

PIG WAR LETTERS

A romantic lieutenant's account of the San Juan crisis.



By Keith A. Murray

Two unusual and previously unknown letters written by Captain Lewis C. Hunt of the United States Army to a Mrs. McBlair in New York State in 1859 have recently come to light in the library of the Washington State Historical Society. Hunt was in command of a detachment of American troops that occupied San Juan Island during the boundary dispute known as the "Pig War." In these letters, he discusses the events that led to his being placed in command, and the actions of British Rear Admiral R. Lambert Baynes, who prevented an outbreak of war between Britain and the United States.

Hunt also pays tribute to Major General Winfield Scott, who cooperated with the admiral in bringing about a peaceful solution to the boundary dispute. Hunt thought considerably less of his immediate superior, Brig. Gen. William S. Harney. He dismissed future Confederate General George Pickett as inexperienced and a man of poor judgment. It is evident that Hunt liked women, and the more beautiful they were, the better he liked them. He read a great deal (though his spelling is not exemplary) and he seems to have subscribed to the idea that there was "a patriotic conspiracy" to incite a war between Great Britain and the United States which would unite the hot-headed leaders of both North and South in 1859 against a common, foreign foe and end the division between those sections.

The origins of the controversy of 1859-72 lay in the ambiguous wording of the Treaty of Washington between Great Britain and the United States, signed in 1846. In that document, the British government renounced its claims to the Columbia River as a boundary between British and American hegemony in favor of a line following the 49th parallel to the Strait of Georgia and "to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island; and thence southerly through the middle of said channel, and of Fuca Straits, to the Pacific Ocean. . . ." Unfortunately there are several channels that might be said to run southerly between the two straits through the San Juan archipelago, the two main ones being the Canal de Haro to the west of San Juan Island and Rosario Strait to the west of Lummi Island. Both of these channels had been marked by the cartographer of Galiano's explorations aboard the *Sutil* and *Mexicana* in 1791.

The Americans living in Washington Territory claimed there was overwhelming evidence to support their claim to de Haro, for it was much wider and deeper than Rosario, though it does not run "southerly." The British on

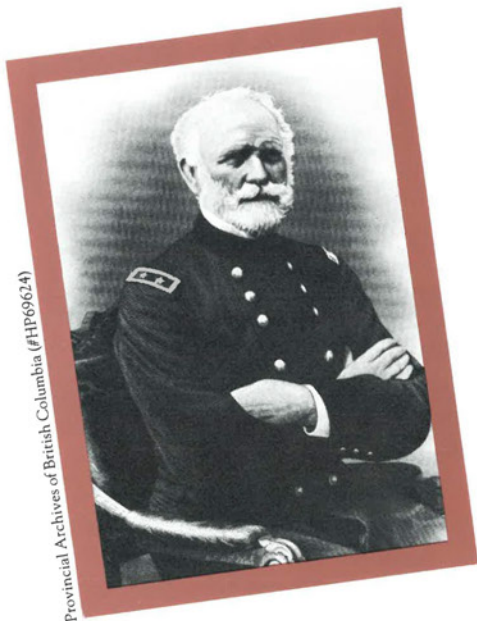


National Park Service

An army uniform, that of a sergeant major of infantry, at the time of the San Juan crisis, just before the Civil War. The rifles are muzzle loaders.

Vancouver Island claimed that surely Rosario was the intended boundary because the Spanish had named it and Vancouver had used it on his 1792 expedition to the inland waters of Puget Sound and the Gulf of Georgia.

American naval Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, who visited the Pacific Northwest in 1841, marked de Haro as the main channel through the islands. The Hudson's Bay Company of Fort Victoria produced the Vancouver charts to show



Captain William S. Harney, shown here as a two-star general, was the impetuous commander of troops in Bellingham who, without authority, risked armed conflict by sending troops to San Juan Island to enforce U.S. claims to it.

that his explorations had followed the Rosario route. There the matter rested for the next 12 years.

Although the British Hudson's Bay Company, in defiance of American claims to ownership of San Juan, occasionally pastured sheep on the island (which they called Bellevue Island), no one really cared. There was a brief argument about the sheep operation owing taxes to Whatcom County, but the company ignored the asserted tax obligation,

even when a few sheep were seized to pay "back taxes." It did make *pro forma* objections, but that was all. It had made few objections earlier when the Oregon territorial legislature created Island County, including Camano and Whidbey islands as well as the San Juan group. The next year the new Washington Territory transferred the San Juans to Whatcom County, but the British ignored this as irrelevant since the islands didn't belong to the United States anyway.

