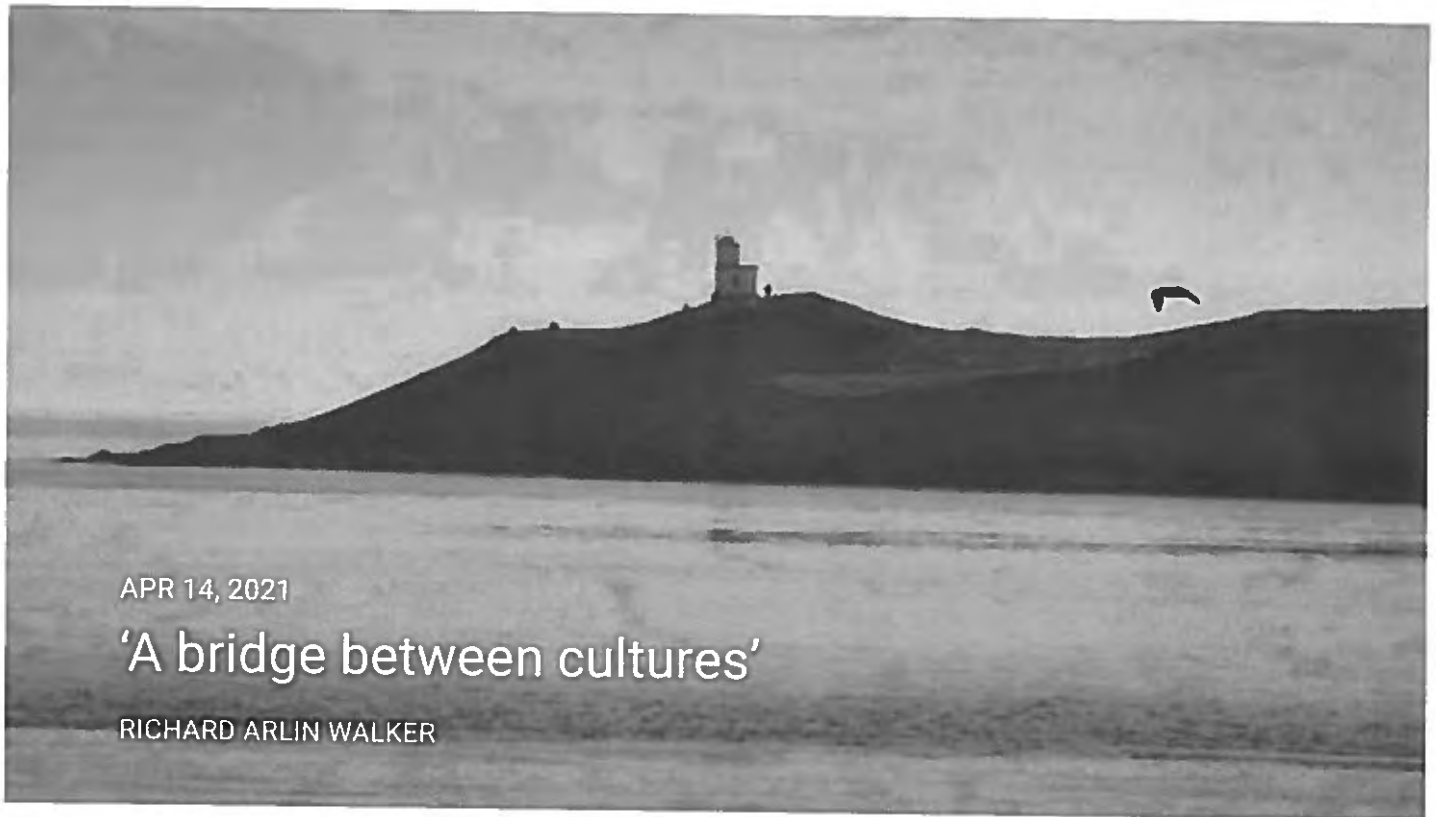


*Comments left by petition signers  
on Change.org/renamemarney petition, downloaded 9/21/21*

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Commented Date	Comment
<b>Brenda Asterino</b>	LOPEZ ISLAND	WA	98261	US	2021-04-17	"Yes, This water should be renamed after Henry Cayou who helped bridge communities."
<b>Jim glozier</b>	chicago	IL	60622	US	2021-04-18	"Though I the FB icon attached to my name say's Chicago. I have lived on Orcas Island for nine years now. I agree that the name should be changed."
<b>Gene Helfman</b>	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-18	"long overdue."
<b>Mariann Carrasco</b>	Orcas	WA	98280	US	2021-04-18	"About time!!!"
<b>Sam Barr</b>	Anacortes	WA	98221	US	2021-04-18	"This honors a more holistic historical representation of this place"
<b>Janet Alderton</b>	Dear Harbor	WA	98243	US	2021-04-19	"Harney's awful legacy is a disgrace. Honoring Henry Cayou is a wonderful plan!"
<b>Janice Williams</b>	Eastsound	WA	98245	US	2021-04-19	"Representation in names are the underlining pulse of the public. Let's right this wrong."
<b>Paul Henriksen</b>	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-19	"Henry Cayou should be honored and Harney should not."
<b>Scott Pinegar</b>	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-19	"Compelling rationale for honoring Cayou and consigning Harney to ignominy."
<b>Jess Newley</b>	Friday Harbor	WA	98250	US	2021-04-19	"Names are important!"
<b>Becky Borgquist</b>	Friday Harbor	WA	98250	US	2021-04-19	"Becky borgquist"
<b>cathie soderman</b>	Boulder	CO	80301	US	2021-04-20	"My husband Paul is a descendant of General Harney and we do not support Harney's name being on this Channel. He is an oppressor, the waterway should be given a name of an honorable person, like Cayou!"
<b>Jennifer King</b>	Bellevue	WA	98006	US	2021-04-20	"It matters who we honor with place names."
<b>Jim Foley</b>				US	2021-04-20	"It's the Right Thing to do."
<b>Michelle Collyer</b>	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-20	"We have a duty to erase the names of white supremacists."
<b>Todd Shuster</b>				US	2021-04-20	"It is the right thing to do! Honor those that deserve it."
<b>Iris Graville</b>	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-20	"I signed because it's a small step toward healing relationships with indigenous peoples."
<b>Jan Marshall</b>	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	2021-04-21	"I'm to be a full-time resident of Lopez Island next month (May 2021). I grew up in Omaha, NE and there was a Harney Street that I see was named for William S. Harney. In reading about his background, it was very ugly, especially in regards to Native Americans. I think this is an excellent idea to rename this channel after someone who was a "bridge" between peoples."
<b>Holly Bryant</b>	Portland	OR	97213	US	2021-04-21	"No place on Earth should bear that Monster's name!! If he had succeeded our Islands would be covered in military graveyards instead of the tale of how two Great Countries can resolve a dispute...even one as large as the boundary which decided who owned these Islands...WITHOUT the loss of a single Human Life! All disputes should be settled like this...in International arbitration instead of bloodshed 血 殺"
<b>Robbie Raker</b>	Katy	TX	77450	US	2021-04-21	"Changing the name of this body of water to honor a local resident who represented Native American and white"

						communities, over someone of with such a horrible legacy, is a no brainer. Please make the change"
<b>Jamie Schwindt</b>	Bellingham	WA	98225	US	2021-04-21	"It's above time!"
<b>Elinor Howell</b>	Portland	OR	97202	US	2021-04-21	"Special places such as this deserve to be named after local heroes, not foreign conquerors."
<b>Allegra Sloman</b>	Burnaby		V5E	Canada	2021-04-21	"All place names should be relocalized."
<b>Dawni Williams</b>	Anacortes	WA	98221	US	2021-04-21	- □ -
<b>Clayton Cromley</b>	Littleton	CO	80127	US	2021-04-21	"Spent formative years in Washington and would like future kids to grow up in a place that acknowledges better angels from its past"
<b>Simone Lee</b>	Calgary		T2K 3S8	Canada	2021-04-22	"Names and maps are powerful!"
<b>Barb Chamberlain</b>	Seattle	WA	98104	US	2021-04-22	"I have family in Friday Harbor and go to the islands often. As a resident of Washington I hope we can begin to recognize and undo the harms of settler colonialism. Names on the land reflect stories; let them be ones that honor people who lifted us up, not those who destroyed."
<b>Joshua Putnam</b>	Pacific	WA	98047	US	2021-04-22	"The power to name our lands and seas should be used to uplift historical exemplars of the core values of democratic society. This change does exactly that."
<b>Vanessa Mizla</b>	Seattle	WA	98112	US	2021-04-22	"History matters."
<b>Isis King</b>	Brooklyn	NY	11222	US	2021-04-22	"This needs to change! Name it after a local Native community member instead of a murderous White Man!"
<b>David Robison</b>	Friday Harbor	WA	98250	US	2021-04-23	"We should be honoring those who raise up our entire community."
<b>Kevin McCoy</b>	Olga	WA	98279	US	2021-04-23	"Very Appropriate"
<b>Ria Harboe</b>	Lummi Island	WA	98262	US	2021-04-23	"This is the right thing to do. Our family has lived along this channel for almost 40 years and I've never known this about Mr. Harney. Thanks Ken, for bringing this to our attention! This should be happening everywhere!!"
<b>Melissa Lake</b>	Philadelphia	PA	19127	US	2021-04-23	"It is imperative that our naming conventions honor those who love the land and who are themselves honorable. Harney doesn't deserve anything named after him."
<b>Pamela Loew Loew</b>	Eastsound	WA	98245	US	2021-04-24	"Henry Cayou is a much better representative of our area."
<b>Deborah Self</b>	Raleigh	NC	27612	US	2021-04-25	"My parents have lived on Orcas for many years and our extended family spends much time there. I would love to see this honor for such a positive contributor to the region."
<b>Es Warwick</b>	Victoria		V8T	Canada	2021-04-26	"This would be what reconciliation looks like. Do the right thing."
<b>Annette Garver</b>	Greenville	SC	29601	US	2021-04-26	"I lived for 20 summers on Orcas Island and it is still a place with means peace to me. I never knew when passing through that channel on the ferry countless times, that it was named for such an unworthy person. To me, it will be Cayou Channel from now on."
<b>Mollie Shea</b>	Bend	OR	97702	US	2021-04-26	"Honoring people who have intentionally done great harm to others, by naming features of nature after them, is a cruel way of continually inflicting excruciatingly painful memories for generations of ancestors while at the same time inferring brutal domination tactics are to be rewarded. Honoring people who have consistently gone out of their way to help fellow brothers and sisters, to stand peaceably for justice, and to care for the

						well-being of all is to honor nature herself with remembrance of what is possible for all of us - to live and love in accordance with our true nature - in alignment with the best of who we are."
<b>Luke Newton</b>	Oakland	CA	94612	US	2021-04-27	"My family lives near this soon to be named Cayou channel on Orcas Island and this renaming must happen. I wish there were a record of what the original Coast Salish place name for this channel is, along with the many islands and waters throughout the region. This renaming should also be seen as just one small step towards supporting reconciliation, reparation and Indigenous rights in these Coast Salish territories."
<b>Suzanne Roundy</b>	Lopez island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-27	"As a San Juan Islands resident and boater I strongly support the renaming of Harney Channel to Cayou Channel. General Harney's actions against black and indigenous people as well as during the Pig War were despicable. It is time for us to learn about Henry Cayou and to honor him. His life is representative of the spirit of these islands."
<b>Margot Shaw</b>	Eastsound	WA	98245	US	2021-04-30	"I agree with having names connected with those who lived here"
<b>Nancy Schafer</b>				US	2021-05-01	"Nancy Schafer. Even small changes can have an accumulative positive cultural effect. I believe re-examining our history is so important for the future we want to have."
<b>Kirman Taylor</b>	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-05-01	"It's the right think to do."
<b>Christy Bear</b>	Bellevue	WA	98007	US	2021-05-03	"The honor of having a geographic place named after you should go to people who exemplify humanity at its best - it's time to rename Harney Channel!"
<b>Oolaa Kaplan</b>	Bellevue	WA	98008	US	2021-05-03	"Make this right! Change the name."
<b>Arriba Stature</b>	North Bend	WA	98045	US	2021-05-03	"We need to stop rewarding racism and cruelty in our country."
<b>Yvonne Brandon</b>	Redmond	WA	98052	US	2021-05-04	"Harney does not deserve this honor."
<b>MICHAEL HIGGINS</b>	Seattle	WA	98118	US	2021-05-14	"Cayou seems much better."
<b>Denny Redman</b>	Duvall	WA	98019	US	2021-05-17	"I'm signing because I agree that it was named originally for someone who does not share current human values."



APR 14, 2021

## 'A bridge between cultures'

RICHARD ARLIN WALKER

*The San Juan Islands, shown here, sit in the center of the Salish Sea, with Vancouver Island to the west, the Strait of Georgia to the north, mainland Washington state to the east, and the Olympic Peninsula to the south. To the southeast is Admiralty Inlet, the entrance to Puget Sound. (Photo courtesy of Creative Commons)*

**Pacific Northwest islanders want to dump the name of a notorious general and rename a Salish Sea channel for a 20th century Native leader**

**Richard Arlin Walker**

*Special to Indian Country Today*

A channel of water in an archipelago north of Puget Sound carries the name of 19th century U.S. Army Gen. William S. Harney, notorious for whipping to death a Black woman in Missouri, leading the killing of Sicangu Lakota men, women and children in Nebraska, and taking the U.S. to the brink of armed conflict with Great Britain over a jurisdictional dispute in the Pacific Northwest.

If a proposal is approved by the Washington state Board of Geographic Names, however, the channel would be renamed in honor of Henry Cayou, a fishing, maritime and political leader of Lummi and Saanich First Nation ancestry.



The channel is located east of Canada's Vancouver Island, between Orcas and Shaw islands in San Juan County, Washington – a point of origin for several Coast Salish peoples, including the *Lhaq'temish*, or Lummi.

Cayou, who died in 1959, was a successful commercial fisherman who to this day is the only Indigenous islander elected to the county's Board of County Commissioners, on which he served for nearly three decades. He also served as a postmaster, helped found the islands' electrical utility, and served as a regional representative of Chemawa Indian School.

It would be the second significant name change in the islands in recent years. Residents successfully petitioned the state in 2017 to change the name of Squaw Bay on Shaw Island to Reef Net Bay, a reference to the type of Native fishing that is still conducted there. And a county agency's Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee is determining if other name changes are needed.

Ken Carrasco, a retired fisheries biologist who lives on Harney Channel, said he was spurred to propose the name change after reading histories about Harney, who died in 1889.

A further examination revealed Harney spent little time in the San Juan Islands, and an individual's long association with a place is one of the criteria for the naming of a landmark or body of water.

"We don't have statues here, but we do name landmarks and bodies of water after people of note who have had a great influence upon our lives – people we still hold as models for our younger people and for society in general," Carrasco said.

"General Harney fails to meet that expectation, that standard of someone we want our lives to emulate. Henry Cayou, from everything I've heard, exemplifies the type of person that we can hold as a person to value."

Carrasco and Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island said they will post a petition on Change.org and submit a name-change application in April to the state Committee on Geographic Names. The committee will decide whether to recommend the change to the state Board on Geographic Names.

Among the early supporters of the proposal are former Lummi Nation Chairman Jay Julius; former Lummi Nation Councilman Freddie Sul ka dub' Lane; Rosie Cayou James, a Samish cultural educator and Cayou's grand-niece; former state Sen. Kevin Ranker, D-Orcas Island; and several members of the Mitchell Bay Band, descendants of Indigenous people who chose to remain on the islands and not relocate to reservations after the treaty was signed in 1855.

### **A sacred place**

The San Juan Islands sit in the center of the Salish Sea, between Vancouver Island to the west, the Strait of Georgia to the north, mainland Washington state to the east, and the Olympic Peninsula to the south. To the southeast is Admiralty Inlet, the entrance to Puget Sound. The largest islands in the archipelago are San Juan, Orcas, Lopez and Shaw.

The archipelago is a sacred place to the Lummi, Samish, Saanich and Songhees peoples. Their histories say it was on San Juan Island that their common ancestor – *sweh-tuhh*, the First Man – appeared. It was here that the Creator gave the people reef netting, a type of salmon fishing unique to the San Juan Islands.

