Maritime Place Names

Inland Washington Waters

Richard W. Blumenthal

Maritime Place Names
Inland Washington Waters
Richard W. Blumenthal

Sucia Islands

islands, with a reef off the north side of the group, and a beautiful harbor [Echo Bay] a mile long and half a mile wide, opening to the east, and carrying from 10 to 15 fathoms sticky mud bottom," (*Report* 434). It is difficult to determine what Davidson was counting and which large rocks or small islands were included. But the primary islands were Sucia, Little Sucia, Herndon, South Finger, North Finger, Justice, Ewing, and a host of other rocks and reefs. The first settler on Sucia was Charles Henry Wiggins who arrived in Mud Bay in the 1880s. He and his wife Mary raised seven boys and four girls there. The family built a house, barn, and root house. They raised foxes, cows, and sheep, tended a fruit orchard, and grew clover for the livestock. The house was located at the northwestern side of Mudd Bay. The family left the island in 1903. From the late 1800s to about 1909, workers quarried sandstone in Fossil Bay. The owners built a barracks and cookhouse in the back of Mud Bay. The operation folded when the sandstone was found to be too soft. However, enough was extracted to construct a dry dock at Bremerton (with the last shipment in 1895) and the lower five floors of the County-City Building in Seattle. The Harnden family (Harnden Island at the entrance to Mud Bay) resided on the island during the quarry days. They moved into the barracks in 1918 and lived there until a 1929 fire destroyed the buildings. After that, they built a house on a barge, anchoring it in Mud Bay. The family remained in the bay until 1942 and eventually moved to North Beach on Orcas (Cummings and Bailey 128, 129). In 1929, John G. Von Herberg, a motion picture theater owner, purchased 251 acres, almost half the island. He sold to Wilbur H. Johnston of Orcas in 1946 who established a summer camp and continued to acquire property on the main island until he owned all 551 acres. In 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston contacted the Puget Sound Interclub Association founded by Everett (Ev) George Henry from Seattle, which represented thirty-six Northwest boating organizations. They worked out an arrangement for Interclub to purchase the land for $25,000. The land was turned over to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in April 1960. After several additional acquisitions, the final of which occurred in 1974, the state owned the entire island. In his honor, the southwest tip of Fossil Bay carries the name Ev Henry Point. Although it is not reflected on current marine charts nor recognized by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, it is shown on the Park and Recreation pamphlet obtainable on the island (McDonald 157; Bailey and Nyberg, *San Juan Islands* 153; McDonald, Lucile. "Sucia Island, Haven for Boaters." *Seattle Times*, July 3, 1960. Magazine Section p 5).

Sugarloaf Island
Located near the southern entrance to the Swinomish Channel off the southern end of Fidalgo Island, the origin of the name is unknown.

Sugarloaf [21] #6300, 1895
The peak is located less than a mile north of Mount Erie on Fidalgo Island. Davidson referred to it as Sugar Loaf in the 1889 *Pacific Coast Pilot* (562, 564)
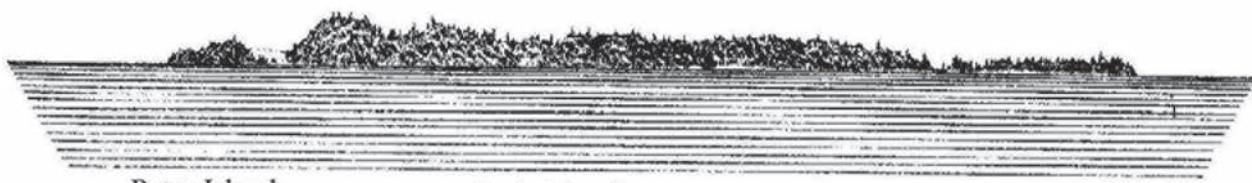
Patos Island   Sucia Islands

but does not indicate who named it or why. How the name changed from Sugar Loaf to Sugarloaf is unknown, although it may be because of an aversion to two-word place names.

Sugarloaf Mountain

It is located on the western side of San Juan Island, east of Smallpox Bay, just north of Trout Lake. McLellan wrote: "At a distance of approximately one and one-half miles to the north of the summit of Mount Dallas, there is an abrupt ridge-shaped elevation known as Mount Grant which is 680 feet in altitude. Mount Grant is scantily covered with soil and conifers occur only in scattered patches." Per Kevin Loftus of the San Juan County Museum, some maps reflect the name Sugarloaf (Sept. 25, 2010 email to author), although it is not a recognized name by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. It is not named on current charts.

Sullivan Slough

See La Conner.

Sunlight Beach

Located east of Deer Lagoon on Useless Bay at the southern end of Whidbey Island, the origin of the name is unknown.

Sunken Rock

According to the GNIS database, this is located on the western side of San Juan Island about a half mile south of Deadman Bay. It's simply a small rock unnamed on current charts. The name is likely descriptive.

Sunken Rock

According to the GNIS database, this is "a submerged bar off the S coast of Shaw Island." Based upon the latitude/longitude included in the database, it is approximately a quarter mile southeast of Hoffman Cove.

Sunny Bay

Located on the northern side of Hale Passage, west of Cromwell, the south-facing bay was likely named because it enjoyed the sunshine on clear days.

Sunny Shore Acres

Located on Camano Island on the western side of Port Susan, the origin of the name is unknown.

Sunrise Beach

Located on the western shoreline of Colvos Passage, it was named as a good location to watch the sunrise (Palmer, 81). It is directly across the passage from Sunset Beach on Vashon Island.