During the conflicts between American settlers and native Americans over lands in Washington Territory during 1856-58, the Hudson's Bay authorities in Victoria were friendly enough to assist the acting governor of Washington with military supplies when he requested their aid. During the same period, though not related to the troubles over treaty rights, Indian raiders from Alaska came into Puget Sound to kidnap Indian victims to take north as slaves. On one such raid they also killed a Whidbey Island white man, and took his head north. Following this incident, 40 settlers in Whatcom county asked for protection from other Alaskan raiders, and General John Wool, commander of the Army of the Pacific, sent two officers and over 100 men to forts Bellingham and Townsend to protect both settlers and local Indians from the belligerent northerners.

In the summer of 1857 gold discoveries along the Fraser River in British Columbia complicated matters considerably, for several thousand gold hunters came to Washington and Vancouver Island from California to seek passage to the fortunes thought to be had along the banks of the Fraser. By early 1859 it was abundantly clear that while there was gold there, it was not as rich as they had been told it was. A number of them abandoned the search and returned to Washington, and 16 took claims on San Juan Island. One of these was a restless man named Lyman Cutler.

Cutler is almost unknown, but he must have been cantankerous. He squatted on land almost immediately adjacent

to the Hudson's Bay Company operations. The company agent, Charles John Griffin, not only supervised the herders and the flocks of sheep, but also controlled a number of cattle and hogs, which was part of the company policy of making each post self-supporting. These animals were allowed to run loose. When Cutler put in a garden, Griffin's animals wandered across and through it without restraint. Cutler then erected a fence of sorts. One side of the barrier was not entirely completed even by early June, but was temporarily marked with several piles of brush loosely tossed into heaps. Cutler asked agent Griffin to fence in his livestock. Griffin answered that Cutler would have to protect his own vegetables, for he was a trespasser on British soil. Cutler is reported to have asserted that Washington territorial officials had told him he did have a right to be there, that the island was American, and that any citizen of the United States living there would be protected.

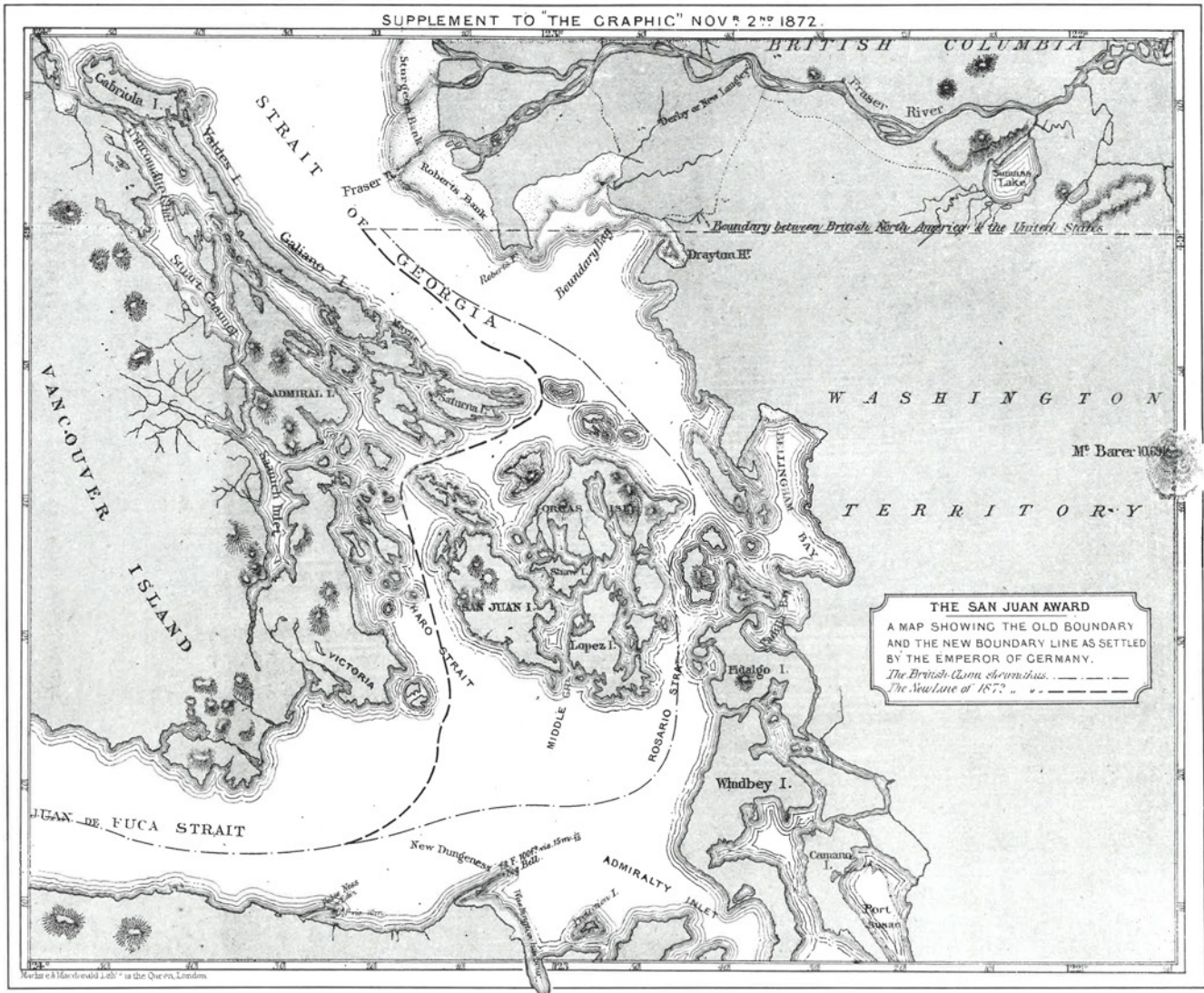
Griffin still refused to restrain his animals, and on June 15, when Cutler emerged from his cabin, he saw a boar, undeterred by the brush barricade, rooting up his potato patch. Enraged, Cutler seized his gun and chased the pig from his garden. When the pig stopped running, he took aim and shot it dead.