The islands were the center of a vast Indigenous economic and kinship network when the British and the Americans laid claim in the 1840s. For centuries, Indigenous families traveled to and from the islands in skillfully carved cedar canoes to visit relatives, attend longhouse ceremonies, harvest resources and engage in trade.

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Much of that world was changing when Henry Cayou was born in 1869 on Orcas Island. He was one of more than 10 children born to Louis and Mary Ann Cayou. His mother was Lummi and Saanich; his father was a Kentucky-born farmer and lumberman whose ancestors hailed from France.

Harney Channel was already identified as such on navigational charts when Cayou was born, reportedly so-named for Harney because he was serving at the time as a brigadier general in command of the U.S. Army's Department of Oregon, which included Washington Territory. In an interesting twist, one of Cayou's younger brothers would be named General Scott Cayou, in honor of U.S. Army General Winfield Scott, who in 1859 defused the tensions started by Harney and established the peaceful joint military occupation of the islands until the territory dispute could be resolved.

When Cayou was born, British Royal Marines and U.S. Army troops were encamped on San Juan Island, awaiting settlement of the dispute. The prairies that had been maintained for centuries for the cultivation of food plants were being used by newcomers for livestock grazing. Limestone was being quarried to supply critical building material. Cedars that provided wood for longhouses and hand-carved canoes, as well as fiber for clothing and ceremonial items, were being felled to feed a growing hunger for quality lumber.

Then, in 1872, when Cayou was 3, an arbitration panel led by Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany settled the territory dispute in favor of the United States. The British Royal Marines left the island and their encampment – the former Coast Salish community of Pe'pi'ow'elh – was made available for homesteading.

In the ensuing years, young Henry Cayou learned to navigate life in two worlds. He learned to fish the traditional way from his Lummi stepfather, Pe Ell, played baseball for a team composed of Native Americans on Orcas Island, married a woman from the family of Sheiyksh (pronounced Shakes), a line of hereditary Tlingit leaders, and served as the islands' point of contact for the Chemawa Indian School.

Cayou used his Indigenous knowledge and business acumen to prosper in the new economy, taking each stroke of fortune and further investing it. He became a successful fish trapper and seiner. In 1895, he invested in his brothers-in-law's shipyard and over time built a fleet of fishing boats and tugs.

By 1897, he was serving as a county road supervisor on Orcas Island. In 1902, he established a 500-acre farm on Decatur Island and was appointed the island's postmaster. In 1906, he was elected to his first of several terms on the San Juan County Board of County Commissioners. In 1907, he was elected president of the San Juan County Fruit Growers Association.

One of Cayou's most significant legacies is one felt today each time an islander turns the lights on – the co-founding in 1937 of Orcas Power Co., the islands' electrical utility now known as Orcas Power and Light Cooperative.

While he walked in two worlds – elected to county office before enrolled Natives had the right to vote – he never gave up his Coast Salish identity. He was listed as "Indian" on the 1910 U.S. Census and in 1919 was included in a federal census of unenrolled Indians in Washington state.

In the 1919 census, Cayou was listed as a member of the "Mitchell Bay Tribe," a descriptor used by Office of Indian Affairs agent Charles Roblin for those who, after the treaty was signed, had chosen to stay on the islands rather than move to reservations. Most if not all of those listed, including Cayou, had ancestral or familial ties to the historical Indigenous community at Mitchell Bay. Some of Cayou's siblings moved to reservations, however, and several of his nephews and nieces served in elective office in the Swinomish Tribe.

Carrasco said Cayou "was a bridge between cultures during a transformative time for the islands."

Buffum, former longtime executive director of a nonprofit environmental protection organization on the islands, agreed.

She said Cayou – successful in county politics, maritime and fishing – "represents so much of what this body of water represents to people here in the San Juan Islands."

### **Renaming would be 'a just act'**

Place names in the Salish Sea historically told the story of a site's significance – a village location, the best place to harvest certain resources, the animals most common to an area, or a gateway to another geographical location.

Buffum said renaming Harney Channel to Cayou Channel would be "a just act that would carry an appropriate history of this place to future generations and honor a person worthy of emulation by future generations."

Local historians agree.

"Henry Cayou was a major figure in the San Juan Islands and he was Native American," said Mike Vouri, an author and retired historian for the National Park Service. "There is a dearth of Native American names [of features] in the islands and that needs to change."

He added, "Place names reflect the values we have. If we can take these collective waters — Haro Strait, Rosario Strait, the Strait of Georgia, the Strait of Juan de Fuca — and in 2010 name them the Salish Sea after the great Coast Salish people, there's no reason why we shouldn't look at other Native names that have meaning to us."

Kevin Loftus, executive director of the San Juan Historical Society and Museum, said renaming the channel after Cayou "makes a lot of sense."

"Names impart a historical tie-in and give us a better understanding [of a place] than something neutral," he said. "We have road names here that tell us something about the families that lived here. Spring Street tells us there was a spring there and, though it's now underground, it's still there."

A place that carries the name of an individual, he said, "makes me curious as to who this person was, what they did, what kind of contributions they made to the islands."



NEWS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2021

Prepared by Ken Carrasco, resident of Orcas Island

Email address: [renameharneychannel@gmail.com](mailto:renameharneychannel@gmail.com)

### **Proposal to Rename Harney Channel Passes Major Milestone**

The Washington State Board of Geographic Names recently voted unanimously that a proposal to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel is of enough merit to advance to the Final Consideration phase.

During this phase, staff working for the Board will solicit comments from the community including the tribes and governmental entities before their Final Consideration vote, projected to occur at the Board's meeting in April of next year. Should the proposal be adopted at that time, it will be passed to the federal level for its consideration.

The authors of this proposal, Ken Carrasco of Orcas Island and Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island, initiated the proposal last year after learning of General William Harney's history of brutality including his atrocities against indigenous people at the Battle of Ash Hollow in 1845, his brutal murder of a woman in Missouri in 1836, and his role as US Army Commander in 1859 in greatly escalating the potential for war in the islands. Harney only visited the islands once for an overnight visit just before the "Pig War" and most likely never came to the channel that bears his name.

Instead of honoring Harney, Carrasco and Buffum are proposing that the Channel be renamed to honor Henry Cayou, who was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and inhabited the San Juan Islands throughout his 90 years of life. Cayou was half Coast Salish and remains the only Native American who has served on the San Juan County Council/Commission, a post he held for 27 years and of which he was chair for many of them. Henry Cayou moved easily in both worlds, leaving both many relatives and material accomplishments which island residents enjoy today. He was a commercial fisherman with a processing plant in Deer Harbor, operated a boatyard on Decatur Island, and owned a farm on Waldron Island. Without question, he transited this particular channel hundreds of times during his lifetime.

More information is available about the renaming proposal at the website of a petition created to support the proposal: [change.org/renameharney](https://change.org/renameharney). If they desire, visitors to that site are invited to sign the petition and leave comments, but are encouraged not to pledge money if prompted. The email of the proposers is [renameharneychannel@gmail.com](mailto:renameharneychannel@gmail.com).

Comments about this proposal can be sent by email to Caleb Maki at the Board of Geographic Names at [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov), and comments will also be accepted by mail addressed to Caleb Maki, WA State Committee on Geographic Names, PO Box 47030, Olympia, WA 98504-7030.

**From:** [Ken Carrasco](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rename Harney news release  
**Date:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 6:24:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [HarneyChannelRenameNewsRelease.docx](#)

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External Email

Hi Caleb: time really got away from me and i'm just now putting a news release together for our renaming proposal.

I wanted to run it past you because you are on it as contact for the Board. Please let me know of any corrections or thoughts you have.

Thanks!!

-Ken Carrasco

**From:** [Ken Carrasco](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Final news release, Harney Channel rename, FYI  
**Date:** Monday, November 8, 2021 10:29:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [HarneyChannelRenameNewsReleasebyCarrasco.pdf](#)

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External Email

Caleb: as a courtesy and FYI so that you know, attached is the final news release sent to the newspapers.

-Ken

NEWS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2021

Prepared by Ken Carrasco, PO Box 336, Orcas, WA 98280

Email address: [renameharneychannel@gmail.com](mailto:renameharneychannel@gmail.com)

### **Proposal to Rename Harney Channel Passes Major Milestone**

The Washington State Board of Geographic Names voted unanimously in a recent meeting to advance a proposal which seeks to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel into the Final Consideration phase.

During this phase, staff working for the Board will solicit comments from the residents of the community, the tribes, and governmental entities before a Final Consideration vote, projected to occur at the Board's meeting in April of next year. Should the proposal be passed at that time, it will be sent to the federal level for its consideration.

The authors of this proposal, Ken Carrasco of Orcas Island and Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island, initiated the proposal last year after learning of General William Harney's history of brutality including his atrocities against indigenous people in Nebraska while commanding the Harney Massacre at Ash Hollow in 1845, his brutal murder of a black woman in Missouri in 1836, and his role as Commander in 1859 when he greatly escalated the potential for war in the islands. Harney only visited the islands once for an overnight visit just before the "Pig War" and almost certainly never came to the channel that bears his name.

Instead of honoring Harney, Carrasco and Buffum are proposing that the Channel be renamed to honor Henry Cayou, who was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and inhabited the San Juan Islands throughout his 90 years of life. Cayou was half Coast Salish and remains the only Native American to serve on the San Juan County Council/Commission, a post he held for 27 years, and he was chair for many of them. He was a commercial fisherman with a processing plant in Deer Harbor, operated a boatyard on Decatur Island, and owned a farm on Waldron Island. Henry Cayou moved easily in both the indigenous and European worlds, leaving many relatives and accomplishments which have benefitted the islands beyond his lifetime. Without question, he transited this particular channel hundreds of times.

To gauge community support for the proposal, a petition was established last spring at [change.org/renameharney](http://change.org/renameharney) and, to date, more than 848 people have signed this petition in support of the proposal. Visitors to that site can still sign the petition and leave comments if they wish. Also, the well-respected news organization *Indian Country Today* has covered the proposal with both an article and a video interview with a local journalist.

Comments about this proposal can be sent by email to Caleb Maki at the Board of Geographic Names at [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov), and comments will also be accepted by mail addressed to Caleb Maki, WA State Committee on Geographic Names, PO Box 47030, Olympia, WA 98504-7030. To contact the proposers directly, email can be sent to [renameharneychannel@gmail.com](mailto:renameharneychannel@gmail.com). Readers can obtain more information about the proposal at the petition website in the paragraph above.



**From:** [Ken Carrasco](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Stephanie Buffum](#)  
**Subject:** Rename Harney Channel Proposal, media coverage in San Juan County  
**Date:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 4:13:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [RenameHarney-SJCmedia-Nov21.pdf](#)

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External Email

Caleb: I am attaching a document which has images from all 3 newspapers in the county which carried the news release about our proposal passing the Board's Initial Consideration.

-Ken  
Ken Carrasco

**Media coverage in three San Juan County newspapers about renaming Harney Channel  
November 2021**

**Ken Carrasco, acmeleaf@gmail.com**

*The San Juan Journal,  
San Juan Island  
November 17, 2021*



*The Island's Sounder, Orcas Island  
November 17, 2021*



*The Islands' Weekly, Lopez Island  
November 16, 2021*

## Guest column

*The Islands Sounder, page 5  
Nov. 17, 2021*

# Proposal to rename Harney Channel passes milestone

*Submitted by Ken Carrasco,*

The Washington State Board of Geographic Names voted unanimously in a recent meeting to advance a proposal which seeks to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel into the Final Consideration phase.

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he greatly escalated the potential for war in the islands. Harney only visited the islands once for an overnight visit just before the "Pig War" and almost certainly never came to the channel that bears his name.

Instead of honoring Harney, Carrasco and Buffum are proposing that the Channel be renamed to honor Henry Cayou, who was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and inhabited the San Juan Islands throughout his 90 years of life. Cayou was half Coast Salish and remains the only Native American to serve on the San Juan County Council/Commission, a post he held for 27 years, and he was chair for many of them. He was a commercial fisherman with a processing plant in Deer Harbor, operated a boatyard on Decatur Island, and owned a farm on Waldron Island. Henry Cayou moved easily in both the indigenous and European worlds, leaving many relatives and accomplishments which have benefitted the islands beyond his lifetime. Without question, he transited this particular channel hundreds of times.

To gauge community support for the proposal, a petition was established last spring at [change.org/renameharney](http://change.org/renameharney) and, to date, more than 848 people have signed this petition in support of the proposal. Visitors to that site can still sign the petition and leave comments if they wish. Also, the well-respected news organization Indian Country Today has covered the proposal with both an article and a video interview with a local journalist.

Comments about this proposal can be sent by email to Caleb Maki at the Board of Geographic Names at [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov), and comments will also be accepted by mail addressed to Caleb Maki, WA State Committee on Geographic Names, PO Box 47030, Olympia, WA 98504-7030. To contact the proposers directly, email can be sent to [renameharneychannel@gmail.com](mailto:renameharneychannel@gmail.com). Readers can obtain more information about the proposal at the petition website in the paragraph above.

## Deer Harbor, Henry Cayou's house

...



### ▼ Item Description

**Resource identifier**

jtgh0001-082-03

**Title**

Deer Harbor, Henry Cayou's house

**Creator**

Geoghegan, James T., 1869-1953

**Description**

Henry Cayou's house and swimming pool at Deer Harbor. Cayou was a County Commissioner and ran a very profitable fish trap and cannery.

**Location (TGN)**

United States -- Washington -- San Juan county -- San Juan Islands -- Orcas Island -- Deer Harbor

(/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/United States -- Washington -- San Juan county -- San Juan Islands -- Orcas Island -- Deer Harbor/field/place/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Subject (LCTGM)**

Dwellings (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Dwellings/field/subject/mode/exact/conn/and)

Swimming pools (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Swimming pools/field/subject/mode/exact/conn/and)

Seascape photographs (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Seascape photographs/field/subject/mode/exact/conn/and)

Coastlines (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Coastlines/field/subject/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Topic**

Architecture (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Architecture/field/topic/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Physical format (AAT)**

black-and-white photographs (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/black-and-white photographs/field/physic/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Language (iso code)**

eng (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/eng/field/langua/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Contributing institution**

Orcas Island Historical Museum (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Orcas Island Historical Museum/field/contac/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Digital repository**

Washington Rural Heritage

**Collection**

Orcas Island Heritage – James T. Geoghegan Collection (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Orcas Island Heritage – James T. Geoghegan Collection/field/digita/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Source item specifications**

holding institution: Orcas Island Historical Museum; extent and medium: 1 photographic print; dimensions: 5 x 3.5 in.; other physical details: b&w

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**Publication status**

Unpublished (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Unpublished/field/public/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Copyright status**

In Copyright (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/In Copyright/field/copyri/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Copyright notes**

Copyright expires 70 years from creator's death date.

