



## 2009-2010 Guide to American and English Camps

### Park founded to celebrate peace and nature

One hundred and fifty years ago, an American farmer named Lyman Cutlar shot and killed a Hudson's Bay Company pig rooting in his San Juan Island potato patch. In so doing, he nearly started a war between the United States and Great Britain. Fortunately, men of vision and moral authority on both sides realized the folly of bloodshed over a 54-square-mile island far from the seats of power—thus the creation of San Juan Island National Historical Park.

**To learn more about the celebrated Pig War, please turn to page three.**



**English Camp's commissary, blockhouse and formal garden sit at the edge of the embankment on Garrison Bay. Be sure to come to the camp on July 25-26 for Encampment 2009 and the Pig War Sesquicentennial. The event will feature visits by the tall ships *Lady Washington* and *Hawaiian Chieftain*.**

### Public transportation to English and American camps

Island Bicycles: 378-4941  
Bicycles.

Susie's Mopeds: 378-5244  
or (800) 532-0087  
Mopeds and automobiles.

SJI Marine Center: 378-6202. Electric bicycles, kayaks and boats.

M&W Rental Cars:  
378-2794 or (800) 323-6037  
Automobile rentals and sales.

San Juan Taxi:  
378-3550 or 378-TAXI

Island Tours/Taxi:  
378-4453

Bob's Taxi & Tours:  
378-6777 or (877) 4-TAXIBOB  
Service to all points on request.

San Juan Transit & Tours:  
378-8887 or (800) 887-8387  
Regularly scheduled routes north to English Camp during the summer season with a reservation-only schedule to American Camp three times daily. Guided tours available.

### Inside this issue

#### Hiking

American and English camps offer numerous hiking trails. Browse our maps and trail guide to find one that suits you. (Pages 6 & 7)

#### Programs

From living history to nature to evenings of song and dance, it's all here. Check our summer program guide. (Pages 5 & 8)

#### Archaeology

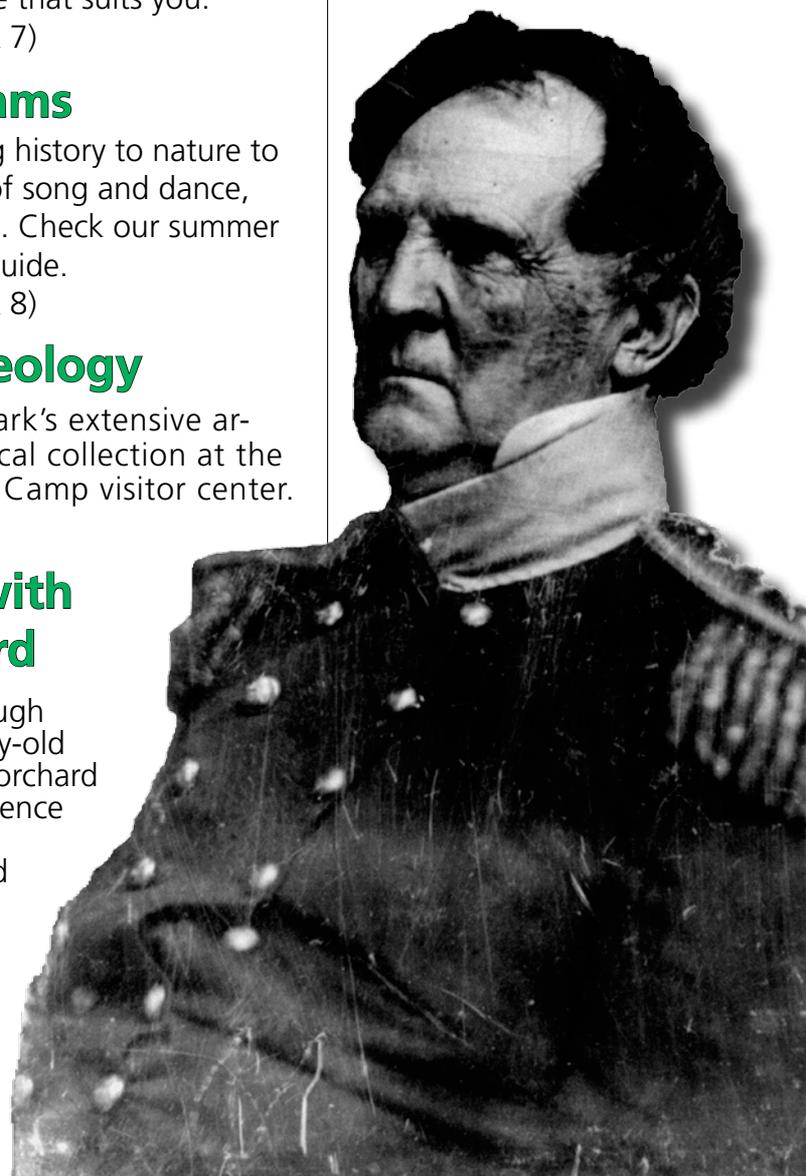
See the park's extensive archaeological collection at the American Camp visitor center. (Page 4)

#### Sandwith Orchard

Stroll through the century-old Sandwith orchard and experience an 1800s homestead garden. (Page 10)

### The Crooks

Learn about the pioneer family that settled English Camp in the wake of the Royal Marines and remained for nearly 100 years. (Page 9)





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Cover:  
U.S. Army commander Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott was 73 years old and infirm when ordered to the West Coast from New York City to calm the Pig War crisis. Known as the "Great Pacificator," he peacefully negotiated two northern border disputes before coming to San Juan Island.

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## Basic information

# Finding your way to the parks

### American Camp

The American Camp visitor center is about six miles southeast of Friday Harbor along Cattle Point Road. Simply drive west on Spring Street to Mullis Street and turn left. The road will wind a bit and change its name twice until it becomes Cattle Point Road. Turn right on the visitor center entrance road *after* you see the large park entrance sign. If you turn before the sign, you'll be in the Eagle Cove housing development. Cattle Point Road passes three miles through the park right-of-way, and the speed limit is 45 mph. Please be mindful, especially in the wooded stretch, that wild animals cross this road and bicyclists may be just around one of the blind corners. Startled cyclists tend to turn and look over their left shoulders, which causes them to swerve toward the center line. Park speed limits are 15 mph on the visitor center entrance road and 25 mph on Pickett's Lane (which leads to South Beach). Remember to be especially careful when exiting the American Camp visitor center entrance road. Over the years, several accidents have occurred at this intersection.

