



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 3, 2020

**Peek into San Juan Islands History: Postcards, Parks, and General Pickett**  
*"History Lives Here" brings island stories to life in May*

Friday Harbor, WA ... How is it that a porcine provocateur pilfering potatoes could start a war between the U.S. and Great Britain? While this might sound like a political cartoon, it's a true story. The history of the San Juan Islands shaped the state of Washington – literally. Discover the saga of the "Pig War," and other colorful stories during **History Lives Here – National Historic Preservation Month** ([www.visitsanjuans.com/history-lives-here](http://www.visitsanjuans.com/history-lives-here)) in the San Juan Islands.

Before Photoshop, innovative photographers used photographic manipulation and other techniques to create a novel and inexpensive new genre of souvenir known today as Exaggeration or Tall-Tale Postcards. While not convincing by modern photo and graphic design standards, they are impressive, considering the limited tools available at the turn of the century. The new exhibit in Friday Harbor's Sunshine Alley, [There's a Story Here: Exaggeration Postcards Imagined](#), provides a contemporary view of how islanders might exaggerate island life then...and now.

Janet Oakley is an award-winning author of historical fiction that spans the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to World War II with characters standing up for something in their own time and place. A Washington Humanities Speaker, she's toured the state giving talks about the Civilian Conservation Corps, their projects, and their impact on Washington state and national parks. Many of their projects are still evident in Orcas Island's Moran State Park, especially the iconic tower on the summit of Mt. Constitution, which Janet will focus on during her [talk](#) on May 21.

George Pickett became enshrined in history after the infamous "Pickett's Charge" at Gettysburg in 1863. But before he gave up his commission with the U.S. Army, he served in frontier outposts in the West. He was the founder of what we now know as American Camp on San Juan Island. For the first time, the quarters of George Pickett will be available for touring after complete restoration work of the interior. Drop by on a Sunday in May and explore what life at American Camp was like in the re-finished interior of this historic home.

With three historical museums and the San Juan Island National Historical Park, visitors can experience [San Juan Islands' history](#) all year. Check out the interactive [Museum of History and Industry](#) in Friday Harbor and [Encampment](#) at the National Historical Park. Take a [self-guided tour](#) of Friday Harbor, which has more than 150 historical sites within its walkable one-mile radius. Twenty-six of these are described in the [Historic Friday Harbor on Foot](#) Tour.

Dropbox link to photos:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/trfjd4wyngucsg8/AADVLGcsDdIHt4\\_xDfhQWzd2a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/trfjd4wyngucsg8/AADVLGcsDdIHt4_xDfhQWzd2a?dl=0) Please credit San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau for photos.

**History Lives Here Events:** More information and other events on May's *History Lives Here* and a list of historic lodging properties offering specials, may be found on the Visitors Bureau May History Page [www.visitsanjuans.com/history-lives-here](http://www.visitsanjuans.com/history-lives-here). For further information call 888.468.3701, ext. 1.

Share this:

###

Media Contact: Barbara Marrett, Communications Manager  
San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau, 360.378.6822 ext. 6 or [barbara@visitsanjuans.com](mailto:barbara@visitsanjuans.com)