As it turned out, this was the first, last, and only casualty of the "war."

Cutler admitted to Griffin that he had shot the pig and offered to pay \$10 as compensation. Griffin scorned the offer, saying the animal was worth much more, and threatened to have Cutler arrested and taken to Victoria for trial.

During the next three weeks nothing happened, but two persons in authority, Sir James Douglas, governor of Vancouver Island, and General Harney, who had replaced General Wool as commanding officer of the Pacific Coast military forces, decided independently to force the issue and settle the question of which nation had jurisdiction over the island, and what was to be done about disputes between its British and American inhabitants.

Douglas was a thoroughly competent



Collection of John McClelland, Jr.

executive whose governmental functions conflicted with his job with the company. Accordingly, he resigned from the company and became the chief executive of the British government for the Pacific Northwest. He has been described as a man whose physical size commanded respect wherever he went. General Harney, on the other hand, based his authority on his military position. He was impulsive to the point of rashness, and during the Mexican War and subsequent troubles with the Plains Indians of Nebraska Territory had often been in the bad graces of his superior officers. He had strange problems with his associates. His wife divorced him, and

many of his military associates hated him. He punished some junior officers for trivial infractions of military regulations, which in a frontier post such as Fort Vancouver was unusual. General Harney was unlike most other army commanders in the area, who frequently sided with Indians or Hudson's Bay officials against the American settlers. Harney consulted with the territorial governor, who was also inclined to dismiss British complaints without a hearing. Harney would have been supported had he confined his attacks to the Hudson's Bay Company, but when he treated the British government itself with contempt and hostility, he was on dangerous ground.

This map was published in 1872 to show how arbitration settled the long controversy over the islands in the San Juan group.



Harney supported Cutler's right to kill Griffin's pig. Douglas insisted as governor that the pig incident was only incidental to the question of whether the United States or Great Britain possessed San Juan Island.

The general then decided without orders of any kind to occupy the island in the name of the United States. He transferred Captain Pickett from Fort



Provincial Archives of British Columbia (#HP81387)

ABOVE: If armed conflict had erupted on San Juan Island, American troops, here posing with one of their two small pieces of artillery, could by no means have matched the fire of the three British naval vessels that were ready to bombard them from just offshore. Lieut. Richard Roche, R.N., was the photographer.

TOP RIGHT: The northern portion of English Camp showing a fenced garden and tents used by the troops. Above the garden four marines stand at attention, looking at the photographer, Lieutenant Roche, who was probably in the upper story of the camp's blockhouse.

Bellingham, together with his entire command, to Cattle Point on San Juan Island. His justification was protecting the 16 settlers from the "Northern Indians of British Columbia and the Russian possessions," and "to afford adequate protection to the American citizens in their rights as such and to resist all attempts at interference by the British authorities residing on Vancouver's Island." In the same week Harney transferred Colonel Silas C. Casey from Port Townsend to Fort Steilacoom, effectively making Pickett the ranking officer in the trouble zone.

In late July, the British sent three small warships to train their collective guns on Pickett's 18 tents and two small cannon. There were 975 men aboard the warships, though less than a hundred were combat troops, facing one company

of American infantrymen.

Fortunately, the British wanted no international incident, and waited until Rear Admiral R. Lambert Baynes could get there, which would be very soon. In early August, he landed at Esquimalt, a few miles northwest of Fort Victoria. Governor Douglas explained the situation to him as quickly as possible. Baynes shrugged off Sir James's demands that he avenge "national honor" and in return told the governor some staggering news of what had been going on in other parts of the world that made war between England and the United States highly undesirable.