**Last year in copyright**

2023

**Publisher (digital)**

Washington State Library

**Date (digital)**

2014-12-17

**Type (DCMI)**

Still Image (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/Still Image/field/type/mode/exact/conn/and)



**Access file format**

image/jpeg (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/image/jpeg/field/acform/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Access file specifications**

filesize: 664 kB; bit depth: 16bits per pixel; color mode: grayscale; pixel dimensions: 1986x1074; resolution: 400 ppi; compression software: Adobe Photoshop CS5.1 Windows

**Digitization specifications**

master file format: image/tiff; master filesize: 31 MB; bit depth: 16bits per pixel; color mode: grayscale; pixel dimensions: 5460x2953; resolution: 1100 ppi; capture hardware: Epson Perfection V750-M Pro

**Archival file location (AIP)**

orcasVolume10 (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/orcasVolume10/field/archiv/mode/exact/conn/and)

**Notes**

2020remediation

**Project**

2014grant (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/2014grant/field/projec/mode/exact/conn/and)



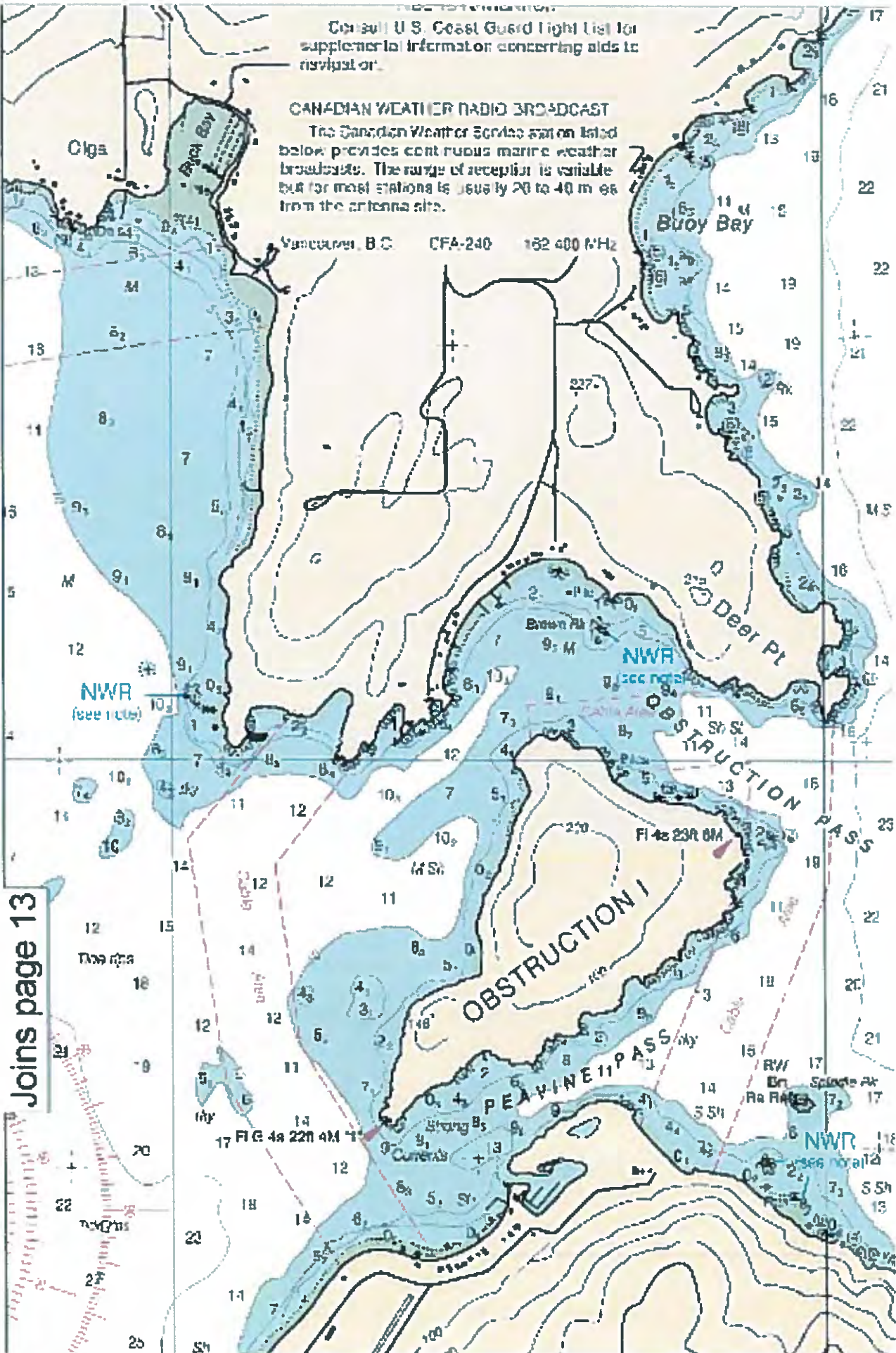
*Property of Orcas Island Historical Museum, all rights reserved. ©*

Consult U.S. Coast Guard Light List for supplemental information concerning aids to navigation.

**CANADIAN WEATHER RADIO BROADCAST**

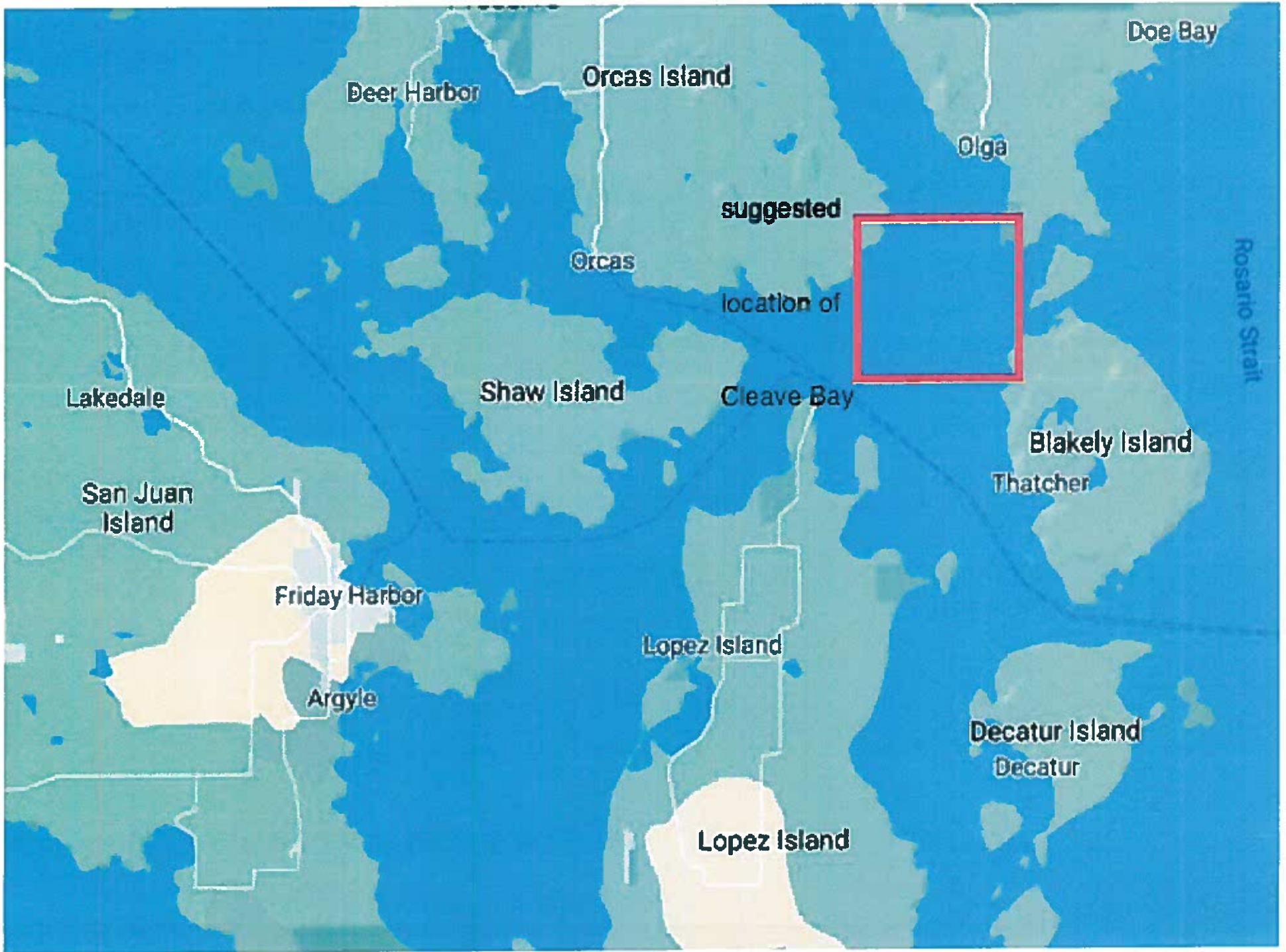
The Canadian Weather Service station listed below provides continuous marine weather broadcasts. The range of reception is variable but for most stations is usually 20 to 40 miles from the antenna site.

Vancouver, B.C. CFA-240 162 400 MHz



Joins page 13





Doe Bay

Deer Harbor

Orcas Island

Olga

suggested

Orcas

location of

Lakedale

Shaw Island

Cleave Bay

Blakely Island

San Juan Island

Thatcher

Friday Harbor

Lopez Island

Argyle

Decatur Island

Decatur

Lopez Island

Rosario Strait

Information about this publication is available from the Hydrographic Office, Washington, D.C. 20340. For more information, contact the Hydrographic Office, Washington, D.C. 20340. (1600) (Rev. 11/82)

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
 Hydrographic Office, Washington, D.C. 20340  
 This chart is a reproduction of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart No. 1132

**CAUTION**  
 Livestock on the use of radio signals as a means of navigation can be found in the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Manual on 11. Radio signals are subject to interference from other radio signals and should be used with caution.  
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**NOTES**  
 Information on the use of radio signals as a means of navigation can be found in the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Manual on 11. Radio signals are subject to interference from other radio signals and should be used with caution.

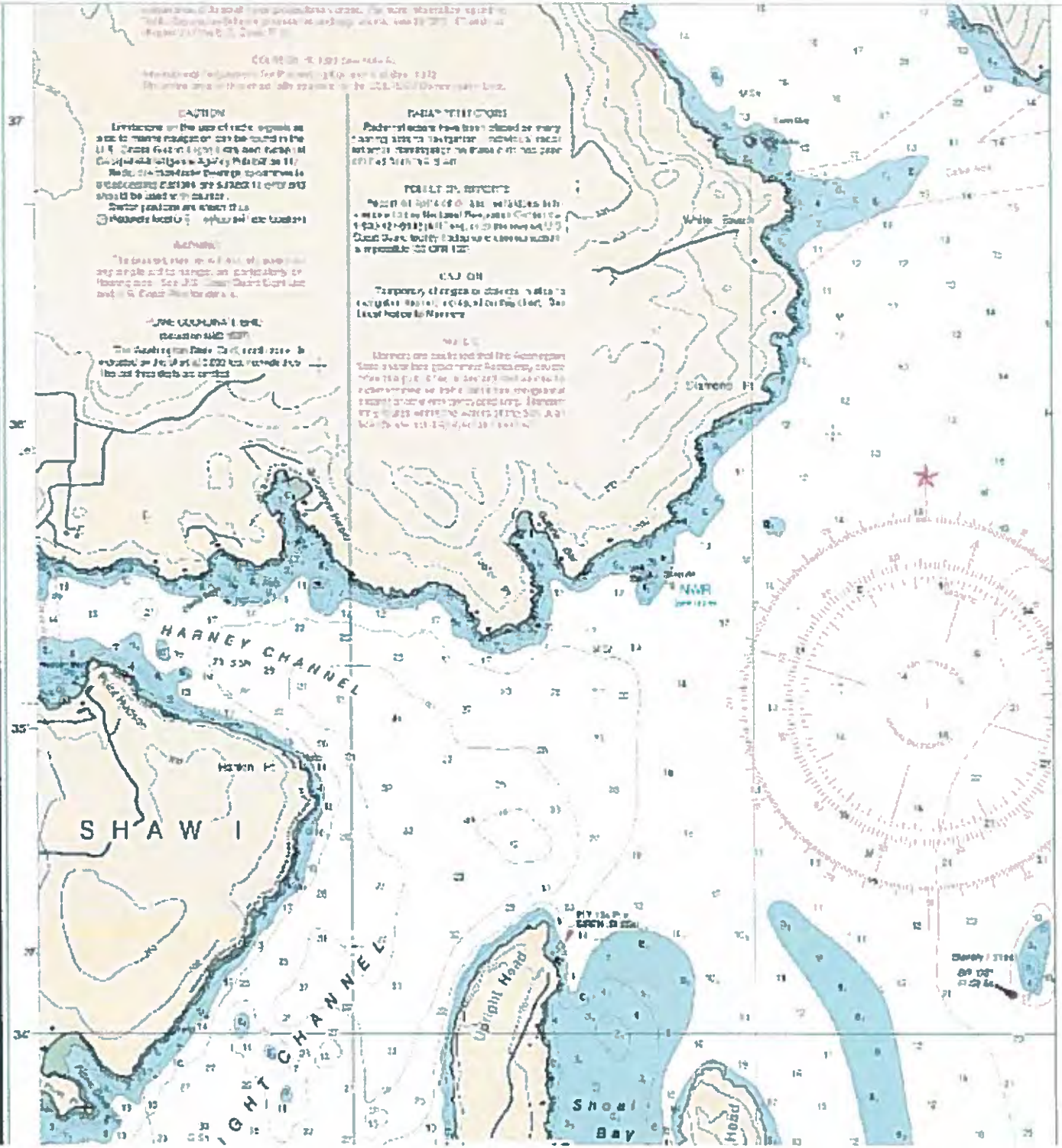
**LINE COASTLINE**  
 The location of the line coast is indicated by the dashed line. The line coast is shown in black on the chart.

**RAISED BEACONS**  
 Raised beacons have been placed at many points along the coast. These beacons are used to mark the location of the coast and to aid in navigation.

**POINT OF FIXTURE**  
 Point of fixture is a point on the coast which is used to mark the location of the coast and to aid in navigation.

**CAUTION**  
 Temporary obstructions, such as dredges, are shown on the chart. These obstructions are subject to change and should be used with caution.

**NOTES**  
 Mariners are cautioned that the information on this chart is based on the best available information and is subject to change. Mariners should use this information with caution and should consult the latest edition of the chart.



SHAWI

HARNEY CHANNEL

Upright Head

Shoal Bay

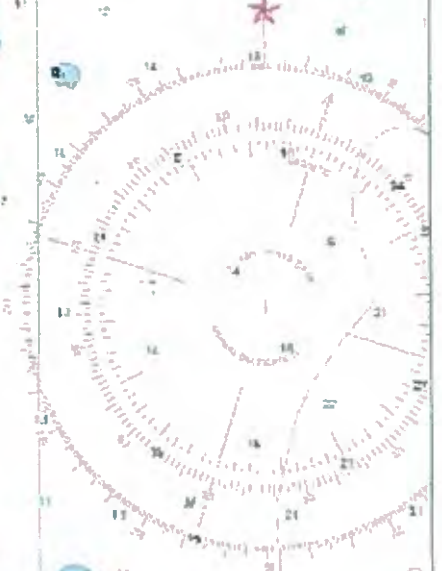


Chart No. 1132  
 11/82



**From:** [Ken Carrasco](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Cayou ISLAND question  
**Date:** Friday, September 17, 2021 10:16:44 AM

---

External Email

There is indeed a Cayou Island. I mentioned it one time during a phone call with you (not that I'm expecting you to remember every detail of our calls — that would be hypocritical of me!). At the southern end of Lopez Sound, Ram and a third island.

It is only about an acre in size, though, depending on the tide. So very inconsequential. I don't know the history of how it got named.

Henry Cayou's fish processing plant was in Deer Harbor but he also owned a 500-acre farm on Decatur Island. Also vessels including a steamer. I can easily see him "commuting" between the two via Harney Channel and the pass by Cayou Island.

There is also Cayou Quay marina and a Cayou Road past his residence, both in Deer Harbor.

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 9:24 AM MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <[CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov)> wrote:

Hey Ken,

I was poking around a bit in the names database, and noticed there is a *Cayou Island* in San Juan County (see attached map, it's just north of Ram Island in the Lopez Pass).

I can't seem to find the origin of the name, but thought to give you a heads up if the Committee members ask. The database I usually use is down for maintenance (of course), so I'll keep checking.

**Caleb A. Maki**

Photogrammetry Supervisor – Engineering Division

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Phone: 360-902-1280 / Fax: 360-902-1778

[caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov)

[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

**From:** [Ken Carrasco](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to Rename Harney Channel, 2nd email of 2  
**Date:** Saturday, April 16, 2022 10:51:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [RenameHarney-SJCmedia-Nov2021-compressed.pdf](#)  
[Harney-petitionUpdate3.pdf](#)

---

External Email

Two more documents in addition to the two sent yesterday are respectfully attached for the consideration of the State Committee for Geographic Names to support our proposal to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel.

One document depicts the local media coverage of the Committee's Initial Consideration in the fall of 2021. The columns printed in the three newspapers are identical, and one of them is enlarged for your convenience.

The second document depicts the third update, published March 16, to our proposal's petition and which was distributed to the petition's signers. This update also publicizes the successful Initial Consideration.

Both documents were compressed for more convenient distribution to you -- please let me know if a higher resolution document is preferred.

Thank you,  
Ken Carrasco  
Orcas Island

# Renaming Harney Channel proposal

Media Coverage in the San Juan County newspapers covering the Initial Consideration by the State Board of Geographic Names

Published November 2021

The San Juan Journal, San Juan Island November 17, 2021



The Island's Sounder, Orcas Island November 17, 2021



The Islands' Weekly, Lopez Island November 16, 2021



Guest column

*The Islands Sounder, page 5*  
*Nov. 17, 2021*

## Proposal to rename Harney Channel passes milestone

*Submitted by Ken Carrasco.*

The Washington State Board of Geographic Names voted unanimously in a recent meeting to advance a proposal which seeks to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel into the Final Consideration phase.