### English Camp

English Camp is located about nine miles northwest of Friday Harbor on West Valley Road. Take Spring Street

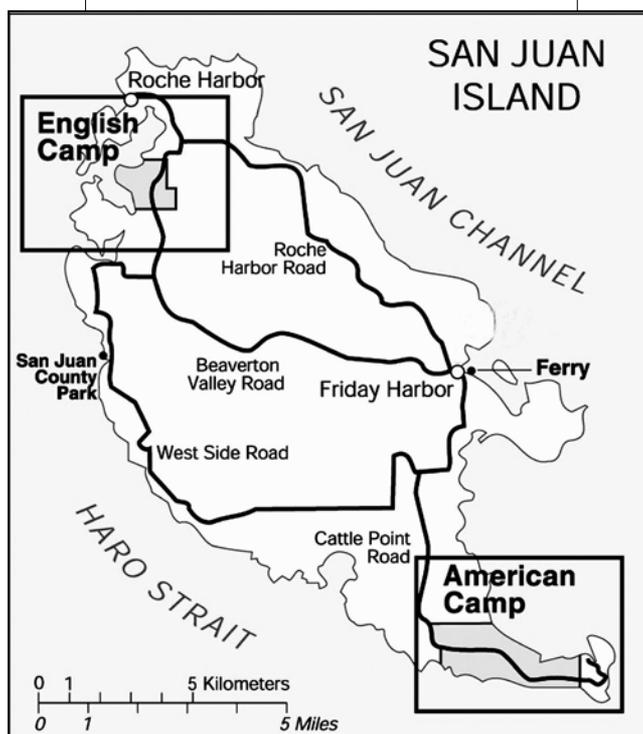
to Second Street and turn right. At the first stop sign you encounter, Second becomes Guard. Go to the next stop sign and continue to go straight. The street runs past the library, curves right and left, and then becomes Beaverton Valley Road. Continue over Cady Mountain (not much altitude gain here—it's a small mountain) until the road becomes

seriously. English Camp may also be accessed via Roche Harbor Road. To reach Roche Harbor Road from Friday Harbor, turn right at the second stop sign onto Tucker Avenue, which becomes Roche Harbor Road just outside of town. Continue to West Valley Road and turn left. The parade ground entrance road will be your second right after you pass the park entrance sign.

### A word about road safety

Because the island is only 54 square miles (about 16 1/2 miles long and 6 1/2 miles wide at the midsection), it's easy to get around. Plus, on island time you don't have to be in such an all-fired hurry to get anywhere!

If you're driving an automobile or truck, be especially mindful of bicycles, mopeds and three-wheeled motorized scooters. They have the same right-of-way as you. If you must pass, do it carefully and do not cross a solid double line. Conversely, cyclists should remember that, while they do have the right-of-way on county roads, it's considered a courtesy here to form a single line right. Adults take note: If children are along, be sure to ride both at the front and rear of the pack. Keep your eyes open. You may encounter a deer, fox, or even a river otter crossing the road.



West Valley Road. About 500 feet past the park entrance sign, on the left, is the entrance road to the parade ground that follows the original Military Road. The speed limit on this gravel track is 15 mph, and we urge you to take it

## Fast facts about the park

**Both locations are day-use-only areas with picnic tables, open from dawn to 11 p.m. There are no campgrounds available at either camp, but several private facilities and a county-owned campground are available on the island.**

**Pets must be kept on a leash within park boundaries. Bags are provided to clean up after them. Please respect the leash law—it not only protects fragile plants and wildlife, but other visitors and their pets as well.**

**English and American camps are important archaeological areas dating back 8,000 years to the time of the Coast Salish Indians. Artifacts such as bottles, buttons, bone pendants, projectile points and fish hooks are on display at the American Camp visitor center.**

**Because artifacts are protected under federal law, collecting, digging or using metal detectors is prohibited. Please do not disturb natural features and ruins. You may collect fruits, nuts, unoccupied seashells and mushrooms.**

**Off-road travel (by vehicles or mopeds) is not allowed in the park. Bicycling is permitted only on gravel paths.**

**Use or possession of fireworks is prohibited year-round.**

**Horseback riding is allowed by permit in designated areas only.**

**Hunting, trapping or carrying firearms on park lands is prohibited.**

**www.nps.gov/sajh  
FAX: (360) 378-2996**

# The Pig War of 1859: A close call for the U.S. and Great Britain



A mix of U.S. citizens and British subjects pose at Belle Vue Sheep Farm in September 1859. At far right are the British and U.S. magistrates, John DeCourcy and Henry Crosby, respectively.

On July 27, 1859, George E. Pickett's Company D, 9th Infantry, arrived on San Juan Island with a mission to protect United States citizens from the British government on Vancouver Island. The reason? An American settler named Lyman Cutlar had shot a pig belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company. Everyone overreacted, particularly U.S. Department of Oregon commander Brig. Gen. William S. Harney, who had issued Pickett his orders.

Ownership of the entire San Juan Island group had been in limbo since the signing of the Oregon Treaty in 1846. The treaty gave the United States lands south of the 49th parallel, extending the boundary to the "middle of the channel, which separates the continent from Vancouver Island."

There are actually two channels—Haro Strait nearest Vancouver Island and Rosario Strait nearer the mainland. The San Juan Islands lie between the two. Britain insisted on the Rosario Strait; the U.S., Haro Strait. Thus, both sides claimed the archipelago.

To solidify the British claim, the Hudson's Bay Company occupied the southern end of San Juan, first with a salmon-salting station in 1850, and then a sheep ranch—Belle Vue Sheep Farm—three years later. The Americans, meanwhile, declared the island within the limits of first Oregon (1848), then Washington Territory (1853). By 1859 about 18 Americans, including Cutlar, had settled on San Juan Island in anticipation of official American possession. Neither group acknowledged the jurisdiction nor taxing authority of the other.

Several incidents ensued over the next several years, culminating in Cutlar's pig murder in June 1859.

