



2012-2013 Guide to American and English Camps

Park founded to celebrate peace and nature

One hundred and fifty-one 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 Pig War, please turn to page 2



English Camp's commissary, blockhouse and formal garden sit at the edge of the embankment on Garrison Bay.

Inside this issue

Hiking

American and English camps offer numerous hiking trails. Browse our maps and trail guide to find one that suits you.

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Programs

From living history to nature to evenings of song and dance, it's all here. Check our summer program guide.

(Pages 3 & 6)

Blockhouse Restoration

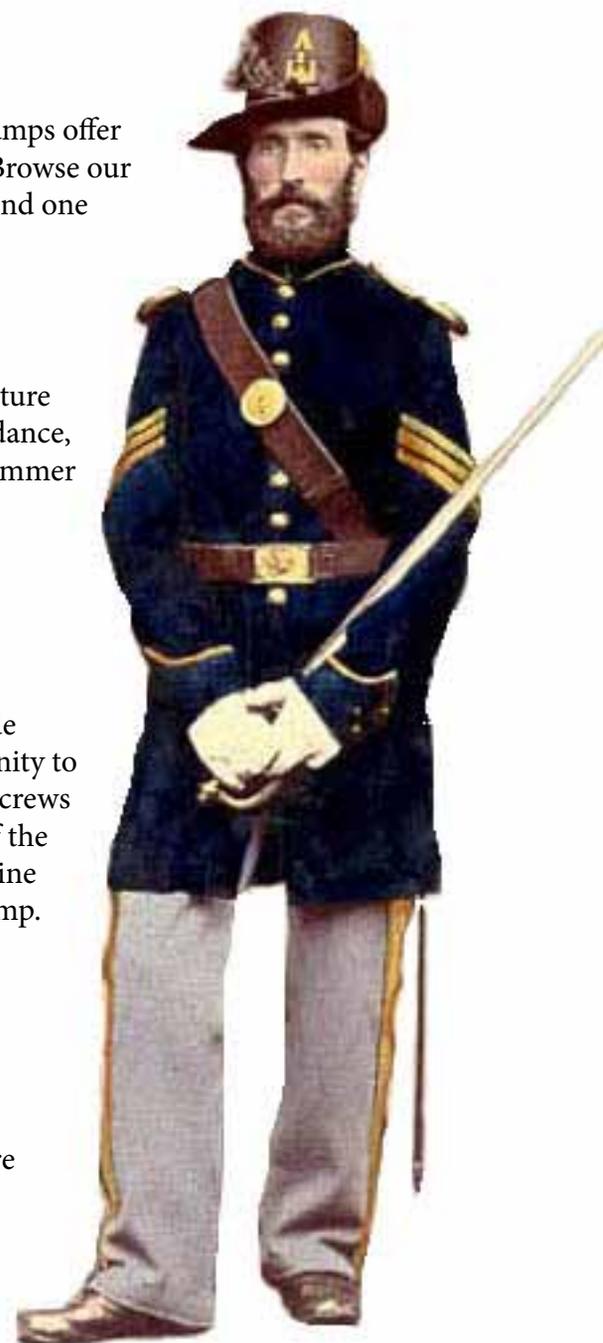
Summer 2012 will provide visitors with the opportunity to watch park maintenance crews replace the lower story of the 1860s-vintage Royal Marine blockhouse at English camp.

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Prairie Stewardship

Find out the latest about the park's efforts to restore American camp's prairie, from gathering seeds to planting seedlings.

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Public transportation to English and American camps

San Juan Transit & Tours: 378-8887. 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.

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

San Juan Taxi: 378-3550 or 378-TAXI. Bike and kayak racks on all vehicles.

Classic Cab Company
378-7519.

Island Bicycles: 378-4941. Bicycles. Open daily.

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

Friday Harbor Marine: 378-6202. Electric boats, runabouts, kayaks, fishing kayaks, dive shop, sailing school and high-speed water taxis.

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

Island Tours/Taxi:
378-4453.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the
Interior

San Juan Island National Historical Park

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

Cover:
A model in Washington, DC
1858, poses in the dress uniform
of a sergeant of the Artillery
branch of the U.S. Army. The
uniform was considered a
marked improvement over
earlier issues. The hat with
ostrich plume, however, left a
lot to be desired among some
soldiers. A similar uniform
is on display at the American
Camp visitor center.