Unknown to Douglas, as well as Harney or Pickett, the balance of power in the world had changed suddenly during the period between the demise of the unfortunate boar and the arrival of



Baynes. The relatively insignificant Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont had allied with France, and together they had shattered the Austrian armies in three battles at Palestro, Magenta and Solferino during the month of June. The Austrians began to withdraw from their Italian holdings by July 1, and at once revolutions in Tuscany, Parma and Modena drove the Austrian-supporting rulers of these areas from their capitals. Italy was well on its way to unification, and a new Great Power was about to take its place in European affairs. England and Russia went into a state of highest alert to wait for the outcome, and to learn how all these events would affect their national policies. As though Baynes's news were not enough, Douglas received a memorandum signed by seven Hudson's Bay officials advising

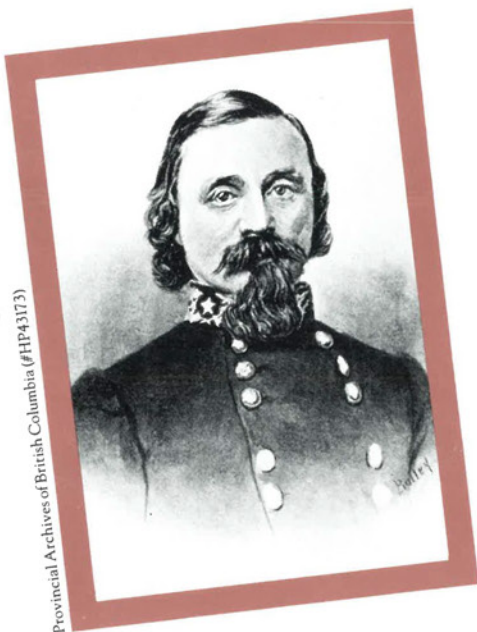
him against the risk of taking action against the Americans, because the policy of requiring licenses issued only in Victoria for gold hunters headed for the Fraser placer deposits meant that there were more Americans than British in Victoria. In case of hostilities the city itself might be taken over by the Americans, many of whom owned and carried weapons.

Baynes issued statements designed to calm the situation until he could get word from London about the policy he should follow. His attempt was jeopardized, however, when Harney, not wanting any kind of compromise, ordered four companies of artillery to land on San Juan Island to support Pickett's outmanned company of infantry. On August 10 these reinforcements landed under cover of a fog.



Provincial Archives of British Columbia (pdp253)

British Rear Admiral Robert Lambert Baynes brought startling news that ended talk of conflict.



Captain George Pickett, who was later a Confederate general, commanded the first troops sent to San Juan Island. Hunt thought him inexperienced and a man of poor judgement.

In late August or early September news of events in Washington Territory finally reached the East Coast. The *New York Herald* broke the story for its readers. The message President James Buchanan received from Lord Lyons, the British ambassador, was his first knowledge of Harney's actions. The president immediately called a cabinet meeting to discuss a plan of action, and he was advised to turn the matter over to General Winfield Scott, Harney's superior, who would travel to Fort Vancouver and San Juan Island and then take appropriate action. Scott was elderly and had been in bad health, but he left for San Francisco immediately, and by October 20 he was in Washington.

Scott had had trouble with Harney before, and disliked him personally in consequence. He was barely polite to him when he arrived at Fort Vancouver. As soon as possible he traveled on to Fort Townsend and wrote Governor Douglas proposing joint occupancy of San Juan

until diplomats from both countries could determine the boundary. Douglas made a counterproposal that all military should be removed, but Scott pointed out that this would return the situation to where it had been when the trouble began. Douglas agreed that he was right. Pickett was immediately returned to Fort Bellingham, and the other regiments except Comany C, Fourth Infantry, were dispersed to Townsend, Bellingham and Steilacoom. Captain L. C. Hunt was put in command of Company C.

It took from November 9 until March 21, 1860, for letters to go back and forth between London and Victoria. Then orders came to send a detachment of Royal Marines under the command of Captain George Bazelgette to the northern end of San Juan Island, at what is now known as English Camp on Garrison Bay. When this landing was made, Hunt had 88 men in his command. Bazelgette had 87. The two camps were about nine miles apart.

Harney waited for a time, then countermanded Scott's orders and ordered Hunt back to Fort Steilacoom and returned Pickett to San Juan. Within a year, however, when the Civil War broke out, Pickett resigned and returned to Virginia to fight for the South.

The joint British-American occupancy ended 11 years later when the kaiser of Germany, who was asked to arbitrate the dispute, announced that the boundary should be the Canal de Haro. The British promptly withdrew their troops, and the incident was closed.