The Hudson's Bay Company threatened Cutlar with arrest by British authorities if he did not make fair restitution for the pig. This is what compelled Harney to dispatch Pickett to San Juan Island.

British Columbia Gov. James Douglas responded by sending three warships with 61 total guns under Royal Navy Capt. Geoffrey Phipps Hornby to dislodge Pickett. Hornby's initial orders were to remove Pickett by force if he refused to leave peacefully. But soon after Hornby arrived in Griffin Bay, Douglas, at the urging of the senior Royal Navy officer in the area, dispatched a messenger with a new order proposing a joint military occupation of the island.

Pickett refused and instead wrote Harney for reinforcements. Soon nearly 500 U.S. troops—now under command of Lt. Col. Silas Casey—occupied the island bolstered by eight naval guns and 14 field pieces.

After observing the naval guns being emplaced on an eminence overlooking both water approaches to the island, Hornby sought permission to assault the heights and spike the guns. This course was rejected by Pacific Station commander Rear Adm. R. Lambert Baynes, who cautioned Hornby to fire only if fired upon.

The two sides faced off on the Cattle Point peninsula for more than three months until the arrival

of U.S. Army commander Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, who, with Britain's blessing, was dispatched from his headquarters in New York City to mediate the crisis. Scott and Douglas negotiated a standdown while the two governments arranged a joint military occupation of the island. The Americans remained at Cattle Point, and Royal Marines established a camp 13 miles north in March 1860.

The joint occupation ended 12 years later when Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany, acting as arbitrator, settled the dispute by awarding the San Juan Islands to the United States. Thus ended the so-called Pig War—with the pig the only casualty.

# Archaeology reveals a rich and diverse park heritage

Living as it does at the crossroads of three great waterways, San Juan Island has always been a magnet for human habitation with its sheltered harbors, secluded woodlands and stretches of open prairie.

For thousands of years, people were drawn here to stake a life or to find rest and relaxation amid an abundant food source. As a result, San Juan Island National Historical Park has one of the most significant collections of artifacts in the national park system, representing more than 2,500 years of continuous human occupation.

American and English camps have been cited as winter and summer homes of the Lummi, Saanich, Samish and Songhee peoples, as well as the British Royal Marines and U.S. Army during the joint occupation period.

The artifacts were excavated over a 50-year period by field schools from the University of Washington and the University of Idaho. The historical objects were unearthed in successive summers between 1970 and 1979 by students from the Laboratory of Anthropology under the direction of Dr. Roderick Sprague. Excavations at both sites, under the auspices of the University of Washington, date to 1946.

Specific sites include English Camp, San Juan Town, Bellevue Farm and the



**Dr. Julie Stein (left), Burke Museum director, screens soil with students during a recent test excavation on the American Camp prairie. According to Dr. Stein, the wooden objects at right were probably used as arrow tips to hunt birds, and the hole in the piece at far right was drilled so the hunter could retrieve point. They are on view at American Camp.**



Parade Ground and Laundress Quarters areas of American Camp. All of the sites date from the Pig War era, 1859-1872, with the exception of Belle Vue Sheep Farm, which was established in 1853 by the Hudson's Bay Company.

The students often lived in primitive conditions during the excavations, which lasted several weeks. However, they were often richly rewarded, such as when students from Idaho discovered the remains of an ancient Coast Salish plank house. The Idaho crews also succeeded in determining the site

of the Laundress Quarters, and excavated the stub of the flagpole, situated in front of the Officers' Quarters at American Camp.

Prehistoric artifacts from the UW projects are held in the Burke Museum in Seattle, while the historic objects from the Idaho excavations are stored at the archival laboratory and storage facility at North Cascades National Park in Marblemount, Washington.

A selection of pre-historical artifacts and objects from the joint military occupation are on view in the American

Camp visitor center. The historic-period cases are arranged by location—American and English camps and Old Town Lagoon—and contain buttons, badges, company and regimental insignia, tableware and even a chamber pot. Each object represents an aspect of daily life long vanished.

The Burke case contains objects such as projectile points, scrapers, grinding stones and fishhooks. At the museum itself, the objects are conserved and displayed for the public as well as for students and researchers. This body of research has not only revealed aspects of the island's ancient past, but has also led to the discovery of new ideas about archaeology that can be used all over the world.

**Artifacts within the boundaries of San Juan Island National Historical Park, or any known archaeological site, are protected under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. It is illegal to disturb, dig, remove or possess archaeological objects. This includes picking up artifacts off the ground and digging.**

**If you find an artifact, leave it in place. Take a careful look at where it is and what it looks like, and then report it to a park ranger or volunteer.**

**Always remember that each object, no matter how insignificant it may appear, could hold the key to opening a door to the past.**

# 2009 Summer Program schedule: Something for everyone

## Weekly Programs

**Pig War Story Guided Walk**—Park rangers and volunteers describe events leading up to and including the Pig War and the peaceful joint occupation of San Juan Island by British and American troops. **Walks are scheduled at American Camp, 11:30 a.m., Saturdays, May 30 to August 29.**

**Living History: Life During the Joint Military Occupation on San Juan Island**—Park rangers and volunteers create military and civilian life during the island's early pioneer period. Activities include blacksmithing, coopering, weaving, needlework and exhibitions of military equipment and skills. **12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays, May 30 to August 29, English Camp parade ground.**

**Wildlife in the San Juan Islands**—Puzzled by an animal or bird? Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center education coordinator Shona Aitken answers questions and uses a variety of media to talk about wildlife in the San Juan Islands. **1 to 3 p.m., Fridays, June 5 to August 28, English Camp.**

## Special Programs

**Final Performances: The Life and Times of General George Pickett**—Historian Mike Vouri and folk musician Michael Cohen join with the San Juan Community Theatre for the 14th and final season of this popular show. **Saturday, May 23 and Friday, July 10. All shows 7:30 p.m., San Juan Community Theatre. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$8 students, \$5 RUSH.**

**Ancient Visitors: Tracing the Pre-History of San Juan Island Through Archaeology**—University of Washington archaeologist Dr. Julie Stein traces ancient habitation of San Juan Island in this guided walk on the American Camp prairie. **10 a.m., Saturday, May 30, South Beach. Meets at the end of the Salmon Banks Road.**

**The Birds of American Camp**—Come join San Juan Island bird expert and former national park ranger Barbara Jensen for an informative 90-minute walk through American Camp's prairie. **7:30 a.m., Saturday, June 6, American Camp visitor center.**



Sharron Lawler and Brad Smith assemble an authentic 19th-century period meal during Encampment 2008.