During this phase, staff working for the Board will solicit comments from the residents of the community, the tribes, and governmental entities before a Final Consideration vote, projected to occur at the Board's meeting in April of next year. Should the proposal be passed at that time, it will be sent to the federal level for its consideration.

The authors of this proposal, Ken Carrasco of Orcas Island and Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island, initiated the proposal last year after learning of General William Harney's history of brutality including his atrocities against indigenous people in Nebraska while commanding the Harney Massacre at Ash Hollow in 1845, his brutal murder of a black woman in Missouri in 1836, and his role as Commander in 1859 when

he greatly escalated the potential for war in the islands. Harney only visited the islands once for an overnight visit just before the "Pig War" and almost certainly never came to the channel that bears his name.

Instead of honoring Harney, Carrasco and Buffum are proposing that the Channel be renamed to honor Henry Cayou, who was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and inhabited the San Juan Islands throughout his 90 years of life. Cayou was half Coast Salish and remains the only Native American to serve on the San Juan County Council/Commission, a post he held for 27 years, and he was chair for many of them. He was a commercial fisherman with a processing plant in Deer Harbor, operated a boatyard on Decatur Island, and owned a farm on Waldron Island. Henry Cayou moved easily in both the indigenous and European worlds, leaving many relatives and accomplishments which have benefitted the islands beyond his lifetime. Without question, he transited this particular channel hundreds of times.

To gauge community support for the proposal, a petition was established last spring at [change.org/renamemarney](http://change.org/renamemarney) and, to date, more than 848 people have signed this petition in support of the proposal. Visitors to that site can still sign the petition and leave comments if they wish. Also, the well-respected news organization Indian Country Today has covered the proposal with both an article and a video interview with a local journalist.

Comments about this proposal can be sent by email to Caleb Maki at the Board of Geographic Names at [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov), and comments will also be accepted by mail addressed to Caleb Maki, WA State Committee on Geographic Names, PO Box 47030, Olympia, WA 98504-7030. To contact the proposers directly, email can be sent to [renamemarneychannel@gmail.com](mailto:renamemarneychannel@gmail.com). Readers can obtain more information about the proposal at the petition website in the paragraph above.



Rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel petition  
 Comments left on petition by some signatories  
 change.org/renamemarney, as of April 15, 2022, compiled by Ken Carrasco

Name	Name	Stat	Postal	Co.	Comments	Comment
Brenda Asterino	LOPEZ ISLAND	WA	98261	US	2021-04-17	"Yes, This water should be renamed after Henry Cayou who helped bridge communities."
jim glozier	chicago	IL	60622	US	2021-04-18	"Though I the FB icon attached to my name say's Chicago. I have lived on Orcas Island for nine years now. I agree that the name should be changed."
Gene Helfman	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-18	"long overdue."
Mariann Carrasco	Orcas	WA	98280	US	2021-04-18	"About time!!!"
Sam Barr	Anacortes	WA	98221	US	2021-04-18	"This honors a more holistic historical representation of this place"
Janet Alderton	Deer Harbor	WA	98243	US	2021-04-19	"Harney's awful legacy is a disgrace. Honoring Henry Cayou is a wonderful plan!"
Janice Williams	Eastsound	WA	98245	US	2021-04-19	"Representation in names are the underlining pulse of the public. Let's right this wrong."
Paul Henriksen	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-19	"Henry Cayou should be honored and Harney should not."
Scott Pinegar	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-19	"Compelling rationale for honoring Cayou and consigning Harney to ignominy."
Jess Newley	Friday Harbor	WA	98250	US	2021-04-19	"Names are important!"
Becky Borgquist	Friday Harbor	WA	98250	US	2021-04-19	"Becky borgquist"
cathie soderman	Boulder	CO	80301	US	2021-04-20	"My husband Paul is a descendant of General Harney and we do not support Harney's name being on this Channel. He is an oppressor, the waterway should be given a name of an honorable person, like Cayou!"
Jennifer King	Bellevue	WA	98006	US	2021-04-20	"It matters who we honor with place names."
Jim Foley				US	2021-04-20	"It's the Right Thing to do."
Michelle Collyer	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-20	"We have a duty to erase the names of white supremacists."
Todd Shuster				US	2021-04-20	"It is the right thing to do! Honor those that deserve it."
Iris Graville	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-20	"I signed because it's a small step toward healing relationships with indigenous peoples."
Jan Marshall	outh Pasadena	CA	91030	US	2021-04-21	"I'm to be a full-time resident of Lopez Island next month (May 2021). I grew up in Omaha, NE and there was a Harney Street that I see was named for William S. Harney. In reading about his background, it was very ugly, especially in regards to Native Americans. I think this is an excellent idea to rename this channel after someone who was a "bridge" between peoples."
Holly Bryant	Portland	OR	97213	US	2021-04-21	"No place on Earth should bear that Monster's name!! If he had succeeded our Islands would be covered in military graveyards instead of the tale of how two Great Countries can resolve a dispute...even one as large as the boundary which decided who owned these Islands...WITHOUT the loss of a single Human Life! All disputes should be settled like this...in International arbitration instead of bloodshed 瑠殺"
Robbie Raker	Katy	TX	77450	US	2021-04-21	"Changing the name of this body of water to honor a local resident who represented Native American and white communities, over someone of with such a horrible legacy, is a no brainer. Please make the change"
Jamie Schwindt	Bellingham	WA	98225	US	2021-04-21	"It's above time!"
Elinor Howell	Portland	OR	97202	US	2021-04-21	"Special places such as this deserve to be named after local heroes, not foreign conquerors."
Allegra Sloman	Burnaby		V5E	DN	2021-04-21	"All place names should be relocalized."
Dawni Williams	Anacortes	WA	98221	US	2021-04-21	"?"
Clayton Cromley	Littleton	CO	80127	US	2021-04-21	"Spent formative years in Washington and would like future kids to grow up in a place that acknowledges better angels from its past"

<b>Simone Lee</b>	Calgary		T2K 3S8	DN	2021-04-22	"Names and maps are powerful!"
<b>Barb Chamberla</b>	Seattle	WA	98104	US	2021-04-22	"I have family in Friday Harbor and go to the islands often. As a resident of Washington I hope we can begin to recognize and undo the harms of settler colonialism. Names on the land reflect stories; let them be ones that honor people who lifted us up, not those who destroyed."
<b>Joshua Putnam</b>	Pacific	WA	98047	US	2021-04-22	"The power to name our lands and seas should be used to uplift historical exemplars of the core values of democratic society. This change does exactly that."
<b>Vanessa Mizla</b>	Seattle	WA	98112	US	2021-04-22	"History matters."
<b>Isis King</b>	Brooklyn	NY	11222	US	2021-04-22	"This needs to change! Name it after a local Native community member instead of a murderous White Man!"
<b>David Robison</b>	Friday Harbor	WA	98250	US	2021-04-23	"We should be honoring those who raise up our entire community."
<b>Kevin McCoy</b>	Olga	WA	98279	US	2021-04-23	"Very Appropriate"
<b>Ria Harboe</b>	Lummi Island	WA	98262	US	2021-04-23	"This is the right thing to do. Our family has lived along this channel for almost 40 years and I've never known this about Mr. Harney. Thanks Ken, for bringing this to our attention! This should be happening everywhere!!"
<b>Melissa Lake</b>	Philadelphia	PA	19127	US	2021-04-23	"It is imperative that our naming conventions honor those who love the land and who are themselves honorable. Harney doesn't deserve anything named after him."
<b>Pamela Loew Lo</b>	Eastsound	WA	98245	US	2021-04-24	"Henry Cayou is a much better representative of our area."
<b>Deborah Self</b>	Raleigh	NC	27612	US	2021-04-25	"My parents have lived on Orcas for many years and our extended family spends much time there. I would love to see this honor for such a positive contributor to the region."
<b>Es Warwick</b>	Victoria		V8T	DN	2021-04-26	"This would be what reconciliation looks like. Do the right thing."
<b>Annette Garver</b>	Greenville	SC	29601	US	2021-04-26	"I lived for 20 summers on Orcas Island and it is still a place with means peace to me. I never knew when passing through that channel on the ferry countless times, that it was named for such an unworthy person. To me, it will be Cayou Channel from now on."
<b>Mollie Shea</b>	Bend	OR	97702	US	2021-04-26	"Honoring people who have intentionally done great harm to others, by naming features of nature after them, is a cruel way of continually inflicting excruciatingly painful memories for generations of ancestors while at the same time inferring brutal domination tactics are to be rewarded. Honoring people who have consistently gone out of their way to help fellow brothers and sisters, to stand peaceably for justice, and to care for the well-being of all is to honor nature herself with remembrance of what is possible for all of us - to live and love in accordance with our true nature - in alignment with the best of who we are."
<b>Luke Newton</b>	Oakland	CA	94612	US	2021-04-27	"My family lives near this soon to be named cayou channel on Orcas Island and this renaming must happen. I wish there were a record of what the original Coast Salish place name for this channel is, along with the many islands and waters throughout the region. This renaming should also be seen as just one small step towards supporting reconciliation, reparation and Indigenous rights in these Coast Salish territories."
<b>Suzanne Roundy</b>	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-04-27	"As a San Juan Islands resident and boater I strongly support the renaming of Harney Channel to Cayou Channel. General Harney's actions against black and indigenous people as well as during the Pig War were despicable. It is time for us to learn about Henry Cayou and to honor him. His life is representative of the spirit of these islands."
<b>Margot Shaw</b>	Eastsound	WA	98245	US	2021-04-30	"I agree with having names connected with those who lived here"
<b>Nancy Schafer</b>				US	2021-05-01	"Nancy Schafer. Even small changes can have an accumulative positive cultural effect. I believe re-examining our history is so important for the future we want to have."
<b>Kirman Taylor</b>	Lopez Island	WA	98261	US	2021-05-01	"It's the right think to do."

<b>Christy Bear</b>	Bellevue	WA	98007	US	2021-05-03	"The honor of having a geographic place named after you should go to people who exemplify humanity at its best - it's time to rename Harney Channel!"
<b>Oolaa kaplan</b>	Bellevue	WA	98008	US	2021-05-03	"Make this right! Change the name."
<b>Arriba Stature</b>	North Bend	WA	98045	US	2021-05-03	"We need to stop rewarding racism and cruelty in our country."
<b>Yvonne Brandon</b>	Redmond	WA	98052	US	2021-05-04	"Harney does not deserve this honor."
<b>MIICHAEL HIGG</b>	Seattle	WA	98118	US	2021-05-14	"Cayou seems much better."
<b>Denny Redman</b>	Duvall	WA	98019	US	2021-05-17	"I'm signing because I agree that it was named originally for someone who does not share current human values."
<b>Fred Berman</b>	Bellingham	WA	98225	US	2022-03-02	"It's long past time to right our historical wrongs. We must not ignore such wanton disregard of the values which set us apart from the savages of the past!"
<b>Sharon Abreu</b>	Eastsound	WA	98245	US	2022-03-16	"It's high time that we rename these traditional native waters to reflect the people who have lived with them, and in them, and cared for them for thousands of years."
<b>Janet Swihart</b>	Randle		98377	US	2022-03-17	"Righting past wrongs..."
<b>Carol Kibble</b>	Seattle	WA	98115	US	2022-03-20	"Conquerors are not heroes!"
<b>ayn gailey</b>	Eastsound	WA	98245	US	2022-03-23	"I love this idea. Restoring the world."

**From:** [Ken Carrasco](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Subject:** Petition to Rename Harney Channel  
**Date:** Friday, April 15, 2022 12:18:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[Harney-Orcasonian-March2022.pdf](#)  
[RenameHarneyPetition-Comments-April15.pdf](#)

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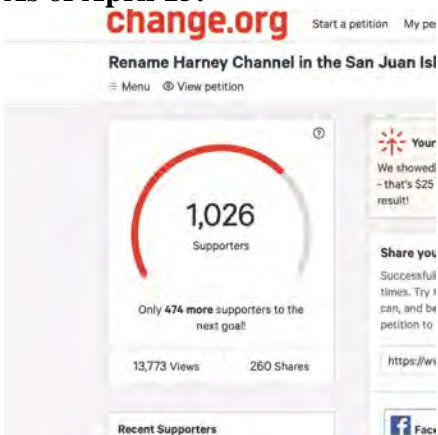
## External Email

Regarding our proposal to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel, the following are respectfully submitted to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names for your consideration:

- 1) A column publicizing our proposal was submitted to, and published by, the local online news source "The Orcasonian" in March and was copy/pasted in its entirety here. Nine comments are included, some with alternative thoughts.
- 2) As of this email, 1,026 people have signed our petition to rename Harney Channel. 59 of them left comments and a pdf of these comments are also attached to this email.

Thank you,  
Ken Carrasco  
Orcas Island

### As of April 15:





Excerpt provided to the Committee on Geographic Names by Ken Carrasco:



News Community Government & Politics Opinion Environment SUPPORT

ext >

## Islanders want to dump the name of a notorious general, rename a Salish Sea channel for 20th century Native leader from Orcas

March 19th, 2022 | 6 Comments



||| FROM KEN CARRASCO |||

You may be aware that a proposal was recently submitted to Washington State to rename Harney Channel. Several of us, notably Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island and myself, a resident of Orcas, realized that General William S. Harney (1800-1889), for whom the channel was named by the British around 1860, is not the sort of person who should be so honored. He was not only responsible for greatly exacerbating our local so-called Pig War in 1859 which almost resulted in armed conflict with Britain, but he also commanded the US Army attack against the Sioux in 1855 at the Battle of Ash Hollow (aka the Harney Massacre or the Battle of Blue Water Creek). He also beat a black woman to death in 1836, for which he was found responsible by both a coroner's inquest and a grand jury.



*Battle of Ash Hollow*

*Battle of Ash Hollow*

We have also learned from credible sources that Harney very possibly committed a war crime during the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. Contrary to the Articles of War in effect at the time which provided for swift punishment and prohibited hanging except for very circumscribed circumstances, he hanged 30 deserters at Chapultepec instead of the more humane firing squad (the condemned were soldiers in the Saint Patrick's Brigade who had deserted, but obviously not because of cowardice). He also delayed their execution and made them wait on the gallows until the end of the battle so they could watch the American flag replace the Mexican before they died. At the time, Harney was also convicted for insubordination in a court martial for another offence, but the conviction was reversed by President James Polk.

We are proposing that the channel instead be named for Henry Cayou (1869-1959), who lived his entire 90 years in the San Juan Islands and was both born and interred here on Orcas. Both he and his first wife were half Native American and Henry lived in both cultures. He is the only Native American who has served on the San Juan Island County Council and, as chair, his signature is on the documents incorporating Friday Harbor. Henry Cayou was in multiple ways a positive force for our county and the quality of our present life.

Our proposal has attracted both local and national attention, and last year the respected *Indian Country Today* news outlet carried both an [online story](#) and an [eight-minute news webcast](#) which can be seen in this link by skimming to minute 19:00 after a thirty-second advertisement. In addition, State Representative Debra Lekanoff has very positively given us her support.

Our proposal was accepted for consideration last fall by the State Committee on Geographic Names and they will make a final determination at their next meeting on April 26. If approved, the proposal will then be passed up the hierarchy to the State Board of Geographic Names and, upon their own approval, the proposal will be passed on to the Federal government for their consideration. This could come as early as late summer of this year.

More detailed information can be read at [our online petition](#), and you can express your support by signing the petition and additionally by leaving comments there which we will forward to the state board. Otherwise, you may also express support — or opposition — by directly contacting the State Board and Committee on Geographic Names via email at [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov) or by USPS at P.O. Box 47030, Olympia, WA 98504-7030.

You can also telephone them by contacting their staff, Caleb Maki, at 360-902-1280. Finally, you can also directly contact us, the proposers, at: [renameharneychannel@gmail.com](mailto:renameharneychannel@gmail.com).



*Henry Cayou and his wife, Mary Reed, were married 24 years until her death in 1912. Cayou was the son of a Lummi/Saanich mother and French-American father. Reed's mother was Tlingit and her father was Irish-American.*



9 Comments



**Gretchen Krampf** 19/03/2022 at 6:08 PM

This is an excellent initiative and I am delighted to see you are gathering additional momentum. It would be a step in the right direction to rename Harney Channel and honor Henry Cayou's legacy. May it be so!