This guide is published in
cooperation with *The Journal
of the San Juan Islands*. The
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Basic information

The Pig War of 1859: A close call

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 in 1853 established Belle Vue Sheep Farm on the southern end of the island. The Americans, meanwhile, believed the San Juans belonged to

them. By 1859 about 18 Americans, including Cutlar, had settled on San Juan Island in anticipation of official American possession. Neither group acknowledged the jurisdiction or taxing authority of the other.

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



British authorities threatened Cutlar with arrest if he did not pay 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 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 peaceably. 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 asked 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. After observing the 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 was rejected by Pacific Station commander Rear Adm. R. Lambert Baynes.

A stalemate ensued for more than three months until the arrival of U.S. Army commander Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, who 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 the 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.

Fast facts about park hours and laws

Both park units are day-use-only. Hours are:

English Camp: 8 a.m. to Sunset. Royal Marine Barracks contact station is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, June 3 to September 3.

American Camp: Sunrise to 11 p.m. Visitor Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, June 3 to September 3. The visitor center is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, during the winter season.

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 and Canadian First Nations peoples. Artifacts 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 four-wheeled vehicles or mopeds) is not allowed in the park.

Use or possession of fireworks is prohibited year-round.

Horseback riding is allowed by permit only.

Please do not hunt, trap or discharge firearms within the park boundaries.

2012 Summer Program Guide: Something for everyone

Weekly Programs

Weekly programs scheduled below also are available on request. For information, call 360-378-2240, ext. 2233, or go to www.nps.gov/sajh. Also follow us on Facebook.

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 English and American troops. *Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, June 9 to September 1, American Camp.*

Captain Delacombe's English Camp Guided Walk — This guided walk starts at the site of the commanding officer's quarters and descends Officers Hill to the formal garden and the parade ground below. Along the way learn how the Royal Marines lived during the 12-year joint occupation. *Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., June 9 to September 1, meets in the English Camp parking area.*

Living History: Life during the Joint Military Occupation on San Juan Island — Park rangers and volunteers recreate military and civilian life during the island's early pioneer period. Activities include blacksmithing, coopering, weaving, needlework and exhibitions of military equipment and skills. *Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m., June 2 to September 1, 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. *Fridays, 1 to 3 p.m., June 8 to August 31, English Camp barracks.*

Field Work with Rangers: Prairie Restoration — The prairie at American Camp is one of the last natural prairies in the region. Join park rangers as they gather native plant seeds, cultivate them in tubes or plant the seedlings in designated plots. In the process you'll learn about the prairie's past and discover how you can play a role in its future. *Saturdays, 2 to 4 p.m., June 9 to September 1, meets at American Camp visitor center.*



A walking group heads uphill toward the open prairie on their way back from South Beach to the American Camp visitor center. A weekly walk is scheduled on this trail, as well as the Fraser Homestead, Young Hill and the jakle's Lagoon/Mt. Finlayson area.

Birding in the Park — The forests, prairies and lagoons of American Camp attract a variety of birds throughout the summer, and offer a prime birding and hiking experience. Join park staff in enjoying this wonderful island resource. *Fridays, 8 to 10 a.m., June 8 to August 31, meets at American Camp visitor center; or by appointment. Call 360-378-2240, ext. 2228 for details.*

A Walk to the Salmon Bank — Accompany a park ranger or volunteer on this cross-prairie journey to the historic Salmon Bank at South Beach, where springs attracted Indians and

Europeans alike. This activity can be strenuous. Sturdy footwear, layered clothing, hats and water are recommended. *Thursdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m., June 7 to August 30, American Camp parking area, or by request. Call 360-378-2240, ext. 2233.*

Contra Dancing at English Camp — Folk singer Michael Cohen and local folk musicians present an evening of traditional folk tunes and dancing for those wishing a turn on the floor. Cohen has contributed to the Smithsonian Institution's collection of American folk music. *Mondays, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., June 18 to August 20, English Camp barracks.*

Young Hill/Royal Marine Cemetery Guided Walk — Serious hikers will enjoy this 2-hour journey, led by Park Historian Mike Vouri up the slope of 650-foot Young Hill, where the summit offers splendid views. See the Royal Marine Cemetery and the Garry oak woodland. *Sundays, 2 to 4 p.m., June 10 to September 2, meets at the north end of the English Camp parking area.*

Fraser Homestead Guided Walk — Many of today's island families are descended from U.S. Army soldiers. Join Park Historian Mike Vouri and learn more about how American
(continued on page 6)

Trails and Features

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. from parking area to summit.)