**The Crook Family at English Camp**—William Crook, an English immigrant, settled with his family on the site of the Royal Marine Camp in 1875. Learn more about this pioneer family during an evening Power Point presentation by park historian Mike Vouri. (See article about the Crook family on page 9.) **7 p.m., Saturday, June 20, San Juan Island Library.**

**In Concert: Sugar on the Floor**—Folk singer Michael Cohen and the group, "Sugar on the Floor," present a variety of songs from the 19th century and other genres. Cohen knows more than 500 folk songs from the 18th and 19th centuries, and can trace many of these to their origins. **7 p.m., Saturday, June 27, English Camp barracks.**

**Northwest Pioneer Folkways Demonstrations**—Janet Oakley, education coordinator for the Skagit County Historical Museum in LaConner, demonstrates pioneer folkways from butter churning to Dutch oven-baking and other tasks. **Noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 11, English Camp parade ground.**

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The 2009 Summer Program pages are proudly sponsored by

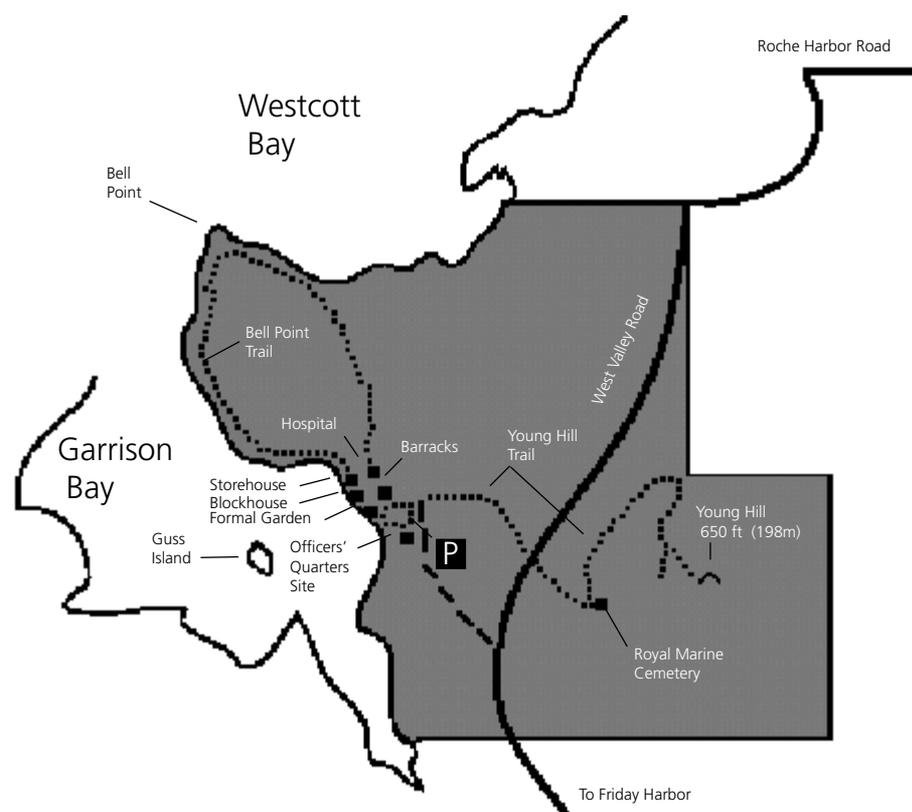
**Young Hill trail**—Hike this fairly steep trail up 650 feet to the top of Young Hill for a panoramic view of the island group's northwest corner, Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Novice walkers should take care to pace themselves as most of the gain is in the last half mile. An exhibit panel identifying geographic features is mounted on an overlook about two-thirds of the way up the hill. (1.25 mi.)

**Royal Marine cemetery**—The Royal Marine cemetery is about 50 yards off the Young Hill trail, about a third of the way up. Five Royal Marines are interred, and a memorial stone is in place for two other marines. A stone also commemorates a civilian who was accidentally shot by his brother while hunting.

**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 information on licensing, locations, daily limits and red tide warnings. (2-mi. loop)

**Self-guided walk**—Relive the Royal Marine era along the trail that starts at the base of the main entrance trail. Pick up a guide in the box next to the bulletin board and follow the numbered posts. When finished, please return it to the box provided at the end of the walk. Or, you can purchase a guide for a \$1 donation at the visitor center. (.25 mi.)

**English formal garden**—The flower and herb garden—originally known as the strawberry garden—lies between the officers' quarters site and the parade ground. The camp's second commanding officer had it built for his family to remind them of home.



## Visitor center resources

Both American Camp and English Camp (summer only) have visitor centers with maps, books, gifts and more. The bookstore at American Camp is more comprehensive. Here are some of the more popular guides and books.

**Friday Harbor**, by Mike and Julia Vouri.

**Images of America: The Pig War**, by Mike Vouri.

**The Pig War: Standoff at Griffin Bay**, by Mike Vouri.

**Outpost of Empire: The Royal Marines and the Joint Occupation of San Juan Island**, by Mike Vouri.

**Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia & Alaska**, by Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon.

**Wild Plants of the San Juan Islands**, by Scott Atkinson & Fred Sharpe.

**The Butterflies of Cascadia: A Field Guide to All the Species of Washington, Oregon and Surrounding Territories**, by Robert Michael Pyle.

**Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast, an Illustrated Guide to Northern California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia**, by Eugene N. Kozloff.