**Doug Pearson** 19/03/2022 at 6:29 PM

Do it.



**Janet+Alderton** 19/03/2022 at 7:04 PM

Thank-you, Ken Carrasco and Stephanie Buffum for your initiative and perseverance in the renaming of Harney Channel. Your decision to honor Henry Cayou is perfect!



**John Titus** 20/03/2022 at 8:51 AM

I support the name change to Cayou Channel.

But it does open up some interesting doors, for instance, the inglorious career of General George Pickett (Mt. Pickett, etc.).

Pickett was a washed-up Confederate General who also led the infantry in the famed "Pig War". Here is a snip from Pickett's Wikipedia page:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Pickett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Pickett)

" During the Gettysburg Campaign, his division was, much to Pickett's frustration, the last to arrive on the field. However, it was one of three divisions under the command of General Longstreet to participate in a disastrous assault on Union positions on July 3, the final day of the battle. The attack has been given the name "Pickett's Charge." In February 1864, Pickett ordered 22 North Carolinians in Union uniform hanged as deserters after a failed assault on New Bern. His military career came to an inglorious end when his division was overwhelmed and defeated at the Battle of Five Forks.

Following the war, Pickett feared prosecution for his execution of deserters and temporarily fled to Canada. An old Army friend, Ulysses S. Grant, interceded on his behalf, and he returned to Virginia in 1866. He could not rejoin the Army, so he tried his hand at farming, then selling insurance. He died at age 50 in July 1875 from an "abscess of the liver."<sup>[2]</sup>"

Kind of a slippery slope, but perhaps we should traverse it...



**Michael Riordan** 24/03/2022 at 2:10 AM

That Wikipedia entry also states that Pickett graduated last in the class of 1846 at West Point. Pretty undistinguished figure to name a mountain after.



**Ken Wood** 24/03/2022 at 2:02 PM

Aren't there REAL problems that need attention before submitting every person in history to current standards of behavior?

Where are you going to stop? The Americas are named for Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine merchant, navigator and explorer who claimed to have discovered 'A New World'. That, of course, was fully populated with people who had been here for at least 20,000 years and probably much more! Is that fair? Is it right? I certainly don't think so, but are we going to rename North America 'Turtle Island', as Gary Snyder suggested?

I share the sentiment behind this but the whole thing seems silly when there are real problems that could be addressed with that attention.



**Ken Carrasco** 13/04/2022 at 5:00 PM

Ken Wood brings up an important point. Where do we stop with the renaming? And, also, is there something to be said for letting names remain so that the person can be remembered for the bad things they did?

We live on the shoreline east of the Orcas ferry landing and I lived with the name of Harney Channel for years even though I knew the namesake did some bad things. I didn't think much of it. However, I eventually realized that Harney's list of heinous acts was too long and too appalling to ignore any longer. And in answer to Mr. Wood's valid concern that this holds people to today's standards of behavior, General Harney's behavior was considered appalling even during his lifetime by many of his contemporaries.

So I became one of the proposers of this name change. But I'm not automatically supporting others, such as removing Pickett's name. I can't describe a threshold where I can be moved to consider that a name should be changed, but the fact that they did not get good grades at West Point is far, far from an adequate reason.

Another motive for my proposal is that our society is in the process of reconciling our history of violence to the indigenous peoples who preceded us here and also we engaged in the slavery of human beings. (This might make it sound like my proposal comes from a political motive — but ironically I'm a veteran and this opinion comes from my service in the the military). General Harney's violence against the indigenous peoples and black people cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed.



**David Bowman** 13/04/2022 at 7:52 PM

I support the name change but I do not support choosing a new name that is based on a historical figure.

Honoring someone with native ancestry seems noble but the natives did not often name places for people. They named places for the physical attributes or spiritual qualities that the place held. Individuals were not memorialized on maps in perpetuity. The land, sea, and its non-human inhabitants took priority.

The name "Cayou" is derived from the French word for "pebble" – reflecting Cayou's French ancestry and this, indirectly reflecting the Euro-American colonialist project, which involved the forced removal or integration of Salish people from these islands.

Replacing one historical figure with another is therefore still an act of internalized colonialist thinking. To name a geographical feature for an individual with European ancestry is not really the act of decolonialization that it seems to be.

We know the original native names of the islands, perhaps an alternative name which more closely honors the native way of thinking could be chosen.




**Tracy McQueen** 14/04/2022 at 9:57 AM

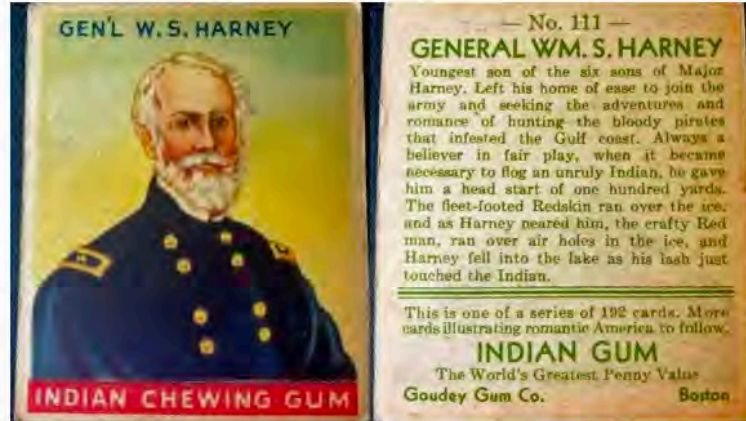
Ken,  
Pickett was truly awful, even forgetting his bad grades at West Point. You can read about him yourself.

And David, I completely agree with you on new naming conventions! I've always felt it's dangerous to put folks on any sort of pedestal because eventually... there can arise many a reason for those pedestals to be toppled.



# Petition to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel is succeeding!

 **Ken Carrasco**  
Orcas, WA, United States



MAR 16, 2022 —

Thank you so much to everybody who have signed our petition to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel! We are approaching 1,000 signers, many of whom left comments, and we are thrilled by your support. We are starting to feel fairly confident that our proposal will succeed.


Here is an update on the process: last fall the Washington State Committee on Geographical Names accepted our application requesting their consideration of our proposal (a big step), and on Tuesday, April 26, they will make their final decision whether to actually approve it.

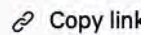
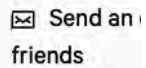
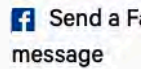
Upon that approval, our proposal will be passed on to a monthly meeting of the State Board of Natural Resources and, upon that board's approval, it will then move on to the Federal government for consideration by yet another board. Both the state DNR and the Federal boards meet monthly so it's conceivable that we may be finished with the renaming approval process as early as late summer!

In talking with people familiar with the renaming process, we have heard that we presented such a strong and effective application for our proposal, and we took such care to document and substantiate everything that we presented about General Harney and Henry Cayou, that it was credible and convincing. Again, many thanks to you! And, by the way, it certainly helps for even more signers to give their support to this petition, so please feel free to pass the word along.

The photo of the front and back of a card featuring General Harney is from the Indian series of chewing gum distributed in 1933 by the Goudey Corporation. We don't know if the incident of Harney flogging an "unruly Indian" is actually true or not, but it does represent racist attitudes that we hope our society is maturing away from.

1,027 have signed. I

 At 1,500 signa  
petition is mor  
picked up by k



Show this petition to  
supporters



**Comments**

**Received**

**From:** [cherie.christensen](mailto:cherie.christensen)  
**To:** [MAKI\\_CALEB \(DNR\)](mailto:MAKI_CALEB@dnr.wa.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Name Change for Harney Channel/ SJC  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 12:52:57 PM  
**Importance:** High

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External Email

To: The Washington State Committee on Geographic Names  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division Supervisor, Caleb Maki:

Thank you for accepting comments on the proposed name change for Harney Channel.

I would like to heartily support the change to Henry Cayou Channel! What a great idea! Actually, I live in view of this channel in question, where I have established a historical maritime archive, primarily of the greater San Juan Archipelago. It contains pages and pages to represent Mr. Cayou (1869-1959), a dedicated binder of his life and times in this county..

I have also had the opportunity to catch some of his genealogical records shared by his family with records going back to a First Nations maternal gr. grandmother Pe-el-i. We have a bounty of data collected that relates to his maritime work. It is commonly known that he worked hard in the fishing industry, not only for his own needs, but he used resources to keep the boat building industry alive for many years in support of the Reed Shipyard on Decatur Island. Many workers were employed there for years.

It is well documented that he poured energy into the support of many important organizations, which other commenters have mentioned..

We carry our history forward by recognizing the good people from our local area. This name change will be a fine way of contributing to the historical work we strive for daily in San Juan County.

Regards,

Cherie Christensen, archivist  
Saltwater People Historical Society  
[https://saltwaterpeoplehistoricalsociety.blogspot.com/search/label/Henry\\_Cayou](https://saltwaterpeoplehistoricalsociety.blogspot.com/search/label/Henry_Cayou)

On 5Feb, 2022, at 11:11 AM, MAKI, CALEB (DNR)  
<[CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov)> wrote:

I take comments at any time, so feel free to send any my way and I will add it to

the proposal. Let me know if you have any further questions, and thank you for your interest in geographic names!

Caleb Maki  
Photogrammetry Supervisor - Engineering Division  
Executive Secretary - WA Committee on Geographic Names  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Phone: 360-902-1280 / Fax: 360-902-1778  
[caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov)  
[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: cherie christensen <cpc@rockisland.com>  
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:30 AM  
To: MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>  
Subject: Name Change for Harney Channel/ SJC

External Email

Hi Caleb,  
Is it too late to send a support letter for a change to Cayou for this body of water between Orcas and Shaw Islands??

Thanks,

Cherie Christensen  
Saltwater People Historical Society  
SJC



**From:** [Moran Dagmar Schnader/John Moran](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Subject:** Cayou Channel  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 10:56:15 AM

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External Email

Dear Committee Members—

I am completely in favor of the changing of the name of Harney Channel to Cayou Channel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Moran  
Bainbridge Island

**From:** [Tom Mumford](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed name change for Harney Channel, San Juan Islands.  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 9:37:10 AM

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External Email

Caleb,

I would like to voice my support of changing the name of Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel. If you're going to name places after people, at least have them be respectable and honoring good in the world.

Thanks for your consideration- Tom

Thomas Mumford, PhD.  
Marine Agronomics, LLC  
Olympia, WA  
[tom@marineagronomics.com](mailto:tom@marineagronomics.com)  
[tmumford@uw.edu](mailto:tmumford@uw.edu)  
[www.marineagronomics.com](http://www.marineagronomics.com)  
@KaptnKelp  
Hm: (360) 866-0740  
Cell: (360) 789-9684

**From:** [Jan Alderton](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Subject:** Rename Harney Channel to Honor Henry Cayou  
**Date:** Friday, December 3, 2021 5:07:14 PM

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External Email

Dear **Caleb Maki**,

I live in the San Juan Islands on Orcas Island near the homestead where Henry Cayou was born. Henry Cayou led an exemplary life in contrast to the deplorable behavior of General Harney. There is growing awareness of the history of indigenous peoples in our island archipelago. Renaming Harney Channel after Henry Cayou would honor cooperation between tribal and post-contact cultures. I hope that respect and understanding of the cultures of the Salish Sea tribes and nations will help all of us live more sustainably.

History matters.

Symbolism matters.

I strongly support renaming Harney Channel to Cayou Channel.

Thank-you for your attention to this important effort,

Janet Alderton  
Deer Harbor, WA 98243  
510-520-1073

**From:** [Keith Wentworth](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Cc:** [Keith Wentworth](#)  
**Subject:** Rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 17, 2021 9:51:34 AM

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External Email

Dear Caleb Maki,

Please add me to the list of people who support the proposal which seeks to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel.

Thank you.

Keith Wentworth  
[keith@ckwentworth.org](mailto:keith@ckwentworth.org)



406 126th Ave N.E.  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
December 13, 2021

WA State Committee on Geographic Names  
PO Box 47030  
Olympia, WA 98504-7030  
(via email)

Re: Harney Channel → Cayou Channel

Dear Committee Members:

As an armchair historian and student of our place names, I read with interest the recent proposal to change the name of Harney Channel to Cayou Channel. I am very much opposed.

In reviewing the proposal, several things occur to me. First, consistent with my writing, the proponent attributes the name to Captain George Richards as it first appeared on a pair of “his” Admiralty Charts from 1861. In my book, I wrote that Richards named it for General William Harney. I failed to include a cite for this and found with additional digging that Edmund Meany was the source of that information (*Origins of Washington Geographic Names*, p109). Meany wrote that Richards “evidently” named it for General Harney. So, in addition to my failure to provide the cite, I also omitted Meany’s emphasis on the word “evidently.” In other words, Meany didn’t know. He guessed. Richards’ reason for the name has been lost to history. It could have easily been named after one of his friends or acquaintances in England, or a member of the Hudson’s Bay Company, or a crew member. The point is, we don’t know, no one knows. We can only guess.

The proponent acknowledges that the “reasoning behind the name is a mystery to us,” and points out that in particular, with General Harney’s “anti-British sentiments,” it is less likely that Richards so honored him. Thus, it seems strange to me that we would consider renaming something because we suspect it honors a particular individual when there is no data to support the assertion.

Second, I strongly believe that the Washington State Board on Geographic Names has a duty not simply to adjudicate new names but to protect old ones as well. Certainly, I understand pejoratives, e.g., squaw and the “n” word. I agree with their removal. However, we should not cavalierly change an existing name simply because we don’t like for whom it was named. I’m not suggesting we must celebrate the name. But it is part of our history. We can at least understand it regardless of whether political correctness would permit assigning the name today. If our names are not offered this protection, it’s my guess the Board will begin receiving proposals, for example, to change the name of our state because George owned slaves.

Finally, while there’s nothing inherently wrong with the suggested name Cayou, how many names does a fellow need? He has already been honored by a marina in Deer Harbor as well as an island in Lopez Sound. Surely, that’s enough.

I strongly recommend the Committee reject this proposal.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Blumenthal

Author: *Maritime Place Names. Inland Washington Waters*

**From:** [Craig Staude](#)  
**To:** [DNR RE BOGN](#)  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Channel - Cleave Bay suggestion  
**Date:** Thursday, December 16, 2021 10:57:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [North to East Sound.png](#)  
[East to Obstruction and Peavine.png](#)  
[Cleave Vandersluys Obituary.pdf](#)

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External Email

Dear Mr. Maki,

I understand that you are a DNR staffer involved in the renaming of Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands. I am writing in support of this name change, since it presently honors an unsavory character who committed atrocities against indigenous people and whose insubordination exacerbated the war with Mexico and brought the United States to the brink of war with England.

The recent proposal by Ken Carrasco and Stephanie Buffum to rename Harney Channel for Henry Cayou seems appropriate to me, and I do not wish to detract from it. Yet I would like to offer a suggestion that might be appended to their proposal or considered at a future date.

I have long wondered about the unnamed bay north and east of Harney Channel, which seems to bear no name on nautical charts. That bay is bordered to the north by the entrance to East Sound and to the east by Obstruction and Peavine Passes. It is unclear whether the southern portion of the bay is an easterly continuation of Harney Channel, or whether this is an unnamed channel (south of Blakely Shoal buoy) that continues east to Thatcher Pass, which is the main route of the Washington State Ferries. (charts attached)

Since this bay is the dividing point of so many water courses, I suggest that it be called Cleave Bay. This appellation would have a double meaning which also honors Mr. Cleave C. Vandersluys (obituary attached). The English word *cleave* means "to separate or divide, or causing something to divide" (Cambridge Dictionary) as the waters of this bay are divided into six channels. More importantly it would give a lasting tribute to Cleave Vandersluys, a man of many accomplishments. Cleave was invaluable to the research of Friday Harbor Laboratories (FHL or "the Labs") for decades, and I am happy to say he briefly served as my mentor as I tried to follow in his footsteps.

I would not be averse to calling this Vandersluys Bay, but that's quite a mouthful especially for people who did not know him. More importantly he was simply and kindly known as "Cleave" to countless researchers and students at the Labs.

