



HERITAGE CORRIDOR

History On The Hill

The Newsletter of the South Hill Historical Society
South Hill, Pierce County, Washington

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Stealing Puget Sound

by Jerry Bates

“MY WIFE said I started working on a book in the fourth grade—kinda true,” said Dr. Jerry Ramsey, our May General Meeting speaker and author of the book *Stealing Puget Sound*. Jerry’s interest in history did begin early, while in elementary school on a field trip to Fort Nisqually at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. His fourth grade class visited the site and was told “incorrect history.” In those days, guides told the young visitors that “pioneers” built the fort. But his teacher announced on their return trip, “When we get back, I’ll tell you what really happened.’ That intrigued me—a secret!” said Jerry. The teacher informed the class that the fort was actually built by the Hudson’s Bay Company—long before the pioneers arrived.

Jerry has served on the Fort Nisqually Board and assured us that docents now tell visitors the correct history of the fort — it was a British fur trading post!

Before becoming an author, Dr. Ramsey had a long career as a public school teacher and part-time college professor. After retiring, he wrote for the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum and encouraged with positive feedback, decided to write the book while tending to his wife’s healthcare needs.

Explaining the provocative title *Stealing Puget*

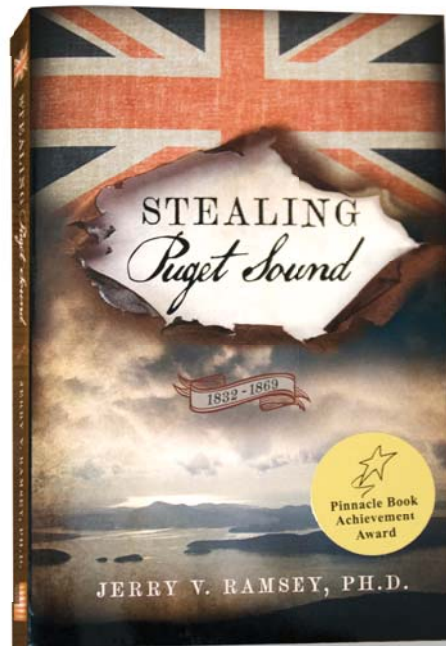
Sound, Jerry stated that Native Americans were here as the original inhabitants. Yet, “the Spanish came and decided they wanted it [Puget Sound]; the British came and said ‘Spain, get out, we want it!’ And then, Americans came along and said to the British, ‘get out, we want it.’”

The book details yearly operations of the British Hudson’s Bay Company at Fort Nisqually from 1832 to 1869. Carol Ann Johnson created illustrations for the book.

Fort Nisqually developed into a huge farming and ranching concern called the Puget Sound Agricultural Company. Its mission was to sustain all the HBC trading posts in the entire Columbia Department, an immense amount of land—roughly everything west of the Rockies to the Pacific Ocean between Russian Alaska and Spanish California. The farming and ranching operation to support

this covered a large part of what is today’s Pierce County.

The British dominated the Puget Sound area until the region became the focus of American migration. With the increasing number of American settlers, tensions grew. They were “bumping shoulders,” explained Jerry. The settlers saw a



future that included Americans—not the British. Jerry described this period as “the Cold War period leading up to the Pig War, a history lesson that’s not taught in our schools.” This is the forty-year period covered by *Stealing Puget Sound*.

Jerry explained that both British and Americans realized the territory between Spanish California and Russian Alaska was valuable—both countries wanted it. The British wanted it for fur trade but the Americans saw it as an “extension of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; an extension of Louisiana Purchase,” added Jerry. The countries agreed to a Joint Occupancy Treaty in which American settlers and the HBC property owners were given equal rights—a complex mix of interests resulted in arguments and confrontations.

The Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC) was established in 1670 and still exists today—the Canadian department store “The Bay” is a current descendent—and it’s the oldest corporation in the world. The fur trade, especially beaver pelts, drove the HBC interest in Northwest. The beaver hat was a gentleman’s fashion accessory for hundreds of years. It was so valuable that “a man would will his hat to his grandson... [it was] a family treasure...a typical worker would have to work a year to purchase one of those hats.”