**Birds of the Puget Sound Region**, by Morse, Averza and Opperman.

**Birding in the San Juan Islands**, by Mark G. Lewis and Fred A. Sharpe.

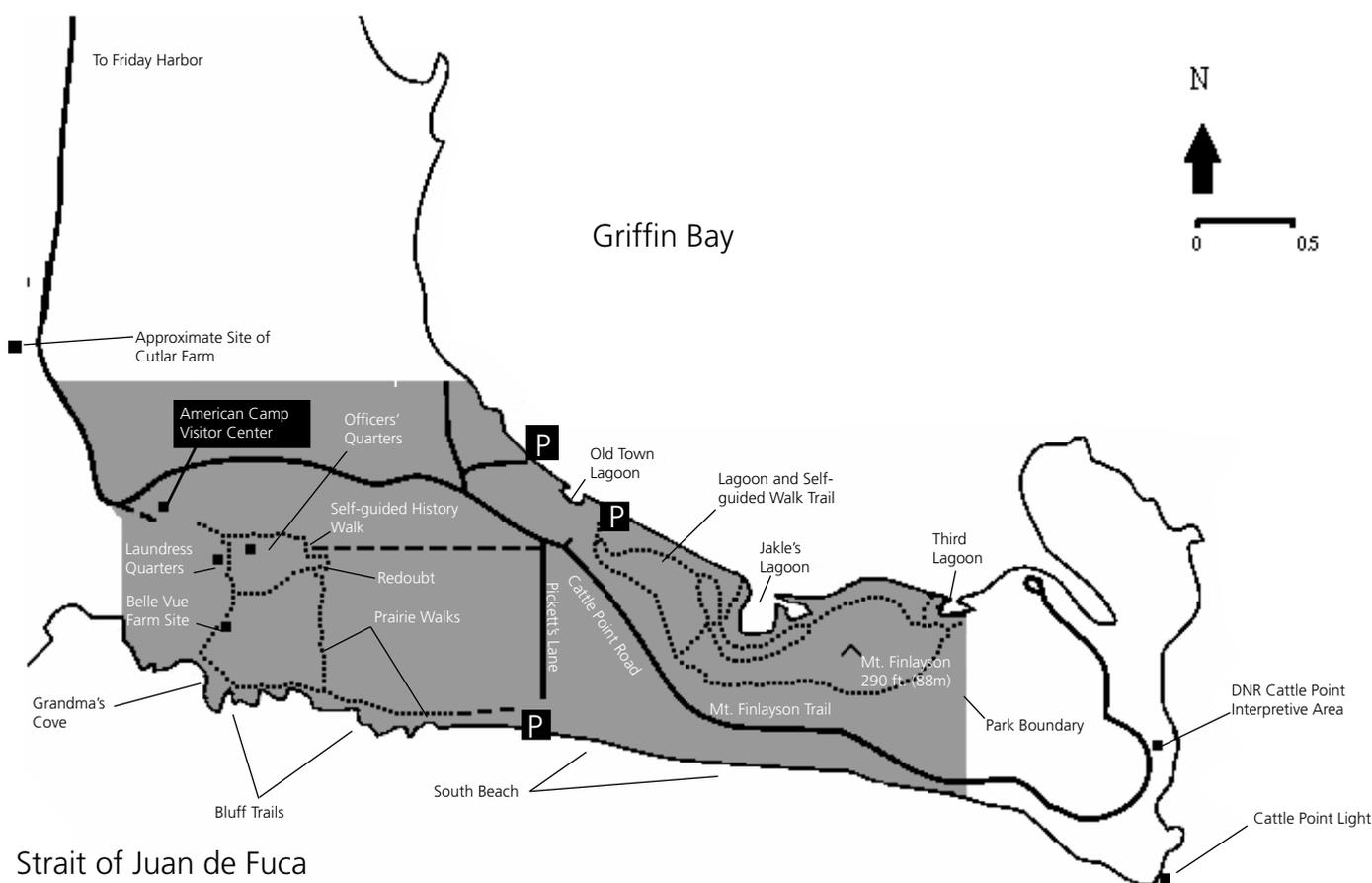
**The Audubon Society Field Guide to the Bald Eagle**.

**American Cetacean Society Field Guide to the Orca**.

**The Restless Northwest: A Geological Study**, by Hill Williams.

**Guide to Native Wildflowers of American Camp**, by Julia Vouri.

# American Camp



Trails range from leisurely to strenuous. Ask a park ranger or volunteer about the best hike for you.

## Strait of Juan de Fuca

**Self-guided history walk**—Relive the Pig War along the trail that starts and finishes in the visitor center parking area. Pick up guides in boxes at the trailhead and follow the numbers. (1.25 mi.)

**Prairie walks**—Primitive tracks crisscross the prairie and trace the bluff from Grandma's Cove to South Beach and back to the visitor center via the Redoubt. A great place for viewing Orca whales, the Redoubt also offers a regional perspective with views of Mt. Baker, the Olympic and Cascade ranges, Vancouver Island, and on an exceptionally clear day, even Mt. Rainier, 130 miles up Admiralty Inlet. Sweeping views are also plentiful from the Cattle Point and Redoubt roads and Pickett's Lane. Walkers are advised to use caution as rabbits have excavated warrens throughout the prairie. (2.5 mi.)

**Grandma's Cove**—Stroll downhill to one of the finest beaches on the island. Use caution when descending the bluff. (.25 mi.)

**Mt. Finlayson trail**—Hike along the grassy ridge 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 Vancouver Island, British Columbia to the west. Come back the way you came, or, for a change of scenery, go through Jakle's Lagoon. (3-mi. loop)

**Jakle's Lagoon trail**—Pick up a self-guided walk booklet, hike along the old roadbed and enjoy the quiet of a Douglas fir, cedar and hemlock canopy. This wooded area shelters deer and many types of birds, and is one of the most popular hiking areas on San Juan Island. (1.5 mi.)

**South Beach**—Walk along the longest public beach on the island. This is a great place to see an abundance of shorebirds, and in spring and summer, Orca whales. The beach is mainly gravel, so shoes or sandals are advised. Fires are limited to grates in the picnic areas. (2 mi.)