Cleave taught me and other FHL skippers how to collect specimens within this unnamed bay, especially in the area from Blakely Buoy to Olga. The area was nicknamed the "Potato Patch" because of the potato-shaped sea squirts that are found there. He must have traversed this bay many hundreds of times in his boat the M/V *Hydah*, while commercial fishing or taking the mail run from Friday Harbor to Bellingham.

Cleave's knowledge of the local waters and their biota was critical to the teaching and research programs of the Labs, and it is not an exaggeration to say that Cleave's skill contributed to many scientific discoveries, such as understanding the physiology of muscle cells as demonstrated in the local giant barnacle. Cleave was also one of the first scuba divers in the San Juans, and provided compressed air for the Labs diving programs. He maintained the NOAA tide gauge on the FHL dock before it was replaced by an automated

system. This does not begin to describe his many contributions (see obituary) to San Juan County and in particular as Town Administrator of Friday Harbor. (I can provide other supporting statements, if needed.)

Please advise whether this suggestion of "Cleave Bay" has merit in your opinion, and whether it could be combined with the present "Cayou Channel" proposal, or considered separately at some time in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Craig P. Staude, Ph.D.

Researcher at Friday Harbor Laboratories  
Past Vessel Master of FHL  
45-year resident of San Juan Island  
Student of Mr. Cleave Vadersluys

1273 Three Meadows Lane, Friday Harbor, WA  
email: craig\_staude@yahoo.com

(I will be away from home for 2 months, but can be contacted by email.)



# Evans Funeral Chapel and On-site Crematory

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## Cleave C. Vandersluys

( February 15, 1915 - December 05, 2004 )

Cleave C. Vandersluys died December 5, 2004. He was born February 21, 1915 to Richard and Wilhelmina (Sherlock) Vandersluys in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He lived in Niagara Falls, Ontario and Vancouver, B. C. before moving to Spokane, Washington where he finished high school and two years of studies at Kinman Business University. Accepting an office position with Roche Harbor Lime and Cement Co. he moved to San Juan Island in 1932. In 1934 he joined the CCC where he served as company clerk and in the first aid station at Moran State Park. Cleave met Irene Taylor of Orcas Island in 1936. They were married January 6, 1938 and settled in Friday Harbor. They have continued to reside in San Juan County ever since. During World War II Cleave signed on for duty with the Coast Guard Small Boat Patrol. Later he became Chief Engineer on an Army tugboat towing ammunition barges in the Alaska area. After the war he worked for UNRA equipping and delivering fishing boats to China. Vandersluys owned and operated the M.V. Hydah for many years, including 30 years as the research vessel for the University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories, as well as working in various types of fishing and other marine activities. He was perhaps the first county resident to learn SCUBA diving, which led to the development of his diving air business. For over 32 years he served as a Tide Observer maintaining the tide gauge and records at the NOAA station at the Friday Harbor Labs. He was appointed to the Washington State Oceanographic Commission by Governor Dixy Lee Ray. He worked 30 years for the Town of Friday Harbor. He was appointed then elected in 1955 as Town



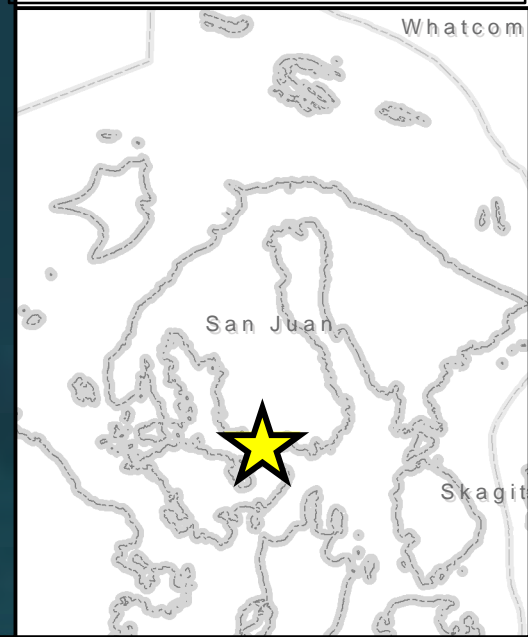
Treasurer, a position he held through 1983. This period included appointment in 1976 as the first Town Administrator. In 1984 he was appointed to the Town Council to fill an unexpired term through 1985. Vandersluys was one of the original members of the Volunteer Fire Department, serving 1953-1973. He was a charter member of the San Juan Golf Club. As a Master Mason, he recently was awarded his 60-year pin. Cleave Vandersluys is survived by his wife of nearly 67 years, Irene Vandersluys of Friday Harbor; two daughters Linda Jean (Ron) Prevost of Des Moines, Washington and JoAnne Campbell of Friday Harbor; two grandchildren Cheryl (Lynn) Whiting of Bellingham and Scott (Patty) Campbell of Ferndale; two great-grandchildren Naomi Lynn and Caleb Cleave Whiting; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother Jack and two sisters, Mary Grader and Carrie Kruger. Services were held at the Valley Cemetery on December 11, 2004. Memorials may be sent to a favorite charity. Arrangements are in the care of Evans Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Anacortes. Share memories of Cleave and sign the online guest register at [www.evanschapel.com](http://www.evanschapel.com)

# Cayou Channel - SAN JUAN COUNTY



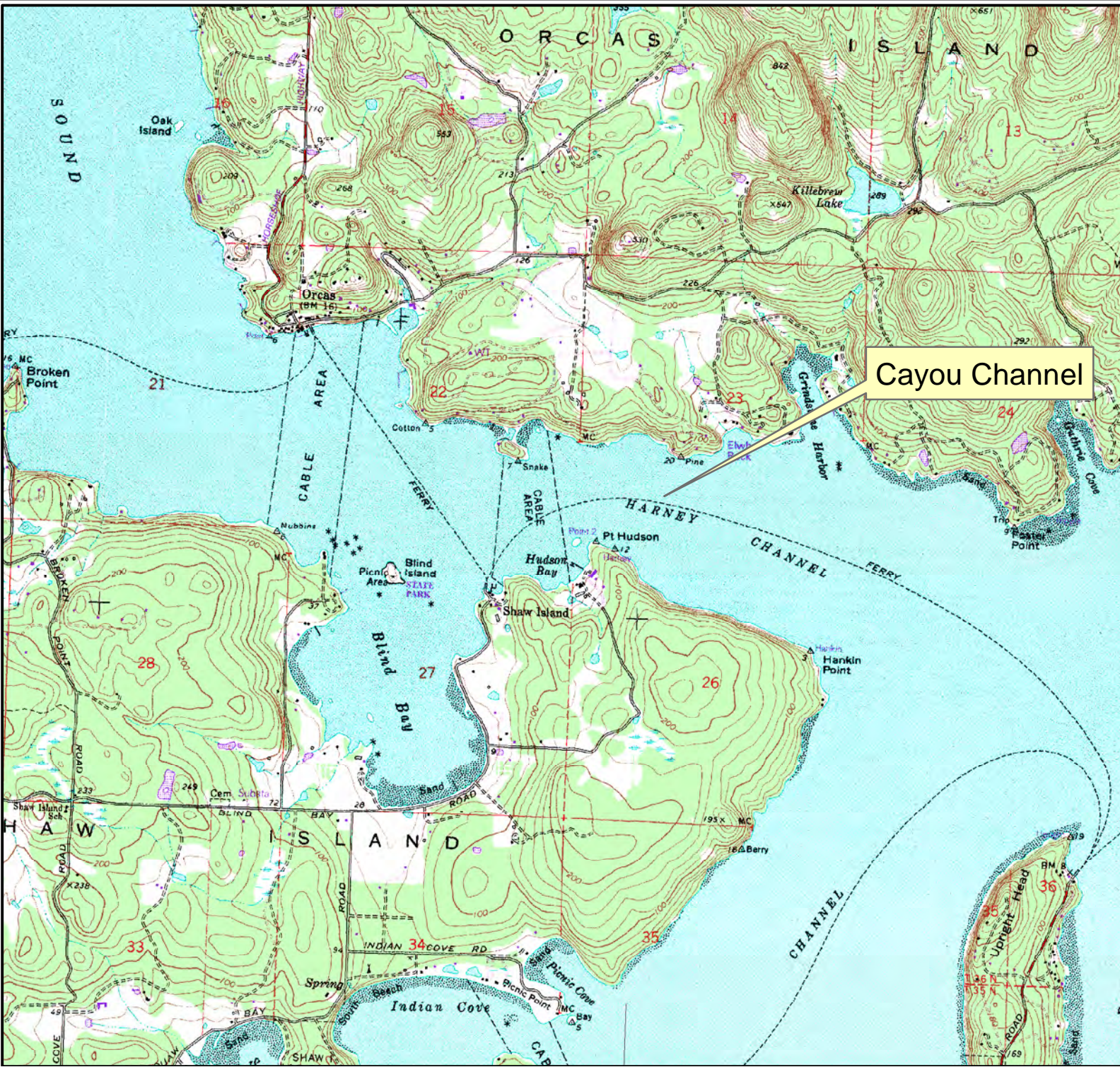
Currently name Harney Channel, the proponent wishes to honor Henry Cayou.

Mr. Cayou was a prominent member of the commercial fishing industry and processing plant in Deer Harbor and farmed on Decatur Island. It is presumed that Mr. Henry regularly transmitted this particular channel.



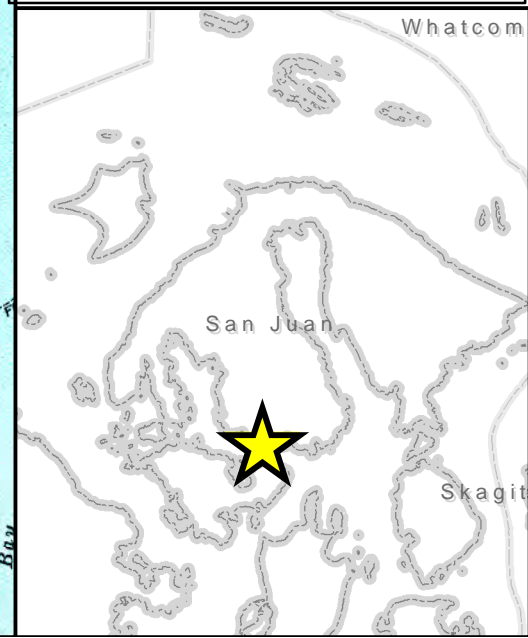


# Cayou Channel - SAN JUAN COUNTY



Currently name Harney Channel, the proponent wishes to honor Henry Cayou.

Mr. Cayou was a prominent member of the commercial fishing industry and processing plant in Deer Harbor and farmed on Decatur Island. It is presumed that Mr. Henry regularly transmitted this particular channel.





## **Chaenn Hill**

*Thurston County - Spelling Clarification*

**Township:** 16N

**Range:** 1W

**Section:** 7

**USGS Quad:** East Olympia

**Location Description:** The locale is located 1 mile N of the City of Tenino where Hyatt Road SE meets Old Highway 99 SE.

**Proposal Summary:** Chaenn Hill - Locale; located 1 mile N of the City of Tenino at 46°52'49.483"N, 122°50'44.559"W; The proposed name would correct the current incorrect spelling of "Chain Hill". The area was originally named in honor of Charles Chaenn, who purchased 80 acres in 1884; Thurston County, Washington; Sec 7, T16N, R1W, Willamette Meridian; 46°52'49.483"N, 122°50'44.559"W; USGS map – East Olympia.

The proposed name was submitted by a local historian who provided evidence that the feature was originally named "Chaenn Hill", but was later changed to the current name of Chain Hill. In 1884, Charles Chaenn purchased 80 acres in the area. Mr. Chaenn passed away in 1910, and the first known use of the name "Chaenn Hill" began in 1912.

**Proponent:**

Richard Edwards  
849 Westminster Drive NE  
Lacey, WA 98516

**Proposal Received:** 1/16/2020

**Initial Consideration:** 10/26/2021

**Final Consideration:** 4/26/2022

**WA Committee Decision:** Approved for Final Consideration

**WA Board Decision:**

**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**

Thurston County Commissioners - NO OBJECTION

Thurston County GIS - WAITING ON RESPONSE

City of Tenino - IN FAVOR



Tenino Historical Society - IN FAVOR

WA State Historical Society - WAITING ON RESPONSE

WASHINGTON STATE  
Geographic Name Application



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Proposed Name: Chaenn Hill

New Name

County: Thurston

Controversial Name

Township: 16N Range: 1W Section(s): 7

Name Change

Lat. 46.8803770 N, Long. -122.8456877 W (Begin)

Location Clarification

Lat. \_\_\_\_\_ N, Long. \_\_\_\_\_ W (End)

Spelling Clarification

## Description

Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): Hill

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered): Hill rising to 420 feet approximately a mile north of the city of Tenino.

If a stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names: Chain Hill, Chane Hill, Chein Hill, Chaine Hill, Chainne Hill, Chaen Hill.

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when? The hill has been mentioned in local newspapers for more than a hundred years. The various spellings have been used.

There is a nearby street, "Chein Hill Lane SE." The USGS uses "Chain Hill."

## History

*Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings, this might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (floods, fires, etc.) 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.*

Origin of name: In 1884 Charles Chaenn purchased 80 acres on the hill north of Tenino (NE1/4 of SW1/4 and NW1/4 of SE1/4, Section 7, Township 16, North of Range 1 West, Willamette Meridian) from Avery Gilmore for \$600. Charles Chaenn died in 1910. The first known use of his name for this hill dates from 1912.

Sources: Thurston County Place Names (1992, Thurston County Historic Commission), "Chain Hill" (2012, Tenino City Historian), The History of Pioneer Travel Converges on Chaenn Hill (2019, Thurston Talk). Attachments.

If a commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature: Jean Thiabaud Tschaine born in Brechaumont, Haut Rhin, France, in 1839.

He entered the United States through Texas in 1871. He was married there in 1876 under the name "Jean

Charles Thiabaud Tschaenn to Zoe Bertrand. They arrived in Thurston County, Washington Territory in 1878.

In 1884, they purchased 80 acres near the hill north of Tenino. In 1888-9 they had a contentious divorce in court.

In 1897 Charles moved to King County as a gardener for Mrs Whittler in Seattle.

He married Lisette Schmidt there in 1900 and moved back to his farm north of Tenino, where he died in 1910.

## Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of feature? As a main area geographic feature, the hill has long been an obstacle for the original pioneer trail, the Pacific Coast Highway, and Old Highway 99.

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest: It has always been known that the hill was named for Charles Chaenn, but the spelling has constantly varied. In the interest of historical accuracy and to solidify spelling using correct form for the future, the main form of Charles Chaenn's name, as he used it during his lifetime in Thurston County, should be used. Adopting the correct spelling will reduce any future confusion and misinformation.

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? Chaenn has been one of the variants used, but a concerted effort to standardize it has only been a focus since 2018 when research by the Tenino City Historian brought the correct spelling to light.

Please list all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history relating to proposed name) Please see the attachments

What type of support is there for the proposed name?

*List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:*

Richard A. Edwards, Tenino City Historian, 849 Westminster Dr NE, Lacey, WA 98516 (360)970-1838

City of Tenino, (nearest municipality) 149 Hodgden St S, Tenino, WA 98589 (360) 264-2368 (see attached proclamation of support from the Mayor and City Council)

### Application submitted by:


Name: Richard A Edwards

Address: 849 Westminster Dr NE City: Lacey State: WA Zip: 98516

Phone #: (360)970-1838 Email: historian@ci.tenino.wa.us Date of Application: 1/16/2020

***I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.***

Printed Name: Richard A Edwards

Signature:  Date: 1/16/2020

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:

**WA State Board on Geographic Names**

**PO Box 47030**

**Olympia, WA 98504-7030**

*(Phone: 360-902-1280 - Fax: 360-902-1778 - Email: bogn@dnr.wa.gov)*

**BY THE CITY OF TENINO  
- A PROCLAMATION -  
CHAENN HILL**

**WHEREAS**, the hill at Latitude 46.8803770 N, Longitude -122.8456877 W in Township 16N, Range 1W, Section 7 of the Willamette Meridian has long been a part of Tenino's history; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles Chaenn, who purchased 80 acres including much of this hill in 1884 and lived on the farm there, on and off, until his death in 1910; and

**WHEREAS**, this hill has been known to Tenino history for over a hundred years to be named for Charles Chaenn, under various spellings of Chaenn, including Chain Hill, Chainne Hill, Chein Hill, Chane Hill, etc., and

**WHEREAS**, Charles Chaenn is recorded as "Charles Chaenn" in the 1879 Washington Territorial Census, and is recorded as "Charles Chaenn" on the 1884 purchase of the land, and personally signed his name "Chaenn" as evidenced from a receipt dated 1887; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard A. Edwards, Tenino City Historian, has recommended that in order to insure the correct spelling of Chaenn Hill, now and for the future, he submit an application to the Washington State Board on Geographic Names for a spelling correction which would, if approved, be forwarded to the United States Board on Geographic Names for Federal consideration;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Tenino Washington do hereby Proclaim the support of the City for this application.


