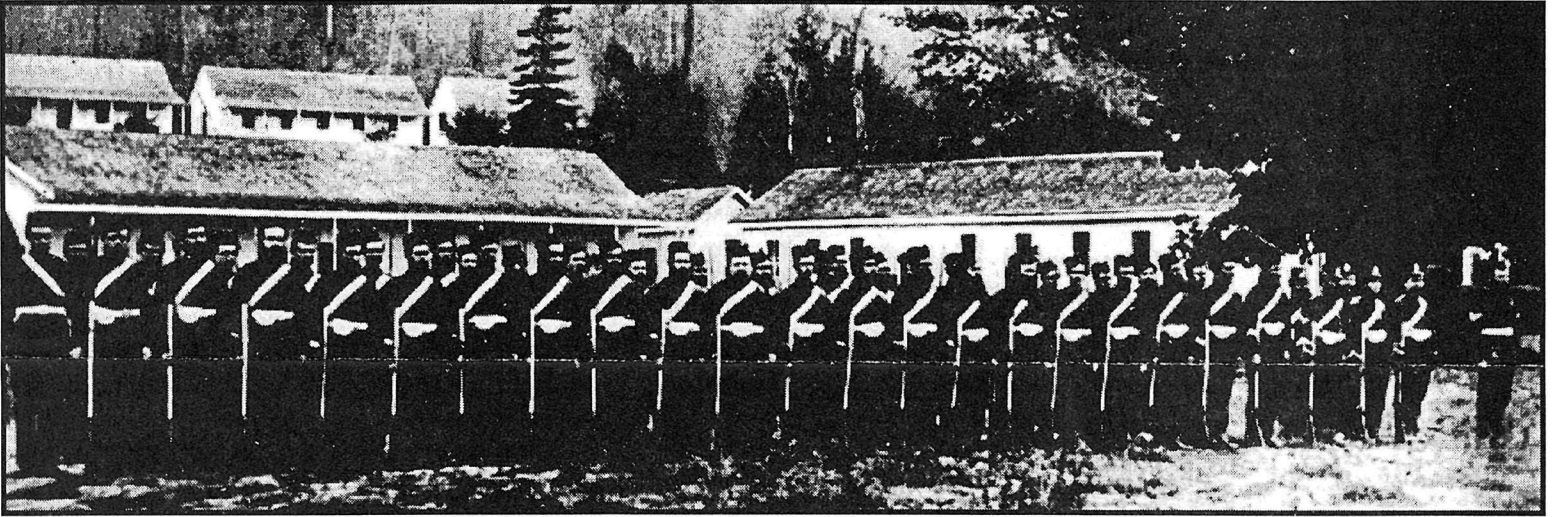


# San Juan Island

National Historical Park  
Washington  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## The Story of the Pig War

On June 15, 1859, an American farmer named Lyman Cutlar shot and killed a Hudson's Bay Company pig rooting in his San Juan Island potato patch. By so doing he nearly started a war between the United States and Great Britain.

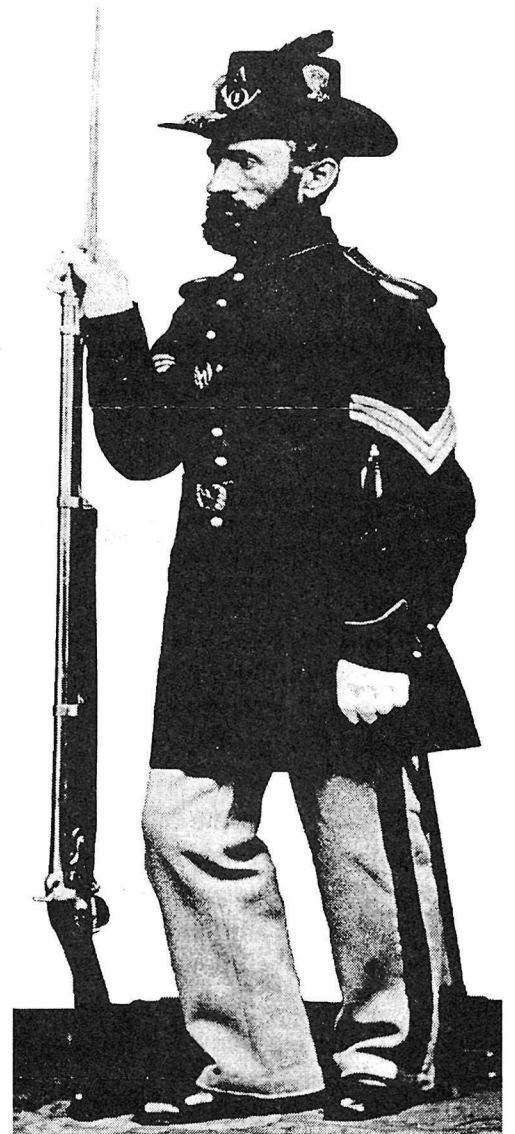
However, much more than a pig was involved. For more than 50 years, the two nations had been contending over the Oregon Country, which today comprises Washington, Oregon, Idaho, as well as portions of Montana and Wyoming and the province of British Columbia. The final sticking point was possession of the San Juan Islands.