# 2009 Summer Program Schedule: (Continued from Page 5)

(Continued from Page 5)

**Pickett's Irish: The Irish in the U.S. Army in the 1850s**—Folk musician Michael Cohen and historian Mike Vouri bring back this popular program, which takes a closer look at the Irish in the U.S. Army in words and song. **7 p.m., Saturday, July 11, San Juan Island Library.**

**The People of the Cedar**—Richard Vanderway, the education coordinator for Bellingham's Whatcom Museum, makes his 13th annual presentation in the park with an array of objects that provide a glimpse into Northwest Coast Indian culture. The program includes cooking salmon in a bentwood box and a demonstration of an articulated mask. **2 p.m., Saturday, July 18, English Camp barracks.**

**Encampment 2009**—Celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the Pig War with park staff, volunteers and re-enactors who will recreate life on San Juan Island at mid-19th century. Long boats will take visitors out to the tall ships, *Lady Washington* and *Hawaiian Chieftain* (from Grays Harbor Historical Seaport), throughout the afternoon of the first day. Cruises are available aboard both ships on Sunday. For more information, check our Web site at [www.nps.gov/sajh](http://www.nps.gov/sajh) or call the park at (360) 378-2902. The popular Candlelight Ball, an

evening of dancing and refreshments, is scheduled 8 to 10 p.m. on Saturday. **All day, Saturday and Sunday, July 25-26, English Camp.**

**The Pig War: Another Look**—Park historian and author Mike Vouri presents another view of the Pig War crisis of 1859 using images and information selected from photo archives from the Park and San Juan Historical Museum. **7 p.m., Saturday, August 8, San Juan Island Library.**

**The Night Sky**—San Juan Island naturalist Barry Boyce, astronomy enthusiast

Terry Ogle and friends return in 2009 with their exciting star watch program, which will include a brief introduction to astronomy in the visitor center followed by an opportunity to view the night sky through a telescope on the Redoubt. Dress warmly! **8:30 p.m., Friday August 21. Meets at the American Camp visitor center.**

**A Weaving Weekend**—Weavers from throughout Washington State will gather for the weekend to demonstrate how European and American Indian techniques melded to create woven objects and clothing unique to the Pacific

Northwest. Cowlitz Nation weaver Judy Bridges and Fort Nisqually interpreter and storyteller Karen Haas will join San Juan Islanders Roger Ellison, Anita Barreca and other spinners and weavers from the island. Participants will have a hands-on opportunity to make and take home their own small crafts projects and purchase creations by Bridges. **All day, Saturday and Sunday, August 22-23, English Camp parade ground.**

**The Royal Navy in the North Pacific** Historian Dr. Barry Gough offers a Sesquicentennial lecture on the Royal Navy and the policies that were instrumental in avoiding bloodshed during the Pig War crisis. Gough is the author of numerous books and journal articles on the fur trade and the British Empire in the Pacific Northwest. His most recent book, *Fortune's a River*, delves into the competition between the United States and Great Britain over the land and resources of the Pacific Northwest. **7 p.m., Monday, August 24, San Juan Island Library.**



San Juan Island NHP superintendent Peter Dederich (right) congratulates Oren Combs on his selection as the park's 2008 Volunteer of the Year. Combs is key to the success of the park's living history events.

**Programs are free and open to the public, except where noted. Programs are subject to change. For updates and accessibility information, call (360) 378-2902, e-mail [mike\\_vouri@nps.gov](mailto:mike_vouri@nps.gov) or go to [www.nps.gov/sajh](http://www.nps.gov/sajh).**

For additional Park Guides go to:



# The Crook Family: Caretakers of English Camp for nearly 100 years

In November 1875, English immigrant William Crook reached the northern end of San Juan Island's old Military Road and beheld for the first time the sheltered bay that his countrymen had abandoned exactly three years before.

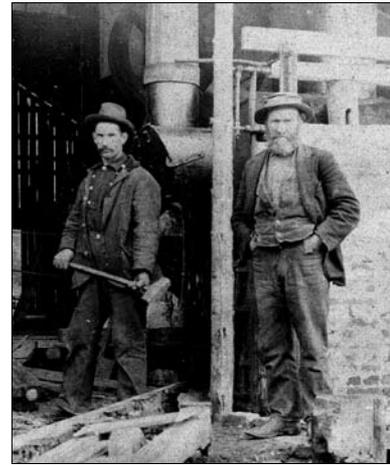
Giving onto the bay was a cleared, though weedy, parade ground accommodating 27 intact structures, including two barracks, a storehouse, docks and two fine houses. This ready-made homestead was the "English Camp" Crook had heard about while on the Oregon Trail with his wife, Mary Forrest, and two children, Jim and Mary. The family would call it home for the next 100 years and leave a lasting legacy for the American people.

After the Royal Marines left in 1872, the site was surveyed and inventoried by the U.S. Army for a public auction held on November 24, 1875. A stipulation was that all purchases were to be removed from the site within 60 days or become the property of the land claimant.

Taking note, Crook filed his claim



**The Crook house shortly after completion in 1903. Right: Jim and William Crook.**



for the land in Olympia a few weeks later and ended up with most of the structures by default. The exceptions were the two houses, once occupied by Royal Marine officers, that were entangled in litigation between Crook and another claimant over the next three years. Crook eventually paid \$240 and secured the houses.

The family occupied several marine structures over the years, including the

"Lieutenant's House" (where Rhoda was born in 1878), library and barracks—the latter serving as the National Park Service's visitor center on site.

A carpenter by trade, William Crook built boats in the old storehouse and several houses around the island. He also planted apple, pear and cherry trees on the old parade ground, and by 1900 was selling eggs, chicken, sheep, wool and fruit.

Employing frontier thrift common to the 19th century, the Crooks used the blacksmith shop and sawpit for projects, and the blockhouse for storage.

Mary Forrest Crook died in October 1899, followed by William in 1901. Rhoda and Mary quit-claimed their shares of the estate to Jim, who built the two-story house that still overlooks the parade ground. Jim's sisters had married in 1897 and 1900, respectively. Mary and her husband, Herbert Davis, moved into the house with Jim in 1903.

Though most of the farm's 272 acres were under cultivation by 1911, Crook also made barrels for 95 cents apiece and was famed as a tinkerer. A local favorite is the 20-foot-long, two-ton, wool-carding machine, still on display at the San Juan Historical Museum.

"I've always had a mind for inventions," Crook told a newspaper reporter in the 1950s. "I had an idea for a flying machine—never did have the money to develop it. Then the Wright brothers came out with something very much like I had in mind myself." But he did invent a machine that made his bed.