Signed in the City of Tenino, Washington, this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2020.

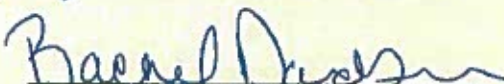
  
Wayne Fournier, Mayor

  
Linda K. Gotovac, Council Member

  
David A. Watterson, Council Member

  
John O'Callahan, Council Member

  
Jason Lawton, Council Member

  
Rachel Davidson, Council Member



## CHAIN HILL\*

Chain Hill (Section 7, Township 16N, Range 1W) was named after Charles Chaenn (1839-1910), a pioneer farmer who owned 80 acres near the summit of the hill north of Tenino.

Charles Chaenn was born January 24, 1839 as Jean Thiabaud Tschaine in Brechaumont, Haut Rhin, France. He was married in Texas on March 15, 1876 to Marie Zoe Bertrand, who was born May 13, 1846 in Le Noyer, Haute Alpes, France.

Charles and Zoe came to Thurston County by 1878 where on January 25, 1878, Charles Tschaenn declares his intent to become a US citizen in Thurston County Court. He is listed as a Farmer in the territorial census of 1879. In 1884 they purchased 80 acres on the hill north of town (NE1/4 of SW1/4 and NW1/4 of SE1/4, Section 7, Township 16, North of Range 1 West, Willamette Meridian) from Avery Gilmore for \$600.


In 1885 they purchased lots in Olympia located on what is now the corner of Capitol Way and 18th Ave SE. In 1887 Charles is listed in the city directory as running a saloon (called The First and Last Chance Saloon) on Main (Capitol Way) near the city limits.

A very public legal divorce battle beginning in 1888 between Zoe and her husband ended up in Territorial District Court where, amid criminal charges involving Adultery and Selling Liquor without a License (against Zoe though she was not found guilty) and an Assault (the beating of Charles Chaenn by Robert Holmes, Zoe's alleged lover), they were granted a divorce in 1889.

### \*Naming Variants

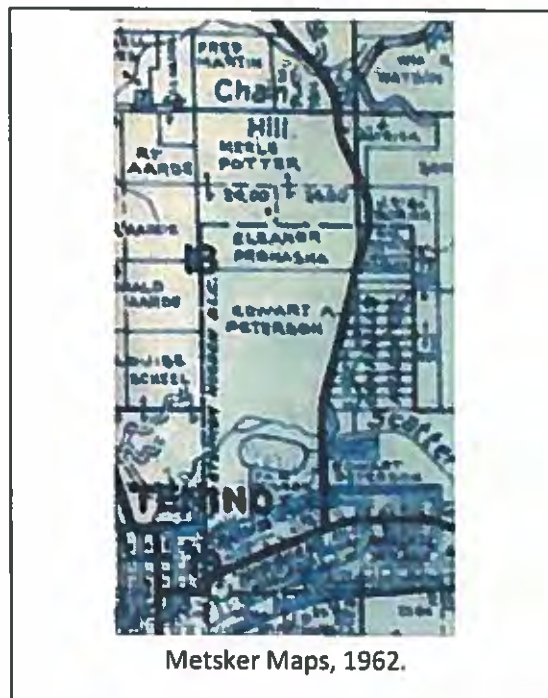
Due to the odd spelling of Chaenn, the hill's name has been written many ways over the years, including: Chain, Chane, Chein, Chaen.

Charles usually spelled his name Chaenn and so it should be Chaenn Hill.

  
signature from a receipt dated  
Sept 12, 1887.

"general breakdown and old age." He was buried at county expense in Forest Cemetery, Olympia. His grave is unmarked.

The earliest mention of Chaenn Hill that I have found to date is from 1912 in the Tenino News when it was spelled "Chainne hill."



Metsker Maps, 1962.

In 1890 Zoe was running a saloon on Main (Capitol Way) between 16th and 17th according to the Olympia city directory but after that nothing is known about her.

About 1897, Charles moved to King County where he spent a few years serving as a gardener for Edward Wittler's household in Seattle. While there he married a second time (to Lizette Schmidt) in November 1900, shortly after which the couple moved back to his farm in Thurston County. Lizette left him nine months later and moved back to Seattle.

With his health declining, in 1909 he sold his land for \$1 to Wilbur F Blue in return for having his debts paid and for being cared for by the Blue family until his death.

Charles Chaenn died on March 4, 1910 from

Several years ago Chein sold timber and secured about \$600. Of this \$100 went to pay a grocery bill and it is not known what he did with the remainder. Some think it is secreted about his place. He was borrowing money from friends up to the time of his death. He has no relatives here.

*The Morning Olympian*

5 March 1910

## The History of Pioneer Travel Converges on Chaenn Hill

[thurstontalk.com/2019/02/10/the-history-of-pioneer-travel-converges-on-chaenn-hill/](https://thurstontalk.com/2019/02/10/the-history-of-pioneer-travel-converges-on-chaenn-hill/)

February 10, 2019



Early travel into the Washington Territory took place via the Cowlitz Trail. To avoid mountain passes, hopeful pioneers moved west along the Columbia River, and loaded into canoes and barges up the Cowlitz River to Cowlitz Landing in Toledo. From there, they went overland north on the Cowlitz Prairie to Chehalis and Centralia, through Grand Mound Prairie to Tenino, and on north to Tumwater.

Before any wagon tracks were worn into the soil, this route was traveled by Native Americans. A modern person may call the same route the Oregon Trail.

On the last stretch of the Cowlitz Trail from Tenino to Olympia is a particularly notorious hill on Old Highway 99 called Chaenn Hill.

**What's it Called Again?**

Chain Hill, as it's often referred to today, is spelled numerous ways. I grew up on the hill and was told as a child that it was called Chain Hill because of the extra chains needed to pull the ox carts. Alternative spellings of Chein or Chaen gave doubt to this claim.

Tenino historian Rich Edwards had family connections to Charles Chaenn, whose farm sat near Chaenn Hill. According to Edwards' research, Charles Chaenn was born as Jean Charles Thiabaud Tschaenn in France in 1839. On July 9, 1884, Charles and his wife Zoe Chaenn purchased 80 acres from Avery Samuel Gilmore for \$600. Charles went on to own a saloon in Olympia called the First and Last Chance Saloon, which was somewhere near 17th Street.

Charles and Zoe went their separate ways and eventually had a messy divorce. Charles finished out his days penniless at his farm near Tenino where he died in 1910. He sold his land to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Blue in exchange for their care in his declining years. A receipt that was signed by Charles clearly shows the spelling Chaenn, which is possibly an Americanized version of his birth name.

### **Wagons, Trains, and Automobiles**

Chaenn Hill's grade has been altered over the years. The new road, constructed about 1920, was called the Pacific Highway and is now Old Highway 99. It rerouted the ascent so the hill is less treacherous today. But at one time, the hill was both narrow and steep and well known for accidents.

Art Dwelley in his book *Prairies and Quarries* has this to say about the hill:

"It was a hard, lonely, and secluded life in the first years of settlement. Roads were poor and going to 'town,' the nearest being Tumwater, was a major project. One of the most dangerous and difficult stretches of the road was Chaen Hill. Described as a 'terror,' by one pioneer woman, the old road was steep and often required an extra team of oxen to negotiate. (The old wagon road was located to the east of the present highway....)"

Tenino was put on the map by Stephen Hodgden who established a stage coach or horse station at his farm referred to on the route from Olympia to the Cowlitz as Hodgden Station. The quickest route from Hodgden Farm to Olympia is over Chaenn Hill.

When the Olympia-Tenino Railroad was built, it bypassed Chaenn Hill altogether possibly because of the grade. Heading south, the train deviated away from Old 99 by Offut Lake Road toward McDuff Road, where it takes up the route of our modern BNSF railroad to Tenino. Even with this route change, the old Olympia-Tenino train ride was a notoriously bumpy ride.



Charles Chaenn's farm was sold to Wilbur Blue in exchange for Charles' care in his old age. Charles died in 1910 and this photo is from about 1910-1920. Photo credit: Richard A. Edwards

But that isn't to say that there was never a train on Chaenn Hill. More than one small spur was constructed on the top of Chaenn Hill to aid the logging companies, specifically the Olympia Logging Company and Hartson-Otis Lumber Company.

Long before the Pacific Highway or Old 99 were completed, cars took to the road in rural Thurston County. In 1914, Tenino's streets were paved, but the paved highway didn't arrive until around 1920, which made travel over Chaenn Hill just as treacherous for the automobile commuter. Prominent Tenino citizen William McArthur got his first car in 1913 - it was a 30 horsepower 1912 EMF touring car. His grandson, Scott McArthur humorously recounts the journey over Chaenn Hill in his book *Tenino, Washington The Decades of Boom and Bust*:

"The worst part of the road between Olympia and Tenino was Chaen Hill. This section of road has been realigned since then. It was a steep hill. Before the railroad came, teams hauling timber and farm goods to Olympia would double-team going up the grade. It was the scene of a number of accidents. Chaen Hill was quite a pull for the automobiles of the day. Some cars didn't have fuel pumps. Gas flowed by gravity from the gas tank, which generally was under the front seat, to the carburetor. If the car was heading up a really steep hill, gas wouldn't flow to the engine and the engine could stall. In that case, those people backed up the hill in reverse gear. Other cars had trouble making it with a full load. William McArthur would make the kids get out and walk up the hill while he drove. But going the other way he was afraid the mechanical brakes might fail so he would make the kids get (out) of the car and walk to the bottom of the hill where he would pick them up again."

Between ghost trails and old railroad beds, it is easy to confuse Chaenn Hill property owners who wonder if they have a piece of the Oregon Trail running through their property. In many cases, they may have both.



The Chaenn Hill road before it was rerouted was steep and a challenge for those who traveled from Olympia to Tenino. Photo courtesy: South Thurston County Historical Society





The Pacific Highway, now known as Old Highway 99, was not paved until around 1920. Here the new highway is shown heading into Tenino at the Campbell Farm. Tenino Elementary School sits on the right today. Photo courtesy: South Thurston County Historical Society

**CHEIN HILL, Section 7, T16N, R1W,  
W.M.**

"A hill on Old Highway 99 just north of Tenino. It is named after Charles Chein who had a farm there in the 1890s. Chein had been a saloon keeper in Olympia before moving to Tenino. The hill was one of the roughest sections of the old wagon road from Tenino to Olympia and was universally disliked by stagecoach and wagon drivers. It is also the alleged site of an ambush set by Leschi in an attempt to kill Governor Isaac Stevens during the Indian Wars. Local legend has it that Stevens took the Black River trail to Olympia and thwarted the Indian plan." (Art Dwelley, Ms.)



# Tenino Hill Unchained: State Committee Considers Name Change for Hill

By Matthew Zylstra

matthew@chronline.com

A proposal to change the name of a hill approximately a mile north of Tenino is being considered by a state government agency.

The Washington State Committee on Geographic Names will meet on April 26 for final consideration of the proposal to change the name of "Chain Hill" to "Chaenn Hill."

The goal of the proposed name change is to more accurately reflect the correct spelling of its namesake in order to promote historical accuracy and consistent spelling use and to prevent confusion, according to a news release.

The name change proposal was submitted by Tenino City Historian Rich Edwards, who found evidence that the original name of "Chaenn Hill" was changed at some point to "Chain Hill."

The hill is named after Charles Chaenn who first purchased 80 acres of land on the hill in 1884 for \$600. Chaenn, originally from France, was born Jean Thiabaud Tschaine in 1839.

He immigrated to the United States in 1871 and by 1876 was using the name "Charles Chaenn." In that year, he married a woman named Zoe Bertrand. Together they moved to Thurston County in 1878, six years before he bought the land on the hill that would carry his name.



Tenino City Historian Richard Edwards talks about the Tenino Depot Museum in this 2021 Chronicle file photo.

Chaenn's residency with the hill was inconsistent. Just four years after moving to the hill, in 1888, Chaenn filed for divorce from Bertrand in a case that involved adultery, the illegal sale of alcohol and an assault charge pertaining to the man in Bertrand's adulterous relationship. In 1897, Chaenn moved to Seattle before returning to the hill after getting remarried to a woman named Lisette Schmidt in 1900.

He then died on the hill in 1910.

According to materials submitted by Edwards, the earliest reference to the hill using Charles Chaenn's name was in 1912, two years after his death. That year, the hill was referred to as "Chainne Hill," marking the beginning of a long period of competing spellings of the name.

Over the years, many variants of the name have been used to describe the hill, including "Chain," "Chane," "Chein," "Chaine," "Chainne" and "Chaen." Multiple spellings have even been used by the govern-

ment. The name of a street in the area is "Chein Hill Lane SE" while the United States Geological Survey officially refers to the hill as "Chain Hill."

The push for the name change is based on evidence showing how Chaenn himself spelled his name. An old receipt that was discovered clearly shows Chaenn himself spelled his name as "Chaenn" rather than other spellings used by later individuals.

It is speculated the name "Chaenn" is an Americaniza-

tion of his French birth name of "Tschaine." At the time it was common practice for the spellings of names to be changed upon arrival in the United States to reflect common American pronunciations.

Across the state, the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names is also soliciting public input regarding the U.S. Department of the Interior's recent proposal to rename 18 geographic features in the state that currently have derogatory names referring to indigenous women.

At the end of February, the Department of the Interior opened a 60-day public comment period regarding its proposal, which closes April 25. To respond to Interior's proposal, the committee convened a special meeting March 7. At that meeting, the committee resolved to file a letter of comment with the Department of the Interior. After briefing the Board of Natural Resources, acting as the Washington State Board on Geographic Names, at its April 5 meeting, the Committee intends to meet April 7 in a second special meeting to finalize those comments.

The 18 features, each bearing a derogatory term for Native American women, are spread across 14 counties: Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia, Garfield, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Pierce, Skamania and Stevens.

Feedback can be provided to the committee via email at [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov).



**Comments**

**Received**



**From:** [Katelyn Johnson](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Geographic Name Opinion Request - Chaenn Hill  
**Date:** Friday, April 8, 2022 11:51:21 AM

---

External Email

Good morning Caleb,

Thank you for reaching out regarding Chaenn Hill. The Commissioners have no objection to the edit. They did pass this along to our Historic Commission who review and provide comment. Thanks again.

*Katey Johnson*

Executive Assistant to County Manager Ramiro Chavez  
Thurston County Commissioners' Office  
Office: (360) 786-5440

---

**From:** Sonja Cady <[sonja.cady@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:sonja.cady@co.thurston.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 5, 2022 1:14 PM  
**To:** Katelyn Johnson <[katelyn.johnson@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:katelyn.johnson@co.thurston.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Geographic Name Opinion Request - Chaenn Hill

Hi Katelyn,

I will forward this request to the Historic Commission and let them know of the April 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline for a comment.

Thank you!

**Sonja Cady** | [Land Use Clerk](#)

**Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development**

2000 Lakeridge Dr SW, Bldg 1, Olympia, Washington 98502 [Map](#)

**Phone** (360) 867-2117 | **Mobile** (360) 972-6901 | | **Fax** (360) 754-2939 | **TDD** (800) 833-6388

[sonja.cady@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:sonja.cady@co.thurston.wa.us) | [www.thurstoncountybdc.com](http://www.thurstoncountybdc.com)

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**From:** Katelyn Johnson <[katelyn.johnson@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:katelyn.johnson@co.thurston.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2022 12:54 PM  
**To:** Sonja Cady <[sonja.cady@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:sonja.cady@co.thurston.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Geographic Name Opinion Request - Chaenn Hill

Hey there Sonja,

The Board discussed this at Agenda Setting today and wanted the Historic Commission to review the request from Mr. Maki, weigh in, and provide their opinion to the State Committee. The Board doesn't have any objections to the request but the Historic Commission should have a chance to review if it hasn't already.