Professor Keith A. Murray is a retired professor of history at Western Washington University and author of The Pig War, published by the Washington State Historical Society in 1968.



Hunt's Letters

Captain Hunt, writer of the letters Professor Murray has examined, was single and a ladies' man. In letters written to women friends he often

wrote about other women friends. This does not cause them now to be of historic consequence, but the intimate parts of the letters do reveal something of relations between men and women long ago when Washington Territory was first established.

Hunt was lonely, commanding an army outpost on the bleak southwest shore of San Juan Island, and letters from friends, as always with servicemen in far-off stations, were high points in an otherwise routine existence. "Ma chere et bonne amie," he wrote to Mrs. McBlair on November 18, 1859. "I need not express ... my gratitude for the interest you continue to feel for your wandering and far-off friend.... You must feel that I deeply appreciate that most comforting and delightful assurance which your letters give me ... of womanly sympathy, so different from the cold and weak regard of even warm-hearted men. The friendship of a ... congenial woman is one of the most precious of all the prizes that a man can gain and bear through life."

He said he had few such friends, then described a Mrs. Triplet, whom he identified as a cousin. "You asked me one day about her," he wrote, "and at the same time look archedly and significantly at me and ... asked, 'Why it is that ladies' men are so obnoxious to their own sex?' Don't you see the reason? They envy them the secret, impossible for them, of attracting the sympathies and winning the hearts of women, who are intuitive judges of character...."

Then he described another woman friend, a Mrs. Stiles, and asked Mrs. McBlair, "Don't you agree with me that she has an eye and features most charming in their expression and expressiveness. That is the sort of beauty for me—and what a rich agreeable voice, the point in which almost all our women fail. Why is it that as a people we have such disagreeable voices? I very much fear that our friend's marriage was a most unfortunate step."

Then Hunt wrote that he had been "spared the ordeal" of passing a whole winter with "my black browed, high tempered, decided charactered, animal

magnetic, rather coquettish and altogether attractive and quite lovable chere amie. Did I tell you about our rather desperate flirtation, if not, I won't at present. She is at this moment [11 p.m., November 24th] on board the mail steamer from San Francisco whose lights I saw an hour since, and will reach her home [Steilacoom] tomorrow."

Then he wrote,

She will not find me there. General Scott on his arrival, very properly and very promptly, undid most of the foolish and indeed disreputable performances of our silly stupid Commander Harney. He ordered the troops off the island, including Captain Pickett and his company, who were first sent here by Harney four months since, to work upon a huge field. Work was given up at once and heavy guns shipped off.

One company only (my own) was designated as the temporary garrison of the island upon the ground promise of protection to the settlers against Indians. My instructions were accompanied by a very complimentary letter from General Scott in which he expressed "his entire confidence in the intelligence, discretion and courtesy required in the discharge of the delicate and important duties devolving upon me." The italics imply a want of that quality in the officer whom I have superseded [Captain Pickett], and there is little doubt that the change has been made by request of the British authorities.

I am confident that this whole imbroglia is a disgraceful plot involving General Harney, a dull animal, Mr. Commissioner Campbell, a weak, wordy sort of man; Captain Pickett, to some extent, whose main fault perhaps has been bad judgment in allowing himself to be used as a tool by the main conspirators. Nothing has saved us from a bloody collision but the patient dignity and forbearance of the old admiral [Baynes], who had an overwhelming force at hand, and so could afford to avoid the issue thrust upon him by Harney.

When urged by Governor Douglas and the clamors of his people to land a force of marines (which he had a perfect right to do, it being disputed ground, and which our force of 300 men would certainly have resisted, under our orders) the

old man remarked that he had seen his decks ankle deep in blood, but that under these circumstances he would rather shed tears than blood. The noble old fellow is now reaping the reward of his good sense and forbearance. It is admitted on all sides that his course, promptly determined on and followed out, has saved us from a war, a war in which the commercial interests of 50 millions of souls, of the same race, would have been destroyed, not to speak of the horrible consequences in other respects.

All this wretched performance of Harney is the legitimate result of popular government. It was to please the dear people that Harney made his *coup*, and he did please the people, silly, blind fools that they are. It was a master stroke of policy, the sending of General Scott. He has been enabled to do that which no

politician, no civilian could have done without raising a hue and cry from the patriotic brawlers. Their mouths are shut. They cannot accuse Winfield Scott of want of patriotism. It is really impossible to avoid feeling contempt for public opinion and the theory of the peoples' capacity for self-government, when one sees what was done by a reckless, stupid old goose like Harney, supported by a corrupt press. . . .