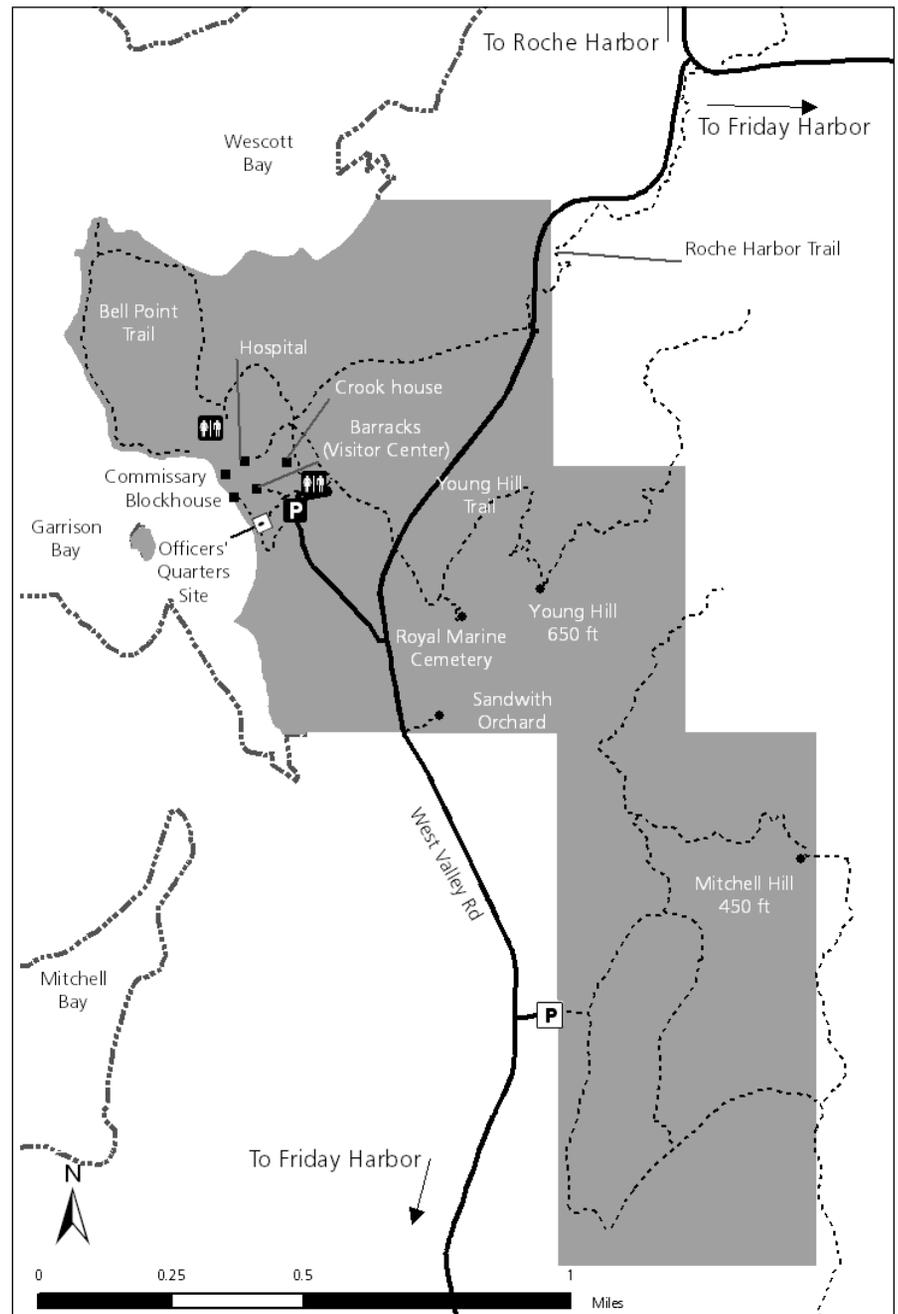
Royal Marine cemetery—The Royal Marine cemetery is about 50 yards off the Young Hill trail, about a third of the way up. Five Royal Marines are interred, and a memorial stone is in place for two other marines. A stone also commemorates a civilian who was accidentally shot by his brother while hunting.

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.)