There is an April 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline to have comment in by. If you would like to review the brief and discussion I think it was all of 5 minutes long. <https://youtu.be/0NvZmWI9ZNs?t=7630>

Let me know if I can help further.

Thank you!

*Katey Johnson*

Executive Assistant to County Manager Ramiro Chavez

**From:** [GeoData](#)  
**To:** [County Commissioners](#)  
**Cc:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#); [Tami Faulkner](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Geographic Name Opinion Request - Chaenn Hill  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:32:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [bc\\_geog\\_04262022\\_agenda.pdf](#)  
[Chaenn Hill Opinion Request Form.pdf](#)

---

External Email

Good morning,

GeoData received a request for opinion on the renaming of a geographic feature in Thurston County from “Chain Hill” to “Chaenn Hill.”

GeoData has no preference or recommendation in the consideration of this proposal. We do not currently have a dataset of geographic features of this nature (hills, landscape forms) so the change would not have an impact on our data or our workload.

Please see the forwarded email below for additional details from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The Opinion Request Form is attached should the Board of County Commissioners or appointed representative choose to submit an official County opinion on the proposed renaming of Chain Hill.

I have included the DNR contact (Caleb Maki) on this email for his records and in case anyone should have additional questions for DNR about their renaming process.

Thanks!

*Sarah Smith* (she/her)

**Thurston County GeoData GIS Analyst II**

**Direct (Office)** 360-867-2054 | **Cell Phone** 360-490-5066

**GeoData** (9am to 1pm) 360-754-4594 | **Web** [www.geodata.org](http://www.geodata.org)

*I will be working remotely with scheduled hours in the office until further notice—please refer to my calendar for my schedule. My hours are 7:45am to 5:15pm, with every other Friday off.*

---

**From:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** GeoData <GeoData@co.thurston.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Geographic Name Opinion Request - Chaenn Hill

To Whom It May Concern:

**From:** [Rich Edwards](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Committee on Geographic Names Meeting - April 26, 2022  
**Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 7:00:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [bc\\_geog\\_04262022\\_agenda.pdf](#)

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External Email

Caleb,

Thank you for the email.

I posted a request for community comment on social media (Facebook) on the same day as your email, March 15th. It was shared by 9 others, including the City of Tenino.

After two weeks, here are all the comments received, in addition to 42 “likes”.

In addition to social media, the Centralia Chronicle just today published the following article advising their readers about the proposed change and how to provide comment directly.

Additionally, I will remind you that the City of Tenino, representing the citizens of the nearest city, passed a resolution of support for this changed, which was part of my original application.

I believe these actions are the best answer I can give for your request for public comment in the area.

Sincerely,

Rich

On Mar 15, 2022, at 11:24 AM, MAKI, CALEB (DNR)  
<CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov> wrote:

I am emailing you today to request your help in gathering opinions for your geographic name application to name **CHAENN HILL** in **THURSTON COUNTY**.





# Tenino History

Mar 15 · 🌐

**I have submitted a request to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names to correct the spelling of Chaenn Hill.**

**As outlined in my One-Page History, Charles Chaenn, whom the hill is named after, spelled his name Chaenn.**

**The Committee has requested public comment. Please feel free to leave comments on this post and I will forward all comments to the Committee.**

**Thank you. If you have any questions, feel free to ask.**

## CHAIN HILL\*

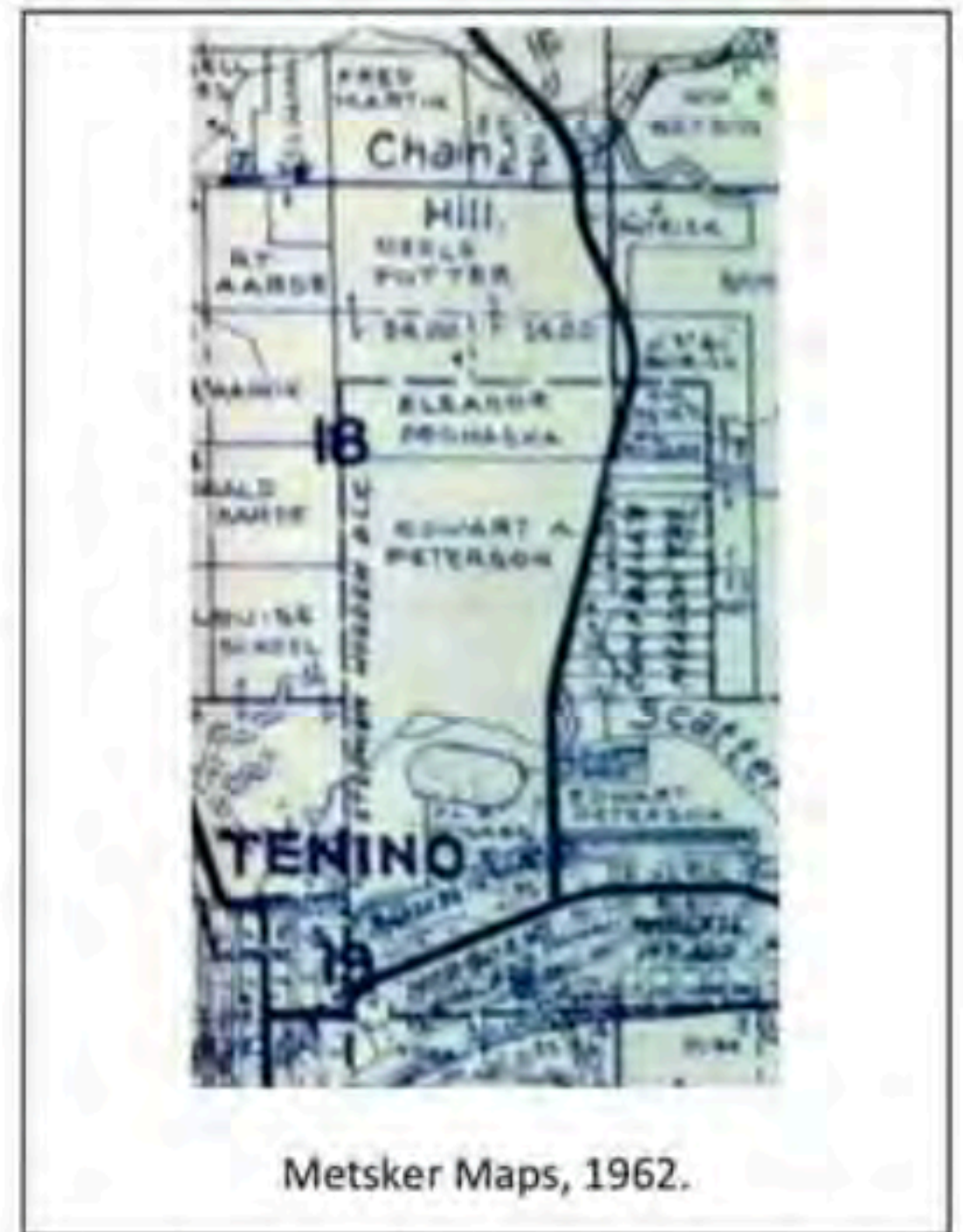
Chain Hill (Section 7, Township 16N, Range 1W) was named after Charles Chaenn (1839-1910), a pioneer farmer who owned 80 acres near the summit of the hill north of Tenino.

Charles Chaenn was born in France on January 24, 1839 as Jean Charles Thiebaud Tschaenn. According to local oral tradition, he served in the French military. He was married on March 15, 1876 to Mari Zoe Bertrand (also born in France) in Texas.

Charles and Zoe came to Thurston County in 1878 where he is listed as a Farmer in the territorial census of 1879. In 1884 they purchased 80 acres on the hill north of town from Avery Gilmore for \$600.

In 1885 they purchased lots in Olympia located on what is now the corner of Capitol Way and 18th Ave SE. In 1887 Charles is listed in the city directory as running a saloon (called The First and Last Chance Saloon) on Main (Capitol Way) near the city limits.

A very public legal battle beginning in 1888 between Zoe and her husband ended up in Territorial District Court where amid criminal charges involving Adultery and Selling Liquor without a License (against Zoe though she was not found guilty) and an Assault (the beating of Charles Chaenn by Robert Holmes, Zoe's alleged lover.) They were granted a divorce in 1889.



Metsker Maps, 1962.

### \*Naming Variants

Due to the odd spelling of Chaenn, the hill's name has been written many ways over the years, including: Chain, Chane, Chein, Chaen. Charles spelled his name Chaenn and **it should be Chaenn Hill.**

*Charles Chaenn*  
signature from a receipt dated  
Sept 12, 1887.

"general breakdown and old age." He was buried at county expense in Forest Cemetery, Tenino. His grave is unmarked.

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In 1890 Zoe was running a saloon on Main (Capitol Way) between 16th and 17th according to the Olympia city directory but after that nothing is known about her.

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Several years ago Chein sold timber and secured about \$600. Of this \$100 went to pay a grocery bill and it is not known what he did with the remainder. Some think it is secreted about his place. He was borrowing money from friends up to the time of his death. He has no relatives here.

*The Morning Olympian*  
5 March 1910



# All comments ▾



**Tony Limon**

Thanks for taking the time to sort that out, I agree the spelling should be corrected to accurately reflect the history.

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)



**Cody Shipley**

I grew up on Chaenn hill. Our family has been on the hill since the 30's. History is important and deserves reverence. I support your efforts for a name correction.

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)



**Margaret Colvin**

As a descendant of a pioneer family in Tenino, I would LOVE to see the spelling corrected to reflect history - yes to Chaenn Hill! The history of a region has important cultural significance and creates pride or an understanding of an area's roots.

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)







**Gordy Needham**

Interesting, growing up I always knew it as "Chein" hill. I think it should definitely be put back to the original spelling, history needs to be preserved not simplified.

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)

7



**Linda Smith**

The names should reflect their origins. Before I moved to Tenino, I thought we might have to "chain up" more often there 😐 😊

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)

4



**Jessica Reeves-Rush**

I live on Chaenn hill and would be delighted to have the spelling updated.

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)

9



**Kasey Omon**

[Bernie Schwarz](#)

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)





**Ron Grantham**

I'm glad you posted this because I thought it was spelled "chein" hill

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)

2



**Ron Grantham**

[Christine Grantham](#) we have been spelling it wrong.

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)

2



Write a reply...



**Dustin Quinn Campbell**

I agree with the correction of the spelling to Chaenn Hill. "Chain" is an object with no historic association to the hill, whereas "Chaenn" is the name of the person after whom the hill has been named. It is right and proper to let the spelling of the hill's name be correct to the spelling of the person's name.

2w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)

3

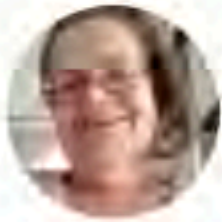




**Marlena Mulkins**

**I think that's a fabulous solution!**

1w **Like Reply Hide**



**Loretta Munday LaRue**

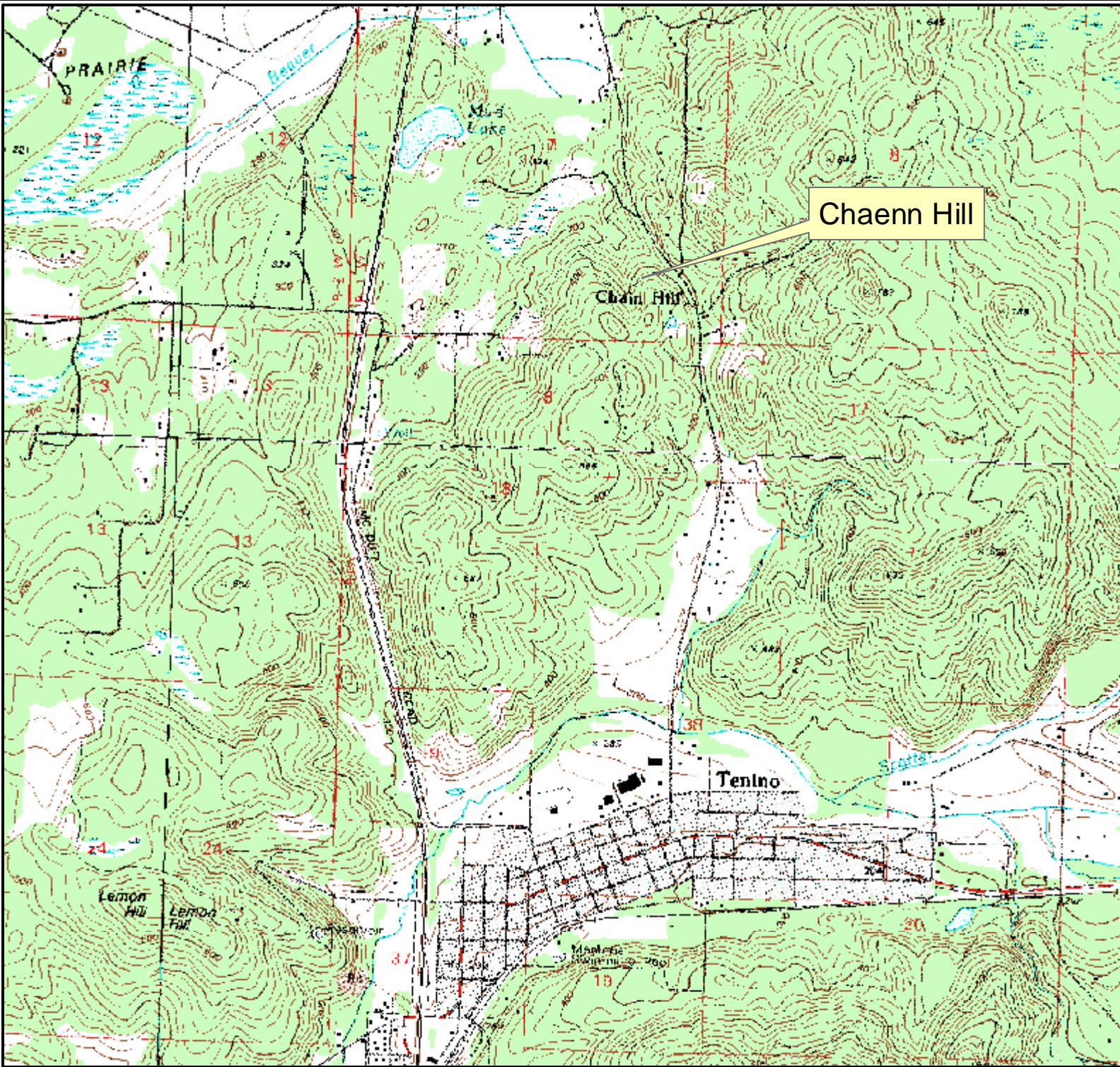
**Original spelling. My Munday family (Canadian) had a park named after our ancestor but it is spelled wrong. The family has tried to get the gov't to correct it but to know avail. Very sad!**

2w **Like Reply Hide**

3



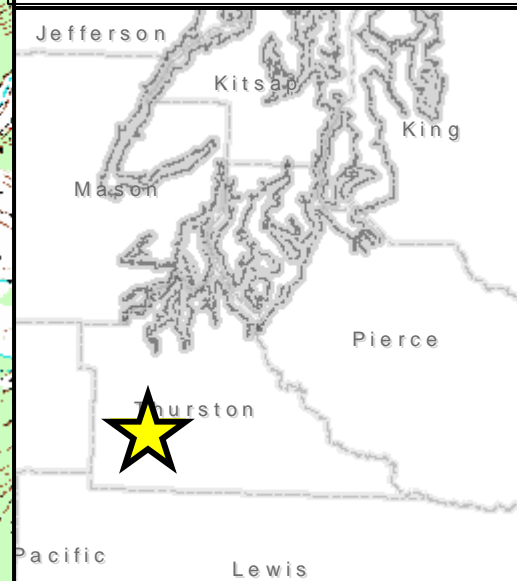
# Chaenn Hill - THURSTON COUNTY



Summit; 524 ft. elevation; located 1 mile N of the City of Tenino.

The proposed name was submitted by a local historian who provided evidence that the feature was originally named "Chaenn Hill", but was later changed to the current name of Chain Hill.

In 1884, Charles Chaenn purchased 80 acres in the area. Mr. Chaenn passed away in 1910, and the first known use of the name "Chaenn Hill" began in 1912.





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Chaenn Hill

Tenino

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