Sunrise Cove

Located on the eastern side of Lummi Island, it was likely named as a good location to watch the sunrise.

Sunset Beach

Located north of Onamac Point on the western side of Camano Island, the origin of the name is unknown.

Sunset Beach

Located on the western side of Vashon Island, it was likely named as a good location to watch the sunset.

Sunset Beach

Located on Eld Inlet, the name is not shown on charts but is reflected on topo maps.

Sunset Beach

Located on Fidalgo Island between Shannon and Green Points, it was likely named as a good location to watch the sunset.

Sunset Point

Located on the western side of San Juan Island between Smugglers Cove and Smallpox Bay, although it is likely descriptive, the origin of the name is unknown.

Suqaualus Point [7d] #146, 1841, Wilkes

See Hazel Point.

Suquamish

Located on the western side of Port Madison, the community was home to Chief Seattle and Old Man House. *O-le-man*, the Indian name for the dwelling is Chinook for "strong man." Whites converted this to Old Man House. When Wilkes surveyed the area in 1841, he measured it at 72 by 172 feet (Wilkes, *Narrative* 480). Hitchman (216) wrote that it was 60 by 520 feet. Chief Seattle died there in 1866 and is buried in the Saint Peter's Mission Cemetery of the Catholic Church in Suquamish (Carlson 25-28). In 1824, Work wrote (213): "On the West side we came through the Soquamis Bay from which there is a small opening to the Westward [Agate Pass]. … We stopped at the Soquamis village situated in the bay of

Urchin Rocks
Located near Deception Pass, west of Rosario Head, it was likely named for the wildlife there.

Useless Bay [7d] #146, 1841, Wilkes
Located at the southern end of Whidbey Island, Wilkes named it for its lack of shelter (Meany, *Origin* 322).

Utah Rock
Located off the western side of San Juan Island south of False Bay, Hitchman (316) indicated that it was named by the Puget Sound Marine Station at Friday Harbor and honored the State of Utah.

Utsalady, Utsalady Bay, & **Utsalady Point**
Located on the northern end of Camano Island, Meany (*Origin* 323) indicated that the name comes from the Indian word for "land of berries." Another source insists that the name was a corruption of the Salish name *Atsuládi* meaning "pointing corner" referring to the angle formed by the island as it points toward Whidbey Island. A favorite fable of mine was that the name originated from a Scottish settler whose wife was expecting. The morning after the stork visited, a neighbor hollered out, "What is it?" The Scotsman replied, "Uts-a-laddy!" Lawrence Grennan, Marshall Campbell, and a third man named Thompson founded a spar camp in 1853. A ship carrying their machinery from San Francisco became stranded on the Columbia Bar. The captain threw everything overboard to lighten his load, and the spar camp went bankrupt (Hilbert et. al., 372; Dean 11). Because of the quality lumber in the area, mill work grew over the years. In 1857, Capt. Isaac Parker financed a mill at Utsalady. The new partnership of Grennan and Thomas Cranney (husband of Sarah Coope) took over the mill and began delivering spars and lumber early the following year. The mill had a capacity of 64,000 board feet a day. By 1860, there were fifty-six men, most working at the mill or spar camp, one woman (married), and her child (Joergenson VII; Dean 15). As was true in other seaports, Utsalady had its share of mariners who tired of onboard duties and jumped ship. One night, four young men tried. Three of them, Peter Frostad, Andrew Olsen, and Hans Boreson were successful. Frostad settled on Whidbey Island southwest of the Strawberry Point area. Olsen settled elsewhere on Whidbey. Boreson worked at the mill and homesteaded near Rocky Point. In 1899, he sold and settled in Livingston Bay. Locals in Puget Sound country well remember his grandson, Stan (Dean 20). Utsalady Bay and Utsalady Point are both named for the community. Davidson wrote: "There is a very extensive saw-mill located here, capable of a daily output of a hundred thousand feet of lumber; there is deep water close to the wharves, and capital protection in all weathers. Vessels reach it by the south entrance to possession Sound, through Port Gardner, and Saratoga Passage to Point Demock [Rocky Point]" (1889 *Pacific Coast Pilot* 601). In 1957 and again in 1969, the spelling was questioned. In both cases, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names agreed to the current name over the variant Utsaladdy (GNIS files).

Valerianos, Mount
There are two peaks south of Mount Dallas on San Juan Island. The Washington State Board entertained an attempt in 1991 to name them for Juan de Fuca's Greek name, Apostolos Valerianos. The taller of the two would be Mount Valerianos and the shorter Mount Apostolos. Proponent suggested these were seemingly unnamed but then later identified them as Richards' Little Mountain and Mount Little. The proposal to rename these places failed, but the Washington State Board indicated that they would entertain an alternate location. Somehow, the proponent selected an unnamed peak in a wilderness area in the Olympic Mountains. In late 1992, the Washington State Board approved the name. Federal guidelines do not permit naming features in wilderness areas unless there is a substantial need for the name. As such, this is one of those rare instances where the name is officially recognized by Washington State but is not an accepted name by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Thus, it cannot appear on any documents created by the federal government (e.g., charts, topo maps, etc.) but may appear on documents created by Washington State.

Van Asselt
See Alki Point.

Vanderfords Harbor [7d] #146, 1841, Wilkes; [7h] #154, 1841, Wilkes
See Wollochet Bay.

Chart 24 - [17] #27, 1862, U.S. Coast Survey