Jim Crook never married and seldom left the island. His eccentricities and inventions overshadowed the lives of his sisters, who each moved back to the farm after their husbands died. Neither had children.

In 1929, Mary became English Camp's first interpreter. She led tours of the site, and posed for thousands of photographs with visitors who came to picnic among the fruit trees on the parade ground to see where British marines had been quartered south of the 49th parallel as late as 1872.

After Mary was killed in an automobile accident in 1959, Rhoda, then 80, moved back to care for Jim, who at 87 was crippled by arthritis.

With no heirs, Jim and Rhoda donated the parade ground to Washington State. At the same time, U.S. Sen. Henry M. Jackson submitted legislation creating San Juan Island National Historical Park. It was signed into law seven months before Jim died, at 93, in March 1967. In June 1968, the National Park Service purchased the remaining Crook acreage from Rhoda, who was given lifetime tenure in the house above the parade ground and the three acres surrounding it.

Rhoda Anderson often chatted with visitors from her kitchen window, and remained a cheery presence in the park until her death in 1972. She was 92 years old.

# Century-old Sandwith orchard will bear fruit again

## NPS & partners blend old and new stock in English Camp orchard

In celebration of island homesteaders and agricultural history, the National Park Service (NPS) is rehabilitating an orchard planted 130 years ago by a pioneer family at English Camp.

This won't look anything like today's commercial orchard, with its short, compact trees planted in closely knit rows. These full-sized trees will grow unfettered to 25- and 45-foot tall—wild and natural with a great canopy of leaves.

Planted in the mid 1870s by Isaac Sandwith, the one-acre orchard is located on West Valley Road just north of the park's south boundary. Islanders have long been aware of the orchard, which is dominated by one of the oldest pear trees in the country.

But it wasn't until 10 years ago that the park invited Susan Dolan, historical landscape architect with the NPS regional office in Seattle, to inspect this ancient pear tree. She was hooked as soon as she blazed the trail through chest-high Nootka rose bushes and snowberry vines to what remained of the old orchard.

"Cultural landscape preservation is valuable because it sustains rare heirloom plant varieties," she said. "A preserved historic orchard is not only significant in terms of agricultural biodiversity conservation, it also gives us a glimpse into an 1800s landscape."

Thus began a project that would eventually involve taking cuttings from nine surviving trees, tracing the varieties and grafting the cuttings to healthy young seedlings of similar stock. The grafted trees would be planted to recreate a representative sample of the landscape as it existed at the end of the joint military occupation.

Dolan believes the Sandwith orchard is particularly significant in island history because the multiple varieties reveal it as a "homestead garden."

"It was typical of homesteaders to plant orchards with a variety of species to have food for the table throughout the seasons," she said. "This way a mixture of pears, cherries, apples, apricots, and wild plums came into harvest sequentially."

To recreate the orchard, saplings were propagated by cuttings not only from the surviving Sandwith trees, but also from the scatter of pear trees at the northwest end of the English Camp



**National Park Service and Washington Conservation Corps crews excavate a hole in the original planting grid of the historic Sandwith orchard at English Camp. Some of the nine original trees date to the mid 1870s.**

parade ground and from several plum trees in the vicinity of the Crook house. The cuttings were grafted onto seedling rootstock at the Raintree Nursery in Morton, Washington. In order to produce accurate clones of the old fruit trees, the new trees were grown at the nursery for two years before they were bareroot-planted in the orchard.

On March 14, 2009, 23 trees—11 pear, four apple, five apricot and three plum—were planted by park staff, a Washington Conservation Corps crew and island volunteers. Crews planted the trees 30 feet apart according to the grid layout established by Sandwith.

Each tree received a six-foot-tall deer fence, nutritional mulch and white

wash on the trunk to protect the tree from sun scald. They will be full-grown in about 20 years, and will begin to bear fruit in 10. Today's high-yield trees bear fruit in just two years, but might live only 30 years. A standard apple tree on a seedling rootstock can live 200 years, a pear 250. One of the Sandwith-period apple trees still survives today.

Of course, it's unclear as to who may have planted this particular tree. The orchard may also have been the enterprise of August Hoffmeister, the post sutler (storekeeper) at the Royal Marine Camp throughout the joint occupation. Hoffmeister occupied (without patent) an adjacent parcel, which also has a scattering of fruit trees near the Sandwith boundary.

But that's another story.

## Interested in helping maintain the orchard?

We could use your help. The maintenance will be fairly minimal, given the style of these trees. It will include whitewashing trunks annually, spreading nutritional mulch and making sure the deer fences stay intact for the first few years until the canopy is above the browse line.

Please be mindful of the trees and fences as you stroll through the orchard. If you see anything that needs attention, call Chris Davis, park chief of resource management, or park biologist Todd Trapp at 360-378-2240.

## Park plans to recover golden paintbrush at American Camp

Golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*)—once a thriving symbol of native northwest grasslands—is in the planning stages of being reestablished at American Camp.

Of the 42 paintbrush species in the Pacific Northwest, this is the only one with yellow bracts, which glow when it blooms from April until June.

Once abundant in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, it's currently listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as endangered, and is found in fewer than 11 populations in Washington and Canada, largely due to habitat destruction and fire suppression.

In an effort to recreate a self-maintaining population, the National Park Service and USFWS (and other agencies and landowners) are collecting local seeds, overseeing propagation at Fourth Corner Nurseries in Bellingham and planting on False Bay Drive and private properties around San Juan Island. About 3,500 plugs are scheduled to be planted on the American Camp prairie in fall/winter 2009.

To volunteer to collect seed, report



**Golden paintbrush**

sightings or help with planting, contact Chris Davis, chief of resource management, San Juan Island National Historical Park, at 360-378-2240. For more information about golden paintbrush, go to [www.nps.gov/sajh](http://www.nps.gov/sajh).

**For more information about the Sandwith orchard at English Camp, go to [www.nps.gov/sajh](http://www.nps.gov/sajh).**

# Robert's Redoubt sent a message to the British: We're staying

One of the most popular places at American Camp is Robert's Redoubt. It is no accident that its ramparts offer visitors a spectacular vista of the Cattle Point peninsula and beyond, flanked by the waters of Griffin Bay and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

It was planned that way.