However, HBC had a problem. Their trappers needed to eat, especially during the long winter months but they weren’t farmers. The solution lay on the vast prairieland south of Fort Nisqually. A separate company was created to divide the fur production part of the HBC from food production. The Puget Sound Agricultural Company was formed in 1838 with its own board of directors in London. The company would prove to be successful beyond expectations. Jerry commented, “At its peak the Puget Sound Agricultural Company had 12,000 head of sheep; 10,000 head of cattle; at least 600 horses; and 600 milk cows grazing. It was a huge agri-business.”

Many other activities and historical events were

included in Dr. Ramsey’s talk such as travel challenges between Forts of Puget Sound and Canada, the Wilkes Expedition of 1841, the extent of trade and most interesting the HBC impact on the local Indian tribes.

Our society recently heard a presentation from the Puyallup Tribe, and our guests commented on how local Indians suffered as a result of white man. Ultimately, that’s true and can’t be understated. However, Jerry related from the Indian point-of-view, the “British” impact on their lives was a good thing. Both sides benefited. Indian labor and furs were traded for manufactured goods, blankets, tools, clothing—nothing of great expense to the British but very coveted by the Indians, who felt they were coming out on top of the transaction. The tribes were very receptive to the changes being made to their lives; they eagerly wore European clothes and adopted farming from the newcomers, increasing their food supply—potatoes and other root crops were very successful and popular. The Nisqually tribes were peaceful and got along well with British and other nationalities at Fort Nisqually. As American settlement increased, this relationship would change.



Dr. Jerry Ramsey
author of *Stealing Puget Sound*

In 1934 the Young Men’s Business Club in Tacoma moved two original buildings still standing at the old fort site at DuPont WA—the granary and the factor’s house—to Point Defiance Park. So began the Fort Nisqually we’re all familiar with today.

Our newsletter only has space for brief highlights of general meeting presentations. However, we have a DVD of the entire talk available to all members to borrow or purchase. Contact Bob Ballou at mail@southhillhistory.com

Get Jerry’s book! It’s self-published and available by sending a \$30 check to Jerry Ramsey, PhD at Dog House Publishing, 3800 Bridgeport Way West Suite A-467, University Place, WA 98466.

The Old Site

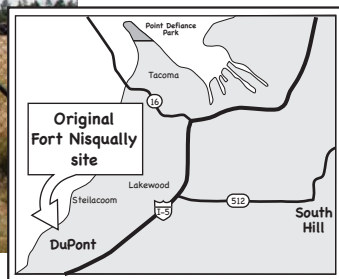
by Jerry Bates

All that remains are the black locust trees that once stood in front of the chief factor's house. This is the view one sees standing at the old Fort Nisqually site today at DuPont, WA. The fort's surviving buildings were long ago moved. In 1934, they became the basis of the fort's re-creation fifteen miles north at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, WA.

This site's location has been at the center of many historical transitions through the ages. Originally the Native American Sequelitchew tribe lived



Old Fort Nisqually site today



public. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. The area's historic significance has been respected by the Weyerhaeuser Co. and preserved and promoted by the DuPont Historical Museum and Cultural Center.

Historic Walk

From the museum, a trail crosses the old powder mill site. At the trailhead is a static display of the company narrow gauge train used to transport explosives to a company dock on the sound. This trail follows the rail path along Sequelitchew Creek down to the beach and former dock site. A branch of the trail also connects to the old Fort Nisqually location. Informative displays have been installed among the many historical points of interest passed while walking the trails.

Visit DuPont and the museum and enjoy all the history so close by—most of the trails are flat and paved. DuPont Museum, 207 Barksdale Avenue, DuPont WA. (253) 964-2399, www.dupontmuseum.com

nearby. In 1833, when Puget Sound was British territory, the Hudson's Bay Company established a fur trading post next to the Indian village. Upland from the village Fort Nisqually became the nerve center of the Hudson's Bay Company subsidiary called the Puget Sound Agricultural Company formed in 1838. Its last chief factor, turned American citizen, laid claim to the property years later after the company moved its operations to Vancouver Island, BC, Canada. Toward the end of his life, he sold the five-square-mile claim to the E.I. duPont de Nemours Company in 1906. The chemical company built a gunpowder and dynamite manufacturing facility (DuPont Powder Works) along with the company town — DuPont. In 1976, the Weyerhaeuser Company bought the land from DuPont. Today it's the Weyerhaeuser planned community of Northwest Landing. Fortunately, through all those transitions, the patch of ground where the fort stood remained undeveloped. Today the old site is easily accessible to the