Cutlar's act drew the ire of the Hudson's Bay Company, which then compelled U.S. Army Department of Oregon commander Brig. Gen. William S. Harney to dispatch a company of the 9th U.S. Infantry, under Capt. George E. Pickett, to

San Juan on July 27. British Columbia Gov. James Douglas responded by sending three warships under Royal Navy Capt. Geoffrey Phipps Hornby to dislodge Pickett, but to avoid an armed clash if possible.

The two sides faced off on the Cattle Point peninsula for more than two months until the arrival of U.S. Army commander Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott. Scott and Douglas negotiated a joint occupation of the island until the dispute could be resolved through diplomatic channels. The Americans remained at Cattle Point while British Royal Marines established a comfortable camp on Garrison Bay, 15 miles north.

The joint occupation ended 12 years later when, on October 21, 1872, Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany, acting as arbitrator, settled the dispute by awarding the San Juan Islands to the United States.



In photos: (Top) British Royal Marine Light Infantry at English Camp, circa 1865; (Right) A United States Army infantry sergeant modeling the new dress uniform, circa 1858.

## About The Sites

American Camp is located on the southern tip of the island, about six miles southeast of Friday Harbor. Two historic buildings survive, along with remains of a redoubt, an earthen gun emplacement. Other building sites are identified, including the locations of the Hudson's Bay Company farm, the old town of San Juan and the American Camp cemetery.

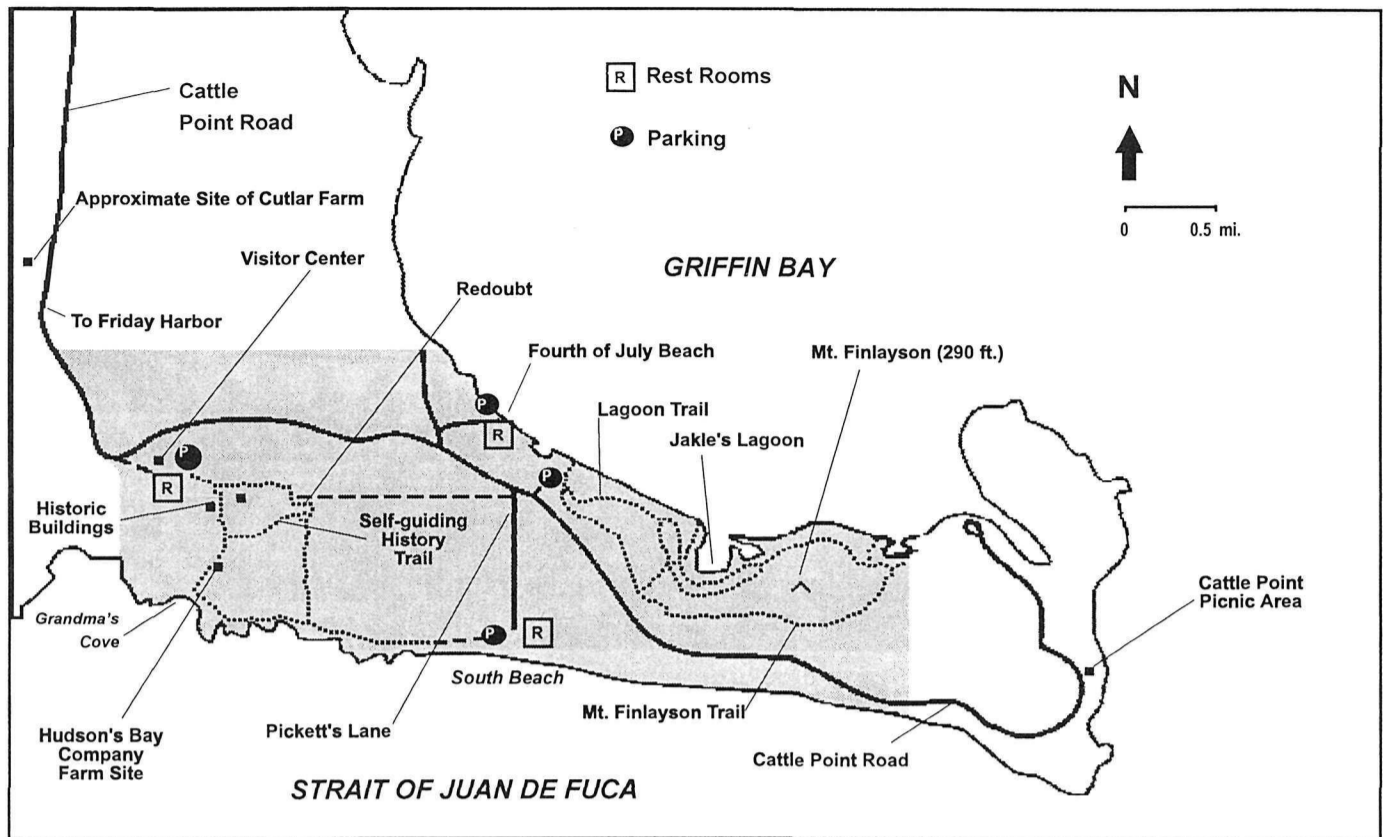
Visitor center exhibits focus on archaeology and daily life in both camps. Except for federal holidays, the center is open Thursday through Sunday fall, winter and spring, and every day during summer. A ranger is on duty to provide information.