For it was here in mid-August, 1859, that U.S. Army troops on San Juan Island were confronted by three British warships mounting 62 total guns. (See page 3). The Americans had lugged ashore eight naval guns from the USS *Massachusetts* to answer the British threat. But the U.S. commander, Lt. Col. Silas Casey, had neither the expertise nor resources to emplace them, and asked for help. It came in the form of a 10-man detachment (called a sapper team) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, commanded by 2nd. Lt. Henry Martyn Robert.

Robert was ordered to create a fortification and build platforms for the naval guns and position them to cover the most exposed approaches. He was to select the position "...with



**2nd. Lt. Henry M. Robert explains to sergeants his plan for the redoubt at American Camp. The redoubt sent a clear signal to the British that the Americans intended to remain on the island. The redoubt today (left) is protected as a historic structure of national significance. It also offers one of the most spectacular near sea level view sheds in the National Park Service.**

the greatest care to avoid fire from the British ship(s)."

The sappers landed on August 21 and almost immediately went to work, supplemented by 100 of Casey's soldiers, and armed only with pick and

shovel. They were assisted by one disgruntled British subject who had been arrested for selling liquor. According to the diary of William A. Peck, Jr., one of Robert's soldiers, the fort was "laid out of an irregular form 425 feet long

above the natural ground; ditch 20 feet wide, not less than 8 feet deep."

One British officer reported that Robert, an 1857 graduate of West Point, had built a classic fortification: "The hill south of the American Camp has been marked out for fortifying, in several places it has been leveled, and working parties have lately been employed in throwing up earthworks."

Another British officer expressed alarm: "Six of their heavy guns are placed on the ridge of the hill overlooking the harbour; and by throwing up a parapet they would command the harbour; even in their present position they would be difficult to silence."

To him, the Americans were sending a message. A formal earthwork provided a means of last ditch defense from a strategically dominant position. It also would permit a smaller force—even with inferior troops—to resist a larger one long enough until reinforcements arrived. Once dug in, the Americans might never be uprooted and the San Juan Islands would be lost, politically as well as militarily.

Five gun platforms were completed, three on the east end covering the open prairie and water approaches. The parapet rose seven feet above the interior and dropped 25 to 40 feet on the northeast exteriors facing Griffin Bay. The work was girdled by a ditch three to five feet across. These features remain almost perfectly preserved.

For all this back-breaking labor, the redoubt never fired a shot in anger. In fact, only three guns were emplaced, and these merely fired a salute to Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott when he visited Griffin Bay on November 7, 1859. The general halted work on the fortress after he and British Columbia Gov. James Douglas agreed to reduce their forces on the island.

In ensuing years, the work was known as "Robert's Gopher Hole." Nevertheless, as an instrument of policy—however misguided that policy may have been—the redoubt had done its work. It had served notice that the Americans intended to remain, and spurred the British to time and again re-evaluate their options during the crisis.

Lieutenant Robert retired as commanding general of the Corps, but earned lasting fame as the author *Robert's Rules of Order*, the world's leading authority on parliamentary procedure.

**To learn more about Robert's Redoubt , visit us at [www.nps.gov/sajh/historyculture/the-redoubt](http://www.nps.gov/sajh/historyculture/the-redoubt).**

# Exploring the Salish Sea

San Juan Island National Historical Park sits in the heart of the Salish Sea, a region named for its first stewards, the Strait Coast Salish peoples. One of the most diverse—and fragile—marine ecosystems in the world, it includes Puget Sound, Georgia Strait and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Here is a sampling of marine life that may be seen from the park's shorelines.

## Orca whales

As you walk the bluffs of American Camp between May and September, listen for the soft spouting of Washington's state marine mammal—the Orca whale, aka Killer whale. You'll see more than one. They travel in large family groups, or pods, that often stay together for life and have been observed breathing in unison. These "whales" are actually dolphins that propel themselves through the water at great speeds, and true to their acrobatic status, they breach, lobtail, flipper-slap and spy-hop. If you're lucky, you may spot the dorsal fin of one of the males. At six feet, they are the tallest in the sea.



## Dall's porpoises

It's easy to mistake a Dall's porpoise for an Orca whale. The markings are similar, but they're only about six feet long and have a much smaller dorsal fin. Look for their telltale rooster-tail spray as they slice through the water at up to 30 knots and play "chicken" before the bows of boats.



## Minke whales

Minke whales regularly swim past South Beach at American Camp, but their dark, slim bodies, swift surfacing movements and nearly invisible blows can be overlooked in all but the calmest sea. The smallest of baleen whales at 25 to 35 feet, they have sharply pointed snouts and approach smaller boats out of curiosity.



## Seals

Hike to the overlook above Grandma's Cove in American Camp and look down. You may see one or more harbor seals sunning on the rocks or lolling in the water, heads up like periscopes. If you see a seal pup on the beach, steer clear and contact the visitor center immediately. Females commonly park a pup for up to 24 hours while out foraging for food. In recent years, elephant seals have been observed molting on South Beach. Please keep a safe distance of 200 yards.

## River otters

Found in marine as well as freshwater habitats, river otters are plentiful here—much more than sea otters. Look for their lithe, five-foot bodies all along the American Camp bluff trail, at Jakle's lagoon and in Garrison Bay at English Camp. You'll see them foraging on land (they particularly like to sun themselves on grassy knolls) and in the inland waters.



**Buffleheads bob and dive on Griffin Bay near Jakle's Lagoon.**

## Birds of the Salish Sea

With a volume of water equaling that of the Amazon River flushing from the Strait of Georgia through Haro Strait, the Salish Sea is a rich habitat for birds. The Strait of Juan de Fuca is a major summer feeding area for rhinoceros auklets, tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots, and by summer's end, common murrelets, Cassin's auklets and the occasional fork-tailed storm petrel.

On American Camp's rocky shorelines, listen for the piping calls of black oystercatchers and look for huge rafts of surf scoters in protected bays and on the open water. Shorebird migration begins around July 1, when birds such as black-bellied plovers stop to feed in the prairie grasses. Fourth of July Beach and Jakle's Lagoon are big wintering spots for ducks, including buffleheads and Harlequin ducks as well as common loons.