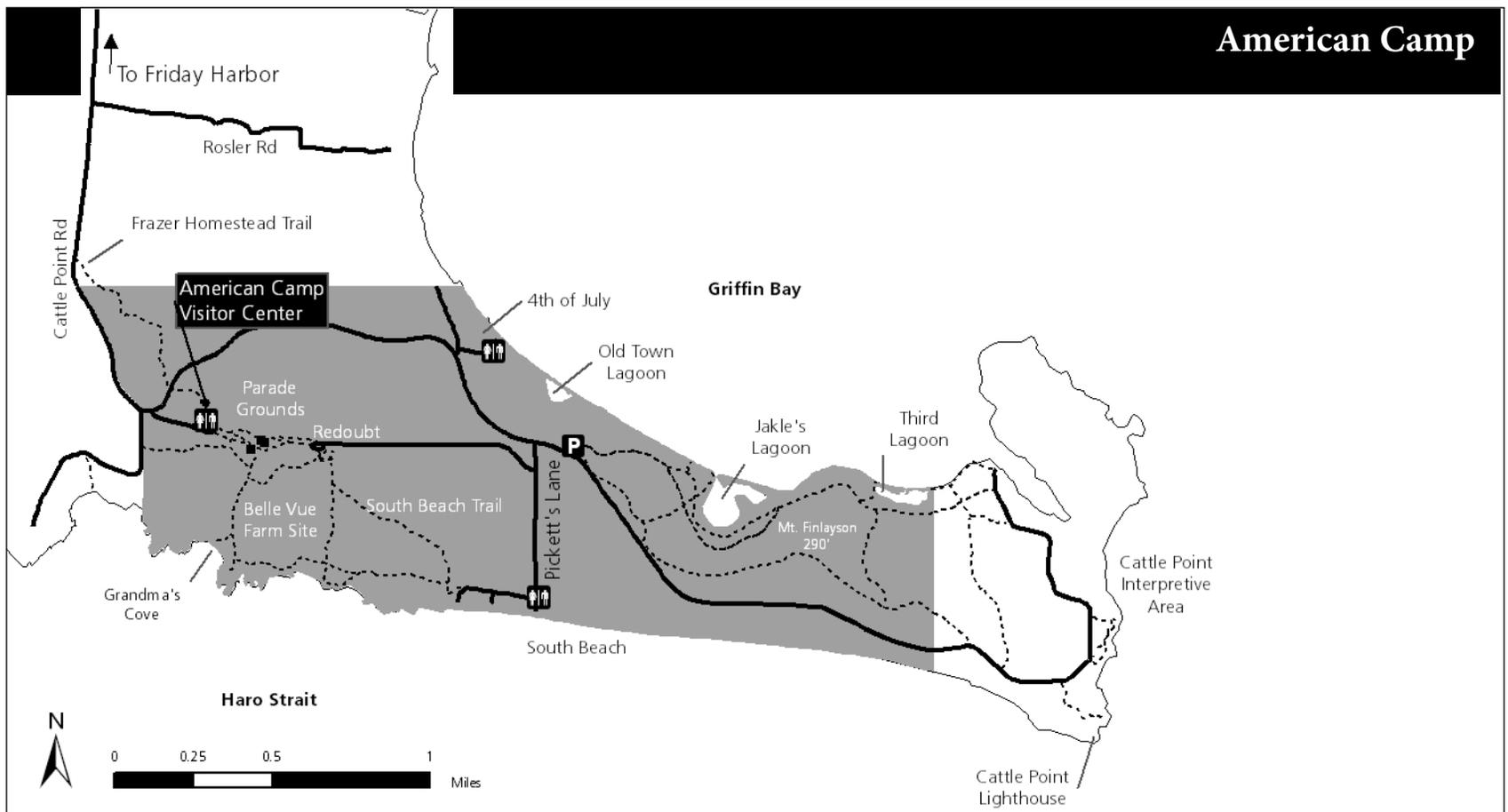
Self-guided walk—Relive the Royal Marine era along the trail that starts at the base of the main entrance trail. Pick up a guide in the box next to the bulletin board and follow the numbered posts. When finished, please return it to the box provided at the end of the walk. Or, you can purchase a guide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

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.

Roche Harbor trail—Follow in the footsteps of the Royal Marines to Roche Harbor Village. Ask a park ranger or volunteer for directions to the trail connection completed in 2010 in partnership with the San Juan Island Trails Committee and San Juan County Land Bank. (3-mi. one way.)



American Camp



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. loop.)

Frazer Homestead trail—Trace the route of the old Military Road from the Visitor Center north to Rosler Road on this joint project of the park and the San Juan Trails Committee. Highlights include two small prairies and a pine forest. (2.9-mi. round trip)

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. loop.)

Grandma's Cove—Stroll downhill to one of the finest beaches on the island. Use caution when descending the bluff. (.9-mi. round trip.)