The Magic Lantern

by Jerry Bates

Slide shows, or their equivalent, have been around longer than most realize—since the 1600s. Images appearing in darkened rooms using various means of front or rear projection seemed like magic to those seeing it for the first time. The projectors improved over the ages and advanced from producing rather dim images using candles and oil lamps to very bright images using carbon arch lamps in the 1800s.

We were fortunate to see one of these old magic lanterns in action thanks to John Potter, our June General Meeting guest speaker.

John began his talk by describing the old glass slide. Glass slides were used from earliest times in magic lanterns. He has a large collection of

them from the turn of the century. They require very careful handling, but “are pretty durable until you drop them,” said John. His machine (patented 1906) originally used a carbon arch light—“like big search lights but a smaller version,” stated John. He converted his projector to use a modern projector bulb but as with the carbon arch light “the slides get very hot and will crack within three minutes.” He has to keep changing slides quickly. The machine’s heat can make for burned fingers if not careful.

He collects and trades slides from hobbyists on eBay and buys them from antique stores. The slides from the period were illustrations and photographs. On some photographic slides, tinting was used to simulate color with varying degrees of expertise. Autochrome—a true color process—was developed in 1903. In John’s opinion, Autochrome was over promoted; and on the downside, “the photographer took half an hour to an hour to take a picture.” John brought along one of his Autochrome slides which, when projected, had a very light, muted color. This, along with the long exposure time, didn’t make them very popular.

This attempt at natural photographic color would be perfected with Kodachrome and Ektachrome film in the 1940s, about the time the old glass slide lanterns had become obsolete.

Most all the glass slides used with magic lanterns, including those in John’s collection, were black-and-white photographs. Color photos were very rare at the time. Color was more often used for illustrations or graphic slides. Examples included political candidate’s ads and early attempts at animated cartoons using “mechanical slides.” The projectionist would rapidly manipulate a back and forth motion in the slide mechanism, simulating movement. John brought along some of his mechanical cartoon slides—getting

many laughs from our audience.

The old magic lanterns were used along with motion pictures. John said, “Old movie theaters had only one projector. In between changing reels, the slide projector was used for coming attractions, advertising slides, and sing-along slides.”

John’s slide show included rare local historical images. He owns 150 slides of Seattle taken by photographer Asahel Curtis and one rare slide (locked away) taken by his famous brother, Edward Curtis. John included slides closer to home—of the Meeker Mansion during its sanitarium days; Ezra Meeker with his wagon; slides of Tacoma including the old County Court House, coal docks, and the yet to be completed luxury hotel that ultimately became Stadium High School; the pavilion at Point Defiance; and images of early Lakewood and Spanaway. We also viewed slides of Mt. Rainier National Park during the early days of automobile travel.

John is the owner of the only image of South Hill’s Willows Dance Hall. A slide of it was included at the meeting and generated much

comment from our members (Juanita Nordin’s parents first met there.) The Willows Dance Hall burned down in the 1930s.

John was impressed with the image technology of the time “they didn’t have Photoshop but were just as sneaky.” He demonstrated how the early photographers could combine images to include aircraft over water or put Mt. Rainier in convenient locations.

We thank John and wife Mary (the ‘slide helper’) for a very entertaining meeting—and no burnt fingers!



John Potter with his Magic Lantern and glass slide collection.

Paul Hackett Moving North

During our June General Meeting, Paul Hackett announced he and Joanne would be relocating many miles north of South Hill—to Oak Harbor, WA. We'll miss not seeing Paul quite so often. Paul and Joanne look forward to living close to their daughter plus enjoying the scenic beauty of their new Whidbey Island bay community. Paul promises to stay engaged with our society and we look forward to his future involvement. Besides being a Society founder and member emeritus, he has served as president, public relations officer, and is currently involved with archiving activities to which he has contributed greatly over the years. Sorry, Paul, you may have a new address but no retirement allowed!