In the midst of all these performances, I have done my best to promote good feeling and meet half way the earnest and candid spirit constantly shown by the British naval officers. As caterer and manager of our mess I had them frequently to dinner and we dined aboard ship very often. I gave them as far as possible the impression that the warlike doings on shore were under orders from

Orders establishing the routine for the American military encampment on San Juan Island. The "town at the landing" referred to is now Friday Harbor. Visits to the Hudson's Bay post were strictly forbidden.

*Ordres }
No. 22)*
*Alto de Camp. Pictete San Juan Island -
November 16th 1861*
 I The different Calls will thereafter be sounded as follows. Unless further Orders
 Breakfast call 6-30 A.M.
 Fatigue call 7- " "
 Sick call 8- " "
 Guard Mount 9- " "
 Drill call 10- " "
 Recall from Drill 11- " "
 Dinner 12- " "
 Fatigue call 1- P.M.
 Recall from Fatigue 5- " "
 Retreat Sun. Tol
 Tattoo 8.30 " "
 Taps 8.45 " "
 Inspections on Sundays at 9 A.M. Guard Mounting immediately after inspection Saturday will be devoted to General Police of the Garrison by the whole Command.
 16
 II All passes will be handed in at Guard Mounting
 III Men will not visit the town at the Landing or leave the reservation or vicinity of the Post without special permission. Excluded men are forbidden the enclosure of the Hudson Bay Company in the vicinity.
 Signed A.C. Robinson
 1st Lieut. Sd. Coy
 Commanding



Provincial Archives of British Columbia (#HP14348)

ABOVE: The waterfront of English Camp, with a small sailing steamer moored at the post landing in Garrison Bay. In the foreground is a formal flower garden, maintained by servicemen with nostalgic thoughts of homes in Britain. The blockhouse still stands.

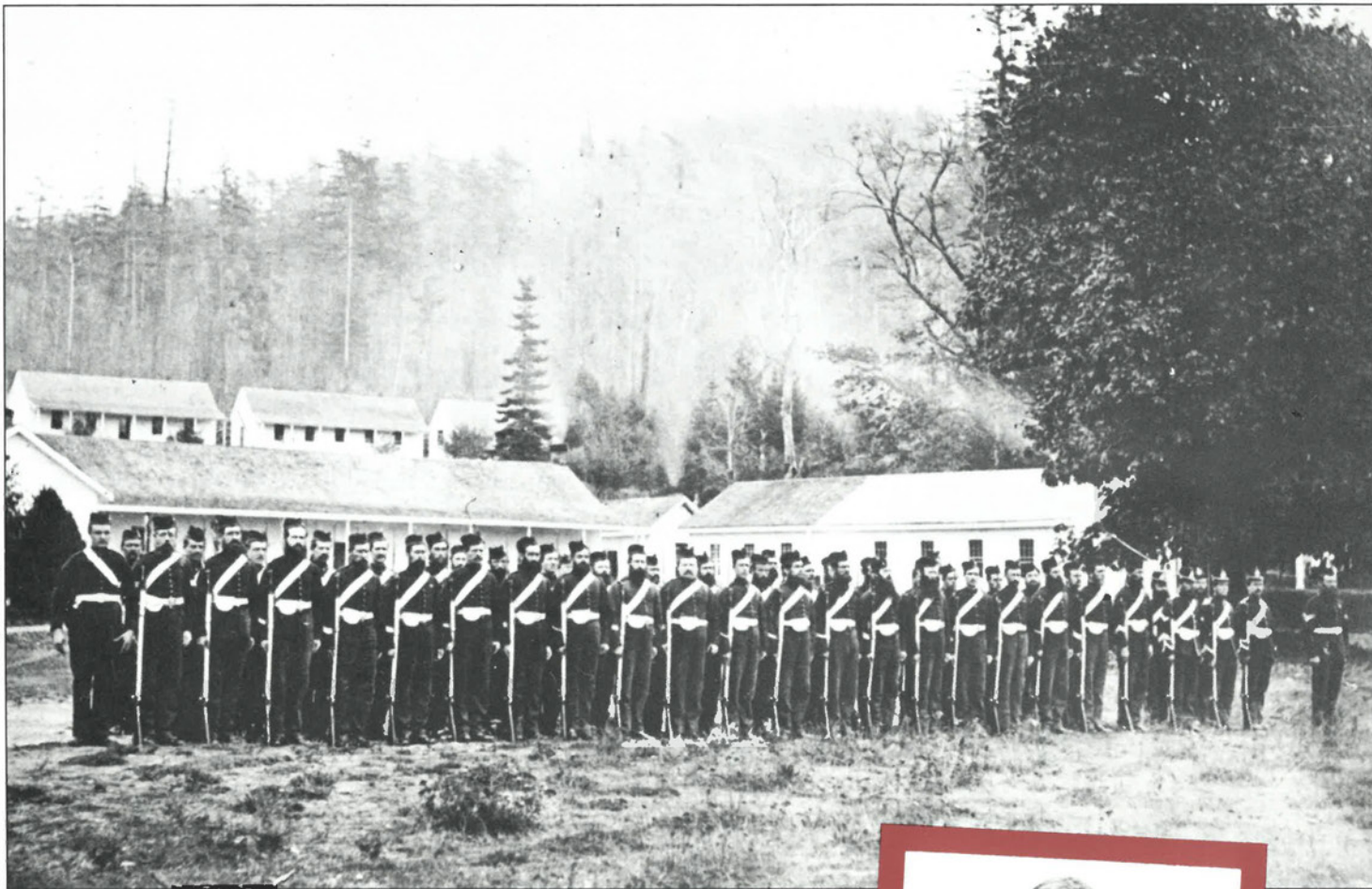
TOP RIGHT: To balance off American troops sent to San Juan Island, the British in 1860 sent a detachment of Royal Marines to establish English Camp (now a part of San Juan Island National Historical Park) on Garrison Bay. The heavily bearded troops stood at attention in front of their barracks to be photographed.