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. to the lagoon.)

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.)

South Beach Trail—Follow the track of U.S. Army water wagons from the South Beach springs and enjoy the prairies in this trek starting just below the Redoubt. (2-mi. round trip from visitor center)

2012 Summer Program Guide: Something for everyone

(Continued from page 3)

Camp's "frontiersmen in blue" played a key role in pioneering Euro-American settlement on San Juan Island.

Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m., June 6 to August 29, meets at the American Camp visitor center.

Special Programs

All programs are free and open to the public, except where noted. Programs are subject to change without prior notice. For program updates, call the park at (360) 378-2240, ext. 2233; visit our web site at www.nps.gov/sajh or find us on Facebook.

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. to noon, Saturday, June 2, South Beach. Meets at Alaska Packer's Rock at the end of the Salmon Banks Road. Park in the main parking area.*

The Birds of American Camp — Come join San Juan Island bird expert and former national park ranger Barbara Jensen for a colorful 90-minute walk through American Camp's prairies. *7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday, June 3, meets at the American Camp visitor center.*

America's Pastime at American Camp — Join park rangers and volunteers for "gloveless" vintage base ball match conducted by park ranger Doug Halsey. All are welcome. You will be surprised at the other differences, and similarities, to today's rules. *Date, time and venue to be announced. Call (360)378-2240, ext. 2228 for information.*

Northwest Pioneer Folkways Demonstrations — Janet Oakley, author and former education coordinator for the Skagit County Historical Museum in LaConner, demonstrates pioneer folkways from butter churning to Dutch oven baking and other tasks performed on the frontier. *Noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 30, English Camp parade ground.*



Cowlitz weaver Judy Bridges demonstrates her craft at English Camp.

Pickett's Irish: The Irish in the U.S. Army in the 1850's — Folk musician Michael Cohen and historian Mike Vouri bring back this popular program that takes a closer look at the Irish in the 19th-century U.S. Army in words and song. *2 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, July 21, English Camp barracks.*

Encampment 2012 and Henry M. Jackson Centennial Celebration — Park staff, volunteers and re-enactors from throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada recreate life on San Juan Island at mid-19th century. This year's activities include black powder demonstrations with 19th-century

weapons. The event also will commemorate the centennial of U.S. Sen. Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson who co-wrote the legislation creating the park. The major highlight of the weekend will be the Candlelight Ball, an evening of dancing and refreshments, scheduled 8 to 10 p.m. on Saturday. *All day, Saturday and Sunday, July 28-29, English Camp.*

A Weaving Weekend — Weavers from throughout San Juan Island and 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 show how it was done with all-natural fibers, including wild reeds. The San Juan spinners and weavers, as well as islanders Anita Barreca and Roger Ellison, will also participate. *All day, Saturday and Sunday, August 4-5, English Camp parade ground.*

Safe Passage: The U.S. Coast Survey Steamer Active on the West Coast in the 1850s — The Coast Survey Steamer Active not only performed hydrographic surveys on coastal and inland waterways, but also played a key role in the settlement of the region. Historian Mike Vouri presents this Power Point slide program based on current research. *7 p.m., Saturday, August 11, San Juan Island Library.*

A Prairie's Life: A Continuing Dialogue — Join Park Historian Mike Vouri and Integrated Resources Chief Jerald Weaver for the latest prairie restoration information. Weaver and Vouri also will take questions concerning the park's plans to restore this valuable resource. *7 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 29, San Juan Island Library.*

Park to replace lower story of English Camp blockhouse

Visitors and islanders will have an opportunity this summer to see how log structures were built on the frontier when San Island National Historical Park maintenance crews replace the lower story of the Royal Marine blockhouse at English Camp.

Historians believe this blockhouse is an exact copy of the fortification brought to San Juan Island from Fort Bellingham by U.S. Army Capt. George Pickett in 1859 when the garrison was shifted en masse during the Pig War crisis. Each has an upper story skewed 45-degrees to repel attacks from all directions.