A self-guiding foot trail, a little more than one mile long, begins in

the American Camp parking lot.

English Camp lies on tree-sheltered Garrison Bay, about nine miles northwest of Friday Harbor. Four historic buildings and a small formal garden have been restored. The barracks has an audiovisual program about the Pig War and the joint occupation. Buildings are open daily in summer.

# American Camp



**Jakle's Lagoon trail** - Hike along the old roadbed and enjoy the quiet of a Douglas fir canopy. This wooded area shelters deer and many types of birds. (1.5 mi.)

**Mt. Finlayson trail** - Hike to the top of Mt. Finlayson where you can see Mt. Baker to the east, Mt. Rainier to

the southeast, the Olympic Mountains to the south and British Columbia to the west. (3 mi. loop)

**South Beach** - Walk along the longest public beach on the island where shore birds abound. During low tides, observe tide pool life along the rocky shoreline toward Grandma's Cove. (2 mi.)

**Self-guiding trail** - Relive the Pig War along the trail that starts in the Visitor Center parking lot. (1.25 mi.)

Walkers are advised to use caution as rabbits have dug many holes in the parade ground and redoubt areas. Stepping in a hole can cause injuries.

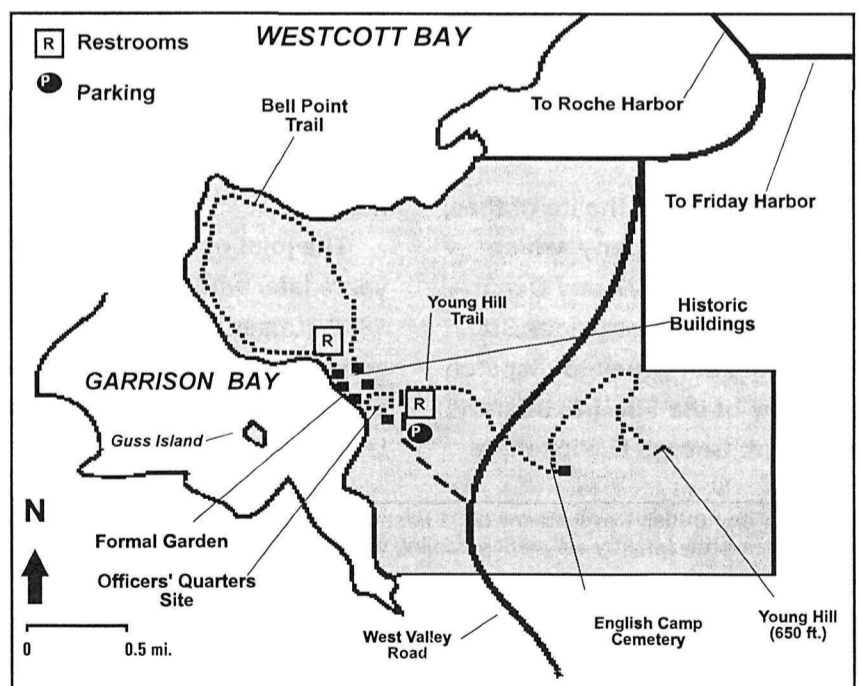
# English Camp

**Bell Point trail** - Walk the mile-long fairly level trail to Bell Point for a view of Westcott Bay. If you like to harvest shellfish, check with the park ranger at the visitor center for locations, daily limits and red tide warnings. (2 mi. loop)

**Young Hill trail** - Hike the fairly steep trail up 650 feet to the top of Young Hill for a panoramic view of the island's northwest corner. The English Camp cemetery is along the way, holding the remains of six Royal Marines. (1.25 mi.)

**English Formal Garden** - The garden lies between the officers' quarters sites and the English Camp parade ground. The camp's second commanding officer had it built for his family to remind them of home.

Campfires are not allowed at English Camp.



# More About Your Visit

Picnic areas are available at both camps. Hunting and off-road travel (by vehicles, mopeds or bicycles) are not allowed in the park.

Pets must be kept on leash within park boundaries. Natural features

and ruins must be left undisturbed.

The park is a day-use only area, open from dawn to 11 p.m. No campgrounds are available at either camp. However, several private facilities and a county-owned campground

are available on the island. The park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. For information, write: Superintendent, P.O. Box 429, Friday Harbor, WA 98250; or call (360) 378-2240.