elsewhere. When Colonel Casey left, I remained in command with seven companies for nearly a month and had of course my own way. The result has been that we have formed some warm attachments among the officers of the *Satellite*. Yesterday I shipped off four companies of the third artillery for Fort Vancouver, and my own company is now on the island. All the officers took leave of me, expressing their satisfaction that I, who have been consistent throughout this business, seem to be the only one who has finally gained some credit and advantage from the issue of the affair. During the whole time I have endeavored through several newspapers, to which I had access, to *tone down* public opinion. I published one or two squibs to throw ridicule upon the foolish affair. I haven't the newspapers by me, but may send them hereafter. And when General Scott arrived I endeavored thro' those papers to give a conservative

turn to public opinion and prepare it for those measures which I felt sure General Scott would take. The general remarked in my presence that we had never been so near a war in all our previous disputes, and that nothing but the great strength of the British enabled them to take the course they did—but enough of this. . . .

You forbear to yield to the temptation to indulge in sentimentalities—don't in future. I like sentimentalities. I have been reading "Elle et Lui" and the reply "Lui et Ella"—they are apropos of the loves of George Sand and Alfred de Musset who died not long since. She wrote to define her position and excuse her fickleness and Paul de Musset takes up the cudgels for his brother. Interesting and exceedingly Frenchy.

I will spare your eyes for the present. I will venture to promise you that you will see our friend Mrs. DeBenneville, and that she won't go to New Mexico. She



ought not to think of it. I am glad she is fat, and not sorry that she is gray. She will look all the better for it. When you see her give her my kindest regards and ask her how I have offended her, that she will not answer my letters. My love to Weenie and Captain McBlair. Do you hear anything of Tom Stevens? I am told he drinks and raises rows. I hope it may be a mistake.

Sincerely and faithfully yours.
L. C. Hunt

Apparently Mrs. McBlair was not entirely pleased with this gossipy and opinionated letter, or did not think it prudent to continue an intimate correspondence with a single man, for she did not reply. He did not suspect that a woman to whom he was writing might not appreciate his effusive

RIGHT: Sir James Douglas, governor of Vancouver Island, wanted the navy to “avenge Britain’s national honor” in the Pig War. G. R. Farndon was the photographer.

comments about others, for in this letter he began by deploring the fact that the twice-a-month mail had brought nothing from her and wondering if he had offended her “by some slip of the pen.” Then he launched into a discussion of a Mrs. Stevens, with whom, he “confessed,” he had been “desperately smitten” some years before. As he knew her, he wrote, “she was very pretty and interesting, extremely coquettish and made an easy conquest of what was at that time an insistent, impressionable



and enthusiastic young man—quite innocent in the ways of women. I looked upon her as a goddess incarnate. At a later period in life I could undoubtedly have taken the more sensible view, and seen her as she was—a pretty woman, intent on conquests, and who was pleased to fancy me.”



National Park Service

General Winfield Scott, acting on orders, hurried to Fort Townsend when tensions were increasing. He proposed joint occupancy while the boundary dispute was settled by diplomacy.

Then Hunt told more about his situation in Washington Territory:

I have a very difficult part to play here, inasmuch as I have the active hostility of General Harney, our unscrupulous department commander, who is seeking a pretext to remove me, and send back Captain Pickett, his pet, ordered displaced by General Scott.

The anomalous situation of affairs on the island, belonging as yet to nobody—the want of any recognized jurisdiction—the general nature of my orders, which throws upon me the responsibility of preserving order at the risk of my actions being disapproved by the general, who will easily seize upon any opportunity.