Gift to Society



Paul Hackett, left, receives gift to the society of the *Natches Trail Preserve Draft* given by Alan Zulauf. Alan was president of the South Hill Council in 1970.

Garage Sale



The June Society fund-raiser garage sale was a great success! Held at the Highlands, a good time had by all. Thanks to our Emerald Ridge High School volunteers (left to right) Hailey Walker, Beverley Zook (event organizer), Carolyn Watson and Justin Mahon. Thanks also to the Highlands staff. We made over \$400!

Paintings Given To Society



Society president & archivist Wes Perkinson accepted paintings by the late Olive Parks McDonough from her daughter, Jennifer Clark. Olive, a longtime Society member, was a renowned artist who held one-woman art shows all over the United States.

2016 Scholarship Recipient



Every Spring, our Treasurer Ben Peters represents the South Hill Historical Society during scholarship ceremonies at either Rogers or Emerald Ridge High Schools. Our Society awards a \$500 scholarship from a fund set up by an anonymous member to a deserving high school senior heading off to college. This year's recipient was Kallie Sherwood of Emerald Ridge High School. Kallie plans to major in History at Whitworth University in Spokane.

Balloon Bombs Still a Danger

by Debbie Burtnett

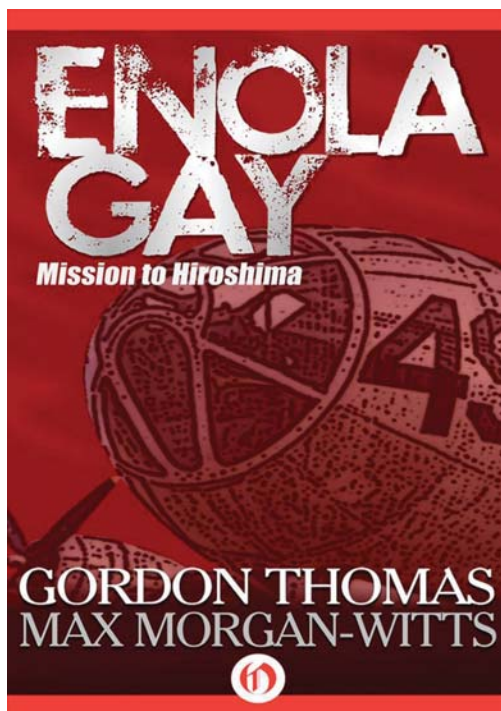
Our research historian, Carl Vest PhD, often revisits stories he has written and each updated version presents new facts and information for the readers of the Puyallup Herald or our SHHS Web site. As Editor-at-Large, this book reminded me of South Hill's history when I recognized the information about the Japanese balloon bombs, or Fu-Go program.

While America was developing and producing the bomb that would end the Second World War, Japan was developing balloon bombs to bring the war to the West Coast. The former story is told in *Enola Gay: Mission to Hiroshima*, and interestingly, describes the balloon bombs developed by Japanese scientists which struck twice on South Hill, at the Parks and Massie families' properties.

Enola Gay: Mission to Hiroshima is a history of the Enola Gay and its crew—especially the pilot—and its mission. Authors Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan-Witts released their 1977 work via Early Bird Books as one of the free or discounted books for enjoyment on Kindle, Nook, or other electronic device. With illustrations and both a Prologue and Epilogue, the book is divided into five lengthy chapters in terms of months—September 1, 1944 to June 27, 1945 and so on until the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and concluding with the Aftermath from August 7 to August 15, 1945. Bibliography, Index, and Appendices are thoroughly detailed at the end of the book. Colonel Paul Tibbets released his own story in 1998.

Japanese scientists had discovered “the great trade winds blow[ing] from east to west, from America to Japan, there is another wind, the Japan Current, which blows in the opposite direction.” Today, we know this wind as the jet stream.

Japanese scientist Dr. Sakyo Adachi “filled a balloon with gas and attached to it a small canister containing high explosive. The trial balloon bomb was launched and tracked for some distance by a Zero fighter. It climbed steadily into the Japan Current and then headed eastward on a journey, which would take it across the Pacific, passing north of Hawai'i, and eventually to the coast of the United States. Other balloon bombs followed. Radar was not yet advanced enough to warn of their approach.”