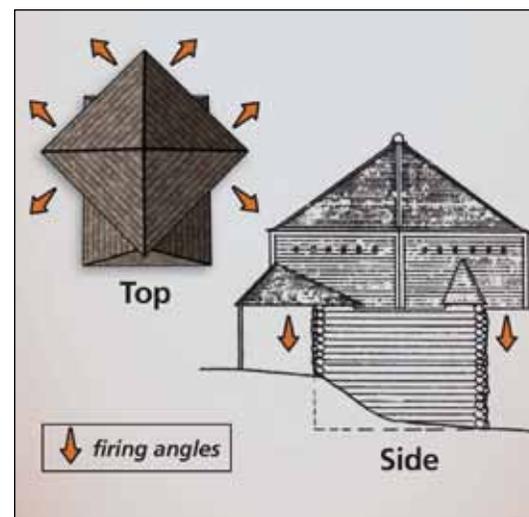
However, the buildings at both camps were primarily used as guardhouses with the guards occupying the lower floor and the prisoners in narrow cells upstairs. The only difference is that the American Camp blockhouse was fashioned from milled lumber.

The upper-story logs (hidden by siding) are authentic, but because of tidal action, the log base was replaced wholly in 1970 and partially (the bottom 10 logs) in 1995. Maintenance crews will notch and assemble the logs for the new lower structure at the north end of the English Camp parade ground, according to Ken Arzarian, park maintenance foreman. The logs will then be coded and the structure disassembled. The upper story will be raised and supported by jacks and cribbing while the current lower story is removed log by log.

The new structure will then be re-erected literally from the ground up, utilizing the same concrete vault installed by the national park Service in 1970, Arzarian said.

The English Camp blockhouse was standard U.S. Army design at mid-19th century. Fortifications and bridges were required subjects at West Point, taught by the formidable Prof. Denis Hart Mahan, who also wrote the text. Pickett probably dug through his trunk and pulled out a copy of *A Complete Treatise on Field Fortification* before he started sketching his design when he arrived on Bellingham Bay in August 1856.

He also drew upon the experiences of the settlers on Bellingham Bay who, as with many coastal communities in Washington Ter-



English Camp's Royal Marine blockhouse (left) is jacked up, c. 1970, to accommodate fresh logs for a new lower floor shown in foreground. Based on U.S. Army design, the blockhouse was built to repel attacks from every angle including below the raised and skewed upper floor.

ritory, had already erected a blockhouse, aptly called "Fort Defiance." This served as protection from raids by First Nations peoples from today's British Columbia mainland, Haida Gwaii and Southeast Alaska.

Mahan's book not only drew upon European principles perfected by Vauban (a 17th century French engineer), but also from a frontier fortification tradition that began with Jamestown in 1607. A typical fortification consisted of a stockade about eight feet high, with blockhouses at the corners to accommodate flanking fire over cleared fields of fire.

Whether or not a frontier fort was totally enclosed depended on the lay of the land, materials at hand and the

nature of potential enemies. Save for the basic construction techniques proscribed by Mahan, no two forts were ever alike.

For example, because no massed, surprise attacks were anticipated in Yakama country, Fort Simcoe, also built in 1856, was not enclosed, but possessed free-standing blockhouses for emergencies. The same went for Fort Steilacoom, just south of Tacoma. But taking a note of Fort Defiance, not to mention the hair-raising stories of Indians with firearms in 60-man canoes, Pickett elected to enclose Fort Bellingham.

Pickett found an enthusiastic purveyor of lumber, advice and labor in Whatcom co-founder, Capt. Henry

Roeder, who had milled timber for and helped build Fort Defiance. For Pickett's blockhouses, he provided "sawn logs, 8 inches thick, dovetailed...with port holes cut through them."

Each blockhouse was 22 feet square on first floor, with the slightly larger second story set atop the first at a 45 degree angle to allow for flanking fire. Roeder pointed out that the bastions at Fort Bellingham were placed "...on the opposite corners diagonally... so as to protect the two sides nearest to each. We had steps leading up to them from the inside of the stockade. The bastions were built the same as the blockhouses of square timber."

Prairie Stewardship

Restoring Balance & Integrity to a Legacy Landscape

I commenced the buildings on the banks of a rivulet in the centre of a dry elevated sheep run containing about 1500 acres of clear prairie land – James Douglas, Hudson's Bay Company



Just as the Hudson's Bay Company valued San Juan Island's natural prairies for farming in 1853, so did the settlers that followed. Native plants gave way to non-native crops and weeds, and native animals, like wolf and elk, were eliminated through hunting. By the 1900s, agriculture, livestock grazing, hunting, and fire suppression had decimated most of the native plants and animals on the island.

Today, less than three percent of the historic Puget Sound grasslands remain. The 600 acres of American Camp prairie are protected but not pristine. The park is working to restore prairie's natural balance by controlling non-native weeds, planting native grasses and wildflowers and using prescribed fire. To learn more about prairie restoration and how you can help, find us at nps.gov/sajh or on Facebook.