For example, I determined that the liquor dealers, or rather the poison dealers, who make all the trouble upon the island, should not go on with impunity. I prosecuted a number of them for unlicensed liquor dealing, but the juries in the face of the facts acquitted—because they were opposed to the jurisdiction of Washington Territory over the island, so far as the collection of taxes was concerned. Properly speaking, indeed, there is no civil jurisdiction which ought to apply to disputed territory. Well, these few sent on to General Harney a letter conveying the most absurd and incredible charges in a general way, but specifying nothing—the gross and scurrilous language of the letter should have condemned it to the fire at once. But, instead, the precious document was sent back to me “for my information.” I was ordered “not to interfere with the trade of our citizens,” nor molest them in any way, etc. Farther to “forward to the headquarters, a full and complete account of all your actions effecting citizens,” etc.—a sort of censure, in fact before knowing anything of the facts, of the persons complaining.

In reply I sent back the magistrate’s statement as to the character of the parties complaining, a petition signed by nearly every actual settler upon the island stating the grievances which they endured from the peculiar situation of the island—that the result of two jury trials had proved the civil power to be inoperative, and that having full confidence in the judgment and discretion of Captain Hunt, the military commander upon the island, they requested that he might be given dictatorial powers as regarded the whole subject of the liquor nuisance. I accompanied these with as salty an epistle as I dared write, conveying by implication and inference my opinion of the conduct of headquarters, and I am now awaiting with some little curiosity the sequel. With Harney all things are possible, and I should not be very much surprised if he gave his wrath full swing and removed me. In that case Ho for Steilacoom, and renewed flirtations (nothing more). But I am resolved that removed by the malice of the dull animal and his shallow advisors, who lord it over this remote department, I will know the reason why.

I am very busily occupied in building my new post, making company garden,

etc. My men are all comfortably housed, and I am established in as neat and snug a cottage as you would wish to see. It is built of hewn logs, closely fitting, and lined within—a piazza in front, the columns of which are decidedly rustic, being cut from the forest, peeled, and the knobs left some inches long. From the piazza I have a magnificent view. I look to the south upon the Straits of Juan de Fuca, a range of snow-covered mountains upon the mainland, and Vancouver Island with the town of Victoria to the right.

At Victoria, by the way, I have formed some very pleasant acquaintances, particularly Captain Prevost of the *Satellite*. The governor [Douglas], and the old admiral [Baynes] always show me marked attention, when I chance to go over, and the naval officers in general have been so particularly civil and obliging on all possible occasions that I really feel myself entirely at home on board of their ships . . .

I am quite alone here at present—my two officers, Lieutenant Shaaff and Doctor Craig, are uncongenial. I have been greatly disappointed in Shaaff, my subaltern—the result does not justify the promise of first impressions. I was very much taken with him, at the outset, but I find him weak, trifling, and a drunkard. The doctor is a coarse, uncultivated whisky drinker, and to such society I infinitely prefer my books.

Do you know I heard that Governor Isaac Stevens was not getting on well, drank whiskey, and raised rows? Have you heard anything about it? I hope that you will not delay writing any longer, but let me know all about yourself . . .

Adios, ma chere amie.

Your friend always,
L. C. Hunt

Lewis Cass Hunt, a native of Wisconsin, graduated from the military academy at West Point in 1847, close to the bottom of his class. He was promoted to captain in 1855, two months after Pickett, who was at the bottom of the class, achieved that rank. Like several other officers involved in the San Juan controversy, Hunt had a prominent role in the Civil War, achieving the rank of brigadier general of volunteers. In the postwar army he eventually became a colonel in the 14th infantry. He died while still on active duty in 1866. Available records do not reveal whether any of his romantic attachments culminated in marriage.

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COLUMBIA

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Front cover: The contrast between the newness of Northwest America and the long-settled region along the Atlantic seaboard is emphasized by this 1786 map. It shows that at the time the Constitution was being written, cartographers did not even know that Puget Sound was anything more than a short inlet. This map, from the University of Washington's Northwest Collections, is by J. B. B. d'Anville. It is entitled, "A new map of the whole continent of America." Off the mouth of what is identified as the "river of the West according to some" are the words, "Opening discovered by Juan de Fuca 1592." Actually that opening was the strait farther north to which the Spaniard's name was given. The inlet to the Sound is identified on this map as "George's Sound where Capt. Cook repaired in 1778." Vancouver Island was unknown. For some thoughts on the history of the Northwest, see page 2. **Back cover:** The Olympic Hotel was designed in the grand manner and so, unlike many others, was deemed deserving of remodeling and restoration, rather than demolition, when it grew old. An example of its grandness is this elliptical staircase, flanked by Corinthian columns, taking guests up to the spacious Assembly Lounge and the Spanish Ballroom. For a history of the hotel, see page 3.