The Japanese Chief of Staff, Admiral Toyoda, “had promised to carry the war to the American shore” and ordered the production of balloon bombs, targeting America's West Coast. With favorable weather, the bombs could have reached Salt Lake City or even Chicago. Over six to nine thousand balloon bombs were launched, falling into the deserts of California and Nevada and Oregon's forests. Some might remain unexploded in remote areas of the American West.

For South Hill, this little-known bomb landed twice while other bombs landed in

Oregon, causing fires and six deaths—(a Sunday school teacher along with five children on a picnic.) Latest research estimates that of the 6,000-9,000 balloon bombs launched, most remain unaccounted for. Three hundred forty-two are known to have reached the States—including two in Nebraska; Oregon, 45; Two in Michigan; Alaska, 37; one in Lumby, B.C., Canada, that was 70 years old when found in 2014; 25 in California; and 28 in WA state—ironically, one landing at the Hanford Engineer Works, site of secret work in developing plutonium on the very bomb that would end the war!

For a fascinating article on this subject do a search on NPR.org website: "beware-of-Japanese-balloon-bombs"

From the Treasurer

by Ben Peters

Please call, e-mail or write any change of address to me, Ben Peters, 253-845-7028, poppa-ben2002@yahoo.com, South Hill Historical Society, Box 73582, South Hill, WA 98374.

Also, don't forget that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Dues, donations, etc., are fully deductible from your income taxes if you are able to do so. If you need a receipt for tax purposes, contact Ben.

Dues Reminder

I will attach a sticky note to the Society newsletter mailed closest to your renewal date. **No need to fill out the membership form unless there is a change of some kind.**

The South Hill Historical Society meets regularly on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month, 10:45 AM, (no meetings July and August) at The Highlands in the Community Center. This complex is located at 502 43rd Ave. SE, adjacent to and east of the Mel Korum YMCA.

We welcome you to our monthly meetings. For more information, contact Wes Perkinson at (253) 241-5397.

Where to Find Us



Reminder!
September's General Meeting will be at 6 PM.
Tuesday Sep. 20

Our Current Members

Andy G. Anderson	Steve Lukasiak
Andy & Ruth Anderson	Terry Maves
Elizabeth Anema	Laurienne Stewart Minnich
Marion Armstrong	Carolyn Nelson
Bob Ballou	Dorothy Nelson
Jerry Bates	Juanita & John Nordin
Susan Beals	Mark & Dorothy Norris
Katherine Bennett	Wes & Suzy Perkinson
Teresa Best	Ben Peters
Marilyn Burnett	Bill Riley
Debbie Burtnett	Gail Rinehart
Vernon Cox	Vern Rockstad
Dave & Patti Curtiss	Helen Rohlman
Robert & Lynn Daughtery	Earl Root
Karen Day	Stan Salmon
Pat Drake	Mark Starkel
Joan Ellis	Lori Stock
Arthur & Luverne Foxford	Meghan Sullivan
Ira Gabrielson	Marge (Crosson) Swain
Mary Glaser	Ralph & Yvonne Thorpe
Paul Hackett	Jade Trevere
Alberta Hagen	Margo L. & Joe Tucci
Cecil & Doris Herbert	Lee Van Pevenage
Evelyn Swalander Hess	Carl Vest
Wilma Walsworth Hinshaw	Neil & Celia Vincent
Alan & Linda Hoenhous	Joan Vosler
Joe & Rhoda Hoenhous	W. Louise Walsworth
Maybelle Hoenhous	W. Lynn Williams
Matt Holm	Lenore Nicolet Winton
Leslie Huff	Ed Zeiger
Dan Ingram	Hans Zeiger
Myrna K. Kucklick	Allan S. & Ellen M. Zulauf
Art & Lorraine Larson	Beverley Zook
Gary Leicht	

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South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

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E-mail Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Renewal, check here

Annual Dues: Society membership \$25.00

Note: Please do not send cash.

Make check or M.O. payable to South Hill Historical Society and mail with this application to:

**South Hill Historical Society, Box 73582,
South Hill, WA 98374**



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To: