Cayou Channel
San Juan County - Name Change

Township: 36N
Range: 2W
Section: 21,22,23,24,26,27

USGS Quad: Shaw Island

Location Description: Bay; approx. 1.5 sq. miles; located between Shaw Island and Orcas Island in San Juan County.

Proposal Summary: CAYOU CHANNEL: Bay; approx. 1.5 sq. miles; located between Shaw Island and Orcas Island in San Juan County.; Name would honor Henry Cayou (1869-1959). Mr. Cayou was a prominent member of the commercial fishing industry and processing plant in Deer Harbor and farmed on Decatur Island.; San Juan County, Washington; Sec 21,22,23,24,26, and 27, T36N, R2W, Willamette Meridian; 48° 35' 23.653" N, 122° 55' 44.763" W; USGS map - Shaw Island 1:24,000.

Currently name Harney Channel, the proponent wishes to honor Henry Cayou. Mr. Cayou was a prominent member of the commercial fishing industry and processing plant in Deer Harbor and farmed on Decatur Island. It is presumed that Mr. Henry regularly transmitted this particular channel.

Proponent:
Ken Carrasco
PO Box 336
Orcas, WA 98280

Proposal Received: 4/15/2021
Initial Consideration: 10/26/2021
Final Consideration: 4/26/2022

WA Committee Decision: Approved for Final Consideration
WA Board Decision:
US Board Decision:

Opinions:
San Juan County Council - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
San Juan Historical Museum - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
San Juan County GIS - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
San Juan County Emergency Management - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
San Juan County Public Works - WAITING FOR RESPONSE
WA State Historical Society - WAITING ON RESPONSE
Proposed Name: Cayou Channel (a renaming of Harney Channel)

County: San Juan

Township: 36 N  Range: 02 W  Section(s): 22-27

Lat. 48° 35' 28.73" N., Long. 122° 56'39.36" W (Begin)

Lat. 48° 35' 06.41" N., Long. 122° 53' 51.24" W (End)

Description

Type of feature: Marine waterway

Description of feature:

Harney Channel, as it is currently named, is the navigable marine waterway between Shaw and Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands. Its western limit is the longitude of Orcas Village according to Volume 10 of the US Coast Pilot. The eastern limit is at Hankin Point at the northeastern extreme of Shaw Island and can be thought to tend northeast at some undefined angle. The channel is about a half-mile in width and roughly two miles long.

If a stream, number of months of flow: N/A

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? No other names known.
Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when?

Harney Channel is so named on federal NOAA charts and on commercial charting programs and maps. It is listed in the US Coast Pilot as a Minor Channel.

History

Origin of name:

Indigenous peoples can be assumed to have used this waterway for thousands of years, but their names for it are not known to these applicants. It was first described post-contact by the European culture in 1841 by the US Exploring Expedition led by Charles Wilkes. There is no record, that we know of, of any name given to this waterway by Wilkes’ party. That expedition typically named features in our county after naval heroes of the War of 1812 but, as General William S. Harney (1800 – 1889) was too young to participate in that conflict, it is unlikely that Harney Channel was named by the US Ex Ex for him.

Rather, the name Harney Channel is first found on British Admiralty charts of 1861 according to the researcher and author Richard Blumenthal\(^1\). However, the reasoning behind the name is a mystery to us as General Harney’s anti-British sentiments were well-known at the time and Harney had only been to the San Juan Islands once, for an inspection trip lasting only a couple of days, and most probably stayed in Griffin Bay well to the south of this channel. And far from contributing to the well-being of our islands, he almost brought war here during the Pig War (below).

We are proposing this name change because we feel that General William S. Harney committed a range of reprehensible crimes against humanity and is unworthy of the honor of commemoration in the state of Washington. A partial list of major incidents would include:

- As a colonel in 1855, Harney commanded a massacre by 600 soldiers on a village of about 250 Brulé and Oglala Sioux in Nebraska in “The Battle of Ash Hollow” (aka “The Battle of Blue Water Creek”)\(^2,3\). After first initiating a false peace talk with their chief so that his cavalry could sneak undetected behind the tribe, Harney ordered the attack which killed at least 86 Native Americans — the dead included not only warriors but also unarmed women, children, and the elderly. The survivors were forced to march over 140 miles to the nearest fort where they were imprisoned; many of them walked barefoot since most had been asleep in the early morning attack and their belongings were either kept by the soldiers after the battle as souvenirs or were burned. Harney’s biographer, George Rollie Adams, stated that “Although Washington officials who ordered the punitive expedition

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\(^3\) Hendee, David. May 30, 2017; updated October 16, 2019. Artifacts that tell story of massacre in Nebraska Territory will be displayed at state historical park. Nebraska World-Herald, Omaha, NE.
must share blame for the slaughter, Harney carried out the assignment with uncommon ferocity and vindictiveness” (page 133 in Adams 2001).

- In 1836, Major Harney beat a woman to death with a rawhide whip. She was a black slave owned by a relative, and Harney thought she knew where his keys had been placed so he beat her until she would tell him. A coroner’s jury ruled that she “came to her death by wounds inflicted by William S. Harney” and a county grand jury indicted him for murder. A subsequent trial found him not guilty, but commentators felt this result was to be expected concerning the death of a black person at the hands of a white in the 1830s.

- In 1859, General Harney famously drew the United States very close to armed conflict with Great Britain during the Pig War⁴. It was Harney who placed our military to confront Britain, and it took the Commanding General of the United State Army, Winfield Scott, to personally come to the Pacific Northwest from Washington D.C. to correct Harney’s impudent acts and lessen the possibility of war. One of the applicants of this proposal (Ken) is a military veteran and it has been an interesting exercise to speculate on the intensity and duration of such a war if Harney’s superiors had not intervened; thought of now as a quaintness from a previous age, that war actually could have spread into a protracted and expanded conflict with global ramifications.

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⁴ Vouri, Mike. 2016. The Pig War: Standoff at Griffin Bay. Discover Your Northwest, Seattle, WA.
If a commemorative name, provide a summary of the life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature.

All of Henry Cayou’s 90 years of life were spent in the San Juan Islands, in dramatic contrast to General Harney, and he can be presumed to have often traveled this channel which lies between his residences and businesses at Orcas’ Deer Harbor and Decatur Island.

Henry Cayou was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and was interred on Orcas upon his passing in 1959. His father was a trapper who was a very early settler of Orcas Island and his mother was from the longstanding indigenous villages on the shorelines of what is now known as Mitchell and Garrison Bays on San Juan Island, and she had Samish and Lummi relations. Henry Cayou’s first wife is often spoken of as Tlingit, but there is some question; certainly, though, she was Coast Salish. Many Native people in our area consider Henry Cayou as a relative and his relations can be found throughout the Salish Sea including Lummi, Swinomish, and Samish.

Henry Cayou also moved easily in the white world. He was a highly successful commercial fisherman (trapping and seining), and his fish processing plant at Deer Harbor was so successful that it kept local people employed even through the depression in the 1930’s. He was also an early local maritime leader, owning a steam tug and a successful boatyard in partnership with his brothers-in-law at Reads Bay of Decatur Island. He also farmed a 500-acre tract on Waldron Island and participated in the initiation of the local electric cooperative in the early 20th century which is now known as OPALCO (Orcas Power and Light Cooperative).

Henry Cayou was elected to the San Juan County Council, where he served 29 years and was chair when Friday Harbor was incorporated. He is the only Native American to have been elected to this county’s board or council. Henry Cayou moved easily through both the Native American and white cultures and can be seen as a bridge between these cultures.

Certification by Board of County Commissioners
Chairman Henry Cayou of an election 112 years ago in San Juan County. Displayed in the Friday Harbor City Hall.

Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of this feature?

This channel is used by vessels including Washington State Ferries, other commercial craft including fishing boats and whale watching tours, recreational vessels, and residential houses also overlook this waterway.
Safety was a concern; the applicant Ken Carrasco, a US Coast Guard veteran who currently holds a captain’s license, was initially concerned about potential navigational confusion during the interim period while the new name becomes commonplace. However, two unequivocal and very obvious navigational points of reference – the state ferry landings – lie within this channel, are well-marked on charts, well-lit at night, and are commonly referred to while navigating.

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest:

The proposed new name of Cayou Channel will finally give wide recognition to a life-long resident who was instrumental in shaping the economic and political framework of our county including the infrastructure we depend upon and enjoy today. Again, he was a bridge between the indigenous and white cultures, and adopting his name will honor the First Peoples who lived in harmony with the natural world for millennia before us.

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom?

The term “Cayou” has not yet been applied in any way to this channel. Otherwise, in the region the name Cayou is currently applied only to a small commercial marina in Deer Harbor near the location of his former fish processing plant and to a tiny island off Decatur Island in southern Lopez Sound. Cayou Island is only about one acre in size and lies between Rim and Ram Islands at the western entrance of Lopez Pass near the former location of “Reed and Cayou” [Boatyard]. The story of why this island was so named has apparently been lost to history.

We feel the marina and island are sufficiently distant from the channel and are of such different types of landmarks that they would not be confused.

List all sources of information used for your research, including background history:

Should our application be passed through your Initial Consideration phase, we will formally list a bibliography.

The source of information regarding General William S. Harney is plentiful; he has his own page on Wikipedia, a Ph.D. dissertation was written about his life which was ultimately published as a popular book (the reference of George Rollie Adams mentioned above), and multiple Army records exist. In addition, there are multiple smaller references to his life – even highway markers in Nebraska noting the location of the Battle of Ash Hollow.

The sources of information on Henry Cayou are expectedly more vague but do exist. Some, however, are family sources. There are citations available at the Orcas Historical Library as well as other similar organizations. Again, we will include them in our final evaluation.

What type of support is there for the proposed name?

We are publicizing this proposal in our community through the media, both print and social, including guest columns published in the three local county newspapers.

We also initiated a petition on a commonly used website at the link change.org/renameharney, and at the time of this update we have 843 signers to the petition.
Notably, our proposal has attracted national coverage in the Native American community. The well-respected news source Indian Country Today has given our proposal wonderful coverage with both a 7-minute newscast and an extensive article:

The newscast starts at minute 19:00 and can be accessed at: https://indiancountrytoday.com/newscasts/mary-kim-titla-04-27-2021.

The article is located at: https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/a-bridge-between-cultures

We were interviewed on KUOW, the National Public Radio affiliate in Seattle, and are published on their podcast at https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/efforts-are-underway-to-rename-harneychannel-near/id1044408194?i=1000518729417.

Incidentally, we were contacted by a descendant of General Harney when we first initiated this process and he apparently speaks for the family. He is very supportive of the name change as they feel he should not be honored by having a channel named for him. In 2016, Harney’s descendants, in fact, were instrumental in helping to change the name of Harney Peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota to Black Elk Peak.

Application submitted by:

Name: Ken Carrasco (Orcas Island) and Stephanie Buffum (Shaw Island)
Contact address: (Ken is contact) PO Box 336 City: Orcas State: WA Zip: 98280
Phone #: (360) 820-5014 Email: acmeleaf@gmail.com Date of App: Original April 15, 2021; Updated: October 15, 2021

I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.

Printed name: _____ Ken Carrasco _____
Signature: ______ (signature is on original April 15 application) ______

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Supplement to the Application
to the Washington State Board of Geographic Names
to rename “Harney Channel” in the San Juan Islands
to “Cayou Channel”

Ken Carrasco (Orcas Island) and Stephanie Buffum (Shaw Island), email: acmeleaf@gmail.com

Results of our petition on
Change.org as of 9/21/21
List of signers available upon request

Page:
1 Petition “Dashboard” showing 812 supporters (signers) as of September 21, 2021.
2 Initial Change.org petition, posted online April 15, 2021
4 Update to petition, posted May 5
6 Comments left by petition signers
Rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands

Ken Carraseo started this petition to Washington Department of Natural Resources Washington State Committee on Geographic Names

We are proposing that Harney Channel, a body of water in the San Juan Islands of Washington State, be renamed. It was originally named by the British around 1860 for General William S. Harney (1800-1889). A group of us who reside in the islands feel that General Harney does not deserve the honor because he was responsible for a number of heinous incidents to Native Americans and black people which do not reflect the values we hold today – or even at that time.

Instead, we are proposing that this water be renamed for Henry Cayou (1869-1959), who lived in the San Juan Islands through his entire life of 90 years and was a major figure in both the Native American and white communities. He was truly a bridge between cultures.

General Harney is particularly notorious for the following incidents, and we encourage you to consult Wikipedia or other online sources for more information:
- In Missouri in 1834, then-Major Harney killed a young black woman with a cane. The act, which of course would be considered murder today, was considered heinous even by 1830s standards. At that time, the Cincinnati newspaper called him “a monster!”.
- In Nebraska in 1855, Brigadier General Harney commanded about 600 soldiers in the Battle of Ash Hollow (aka Battle of Blue Water Creek and also as the Harney Massacre). Harney engineered the killing of 86 Sicangu Lakota warriors, taking their 70 women and children, many of them wounded, as prisoners. The chief of the Sicangu Lakota, Little Thunder, had tried to de-escalate the situation the night before, but Harney was adamant in his demands which led to the battle. Harney engaged the chief in false peace talks while his soldiers crept around and took
positions behind the Sicangu Lakota. Their belongings either torched or taken as souvenirs, the survivors were forced to walk 140 miles to the nearest Army fort, most of them without shoes.

- As the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army’s Department of Oregon, which included the San Juan Islands, he is widely considered to have needlessly escalated the potential for armed conflict during the so-called Pig War of 1859-60 by sending troops to the island. The Commanding General of the Army had to recall Harney from his command and bring us back from war.

In contrast, Henry Cayou was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and passed away in 1959. He is interred on Orcas Island. His father was a trapper who was a very early settler on Orcas and his mother was Lummi; her people’s point of origin story is centered on San Juan Island. Henry Cayou’s first wife was Tlingit and many Native people in our area consider him their ancestor. His relations can be found throughout the Salish Sea, including at Lummi, Swinomish, and Samish.

Cayou was a highly successful commercial fisherman (trapping and seining), was an early local maritime leader (owner of a steam tug and several fishing boats), farmed a 500-acre tract on Decatur Island, and was a co-founder of the local electric cooperative. Very notably, Henry Cayou was a member of the San Juan County Board of County Commissioners for 29 years and was chairman for a significant time on the commission. His signature is on Friday Harbor’s incorporation documents displayed in Friday Harbor Town Hall.

We realize that the renaming of a body of water can have implications to navigation, but Harney Channel, which is just two miles long and averages a half-mile wide, has other landmarks such as two state ferry landings which are routinely used by mariners as points of reference. The authority of marine charting, the Coast Pilot published by the U.S. National Ocean Survey, considers Harney Channel to be a minor passage.

A precedent for renaming a topographic feature named after Harney occurred in 2016 when Harney Peak in South Dakota’s Black Hills was renamed to Black Elk Peak by the state and federal governments in response to a proposal by local tribes and citizens.

We will be applying to the Committee of Geographic Names of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and public support is essential for adoption of a name change.

Naming landmarks and bodies of water is important for our convenience in navigation, but has also traditionally served as an opportunity to honor people, especially residents, who have had a lasting influence culturally and economically on the land and the community. The names we choose help tell the story of a place. Renaming this channel to honor Henry Cayou will satisfy this opportunity.

Thank you for signing this petition. You will be supporting our efforts to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel – in recognition of an Indigenous islander and 20th century fishing, maritime and political leader. Our email address is renameharneychannel@gmail.com.

- end of initial petition -
PETITION UPDATE

The petition to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel has over 700 signers!

Ken Carrasco
Orcas, WA, United States


MAY 5, 2021 —
THANKS TO YOU, we now have over 700 signers to the Rename Harney petition!! And a double thank-you to those who included their reason for signing. We are already aware of opposition to this proposal so support from each and every one of you is crucial!

Media coverage has been wonderful, including from the indigenous communities. Indian County Today, the preeminent national First Nations news source, has given us tremendous coverage with both a 7-minute newscast and an extensive article:

Newscast, starting at minute 19:00:  https://indiancountrytoday.com/newscasts/mary-kim-titla-04-27-2021

Online story:  https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/a-bridge-between-cultures
And then an interview with KUOW, Seattle’s NPR affiliate:  https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/efforts-are-underway-to-rename-harney-channel-near-1044408194?i=1000518729417

In addition, our story has run in all three of the local newspapers in San Juan County.

We also have a Facebook page, Cayou Channel. Please “like” us so you can keep up with our progress with this proposal.

We have already been communicating with the staff at the State of Washington responsible for the geographic names process and they are encouraging. They told us that we are going about this renaming process in the right way. The committee may be meeting in June and, thanks to your signatures, we will be ready.

Thanks again for your support, and please help spreading the word about this proposal! The website, again, is: change.org/renamewhere

By the way, we have more information about Harney’s conduct as commander at the Battle of Ash Hollow against the Sioux (pictured here in a public domain drawing). And, although it’s behind a paywall, the Omaha-Herald ran an extensive article on July 21, 2017 about the battle. Finally, we see that the Ellsworth American on July 15, 1855, quoted the Boston Journal about that battle which General Harney commanded:

“...a cold-blooded massacre; in which the rule of civilized warfare was disregarded, and in which every sentiment of honor and humanity were outraged. The course pursued by General Harney, in abusing the flag of truce, seems to us as treacherous and as criminal as that of the pirate on the ocean, who displays a friendly flag until he has lured his unsuspecting victim within his reach, and then runs up the skull and cross bones, and pours forth his death dealing broadsides.”

—end of update—
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Asterino</td>
<td>LOPEZ ISLAND</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-17</td>
<td>&quot;Yes, This water should be named after Henry Cayou who helped bridge communities.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Glazer</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>60622</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-18</td>
<td>&quot;Though I the FB icon attached to my name say's Chicago, I have lived on Orcas Island for nine years now. I agree that the name should be changed.&quot;</td>
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<td>Gene Heifman</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-18</td>
<td>&quot;long overdue.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariann Carrasco</td>
<td>Orcas</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98280</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-18</td>
<td>&quot;About time!!!&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Barr</td>
<td>Anacortes</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98221</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-18</td>
<td>&quot;This honors a more holistic historical representation of this place.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Alderton</td>
<td>Deer Harbor</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98243</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-19</td>
<td>&quot;Harney’s awful legacy is a disgrace. Honoring Henry Cayou is a wonderful plan!&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janice Williams</td>
<td>Eastsound</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98245</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-19</td>
<td>&quot;representation in names are the underlining pulse of the public. Let’s right this wrong.&quot;</td>
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<td>Paul Henrikson</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-19</td>
<td>&quot;Henry Cayou should be honored and Harney should not.&quot;</td>
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<td>Scott Pinegar</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-19</td>
<td>&quot;Compelling rationale for honoring Cayou and consigning Harney to ignominy.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jess Newley</td>
<td>Friday Harbor</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98250</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-19</td>
<td>&quot;Names are important!&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Borgquist</td>
<td>Friday Harbor</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98250</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-19</td>
<td>&quot;Becky borgquist*</td>
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<td>Cathie Soderman</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>80301</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-20</td>
<td>&quot;My husband Paul is a descendant of General Harney and we do not support Harney’s name being on this Channel. He is an oppressor, the waterway should be given a name of an honorable person, like Cayou*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer King</td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98006</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-20</td>
<td>&quot;It matters who we honor with place names.&quot;</td>
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<td>Jim Foley</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2021-04-20</td>
<td>&quot;It’s the Right Thing to do.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Calyer</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-20</td>
<td>&quot;We have a duty to erase the names of white supremacists.&quot;</td>
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<td>Todd Shuster</td>
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<td>&quot;It is the right thing to do! Honor those that deserve it.&quot;</td>
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<td>Iris Graville</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-20</td>
<td>&quot;I signed because it's a small step toward healing relationships with indigenous peoples.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan Marshall</td>
<td>South Pasadena</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>91030</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-21</td>
<td>&quot;I'm to be a full-time resident of Lopez Island next month (May 2021). I grew up in Omaha, NE and there was a Harney Street that I see was named for William S. Harney. In reading about his background, it was very ugly, especially in regards to Native Americans. I think this is an excellent idea to rename this channel after someone who was a &quot;bridge&quot; between peoples.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Bryant</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>97213</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-21</td>
<td>&quot;No place on Earth should bear that Monster's name!! If he had succeeded our Islands would be covered in military graveyards instead of the tale of how two Great Countries can resolve a dispute...even one as large as the boundary which decided who owned these Islands...WITHOUT the loss of a single Human Life! All disputes should be settled like this...in International arbitration instead of bloodshed.*</td>
</tr>
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| Robbie Raker         | Katy       | TX    | 77450       | US      | 2021-04-21     | "Changing the name of this body of water to honor a local resident who represented Native American and white
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<th>Country</th>
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<th>Comment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie Schwindt</td>
<td>Bellingham, WA</td>
<td>98225</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-21</td>
<td>&quot;It's above time!&quot;</td>
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<td>Ellnor Howell</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>97202</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-21</td>
<td>&quot;Special places such as this deserve to be named after local heroes, not foreign conquerors.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allegra Sloman</td>
<td>Burnaby, VSE, Canada</td>
<td>98221</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-21</td>
<td>&quot;All place names should be relocated.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawni Williams</td>
<td>Anacortes, WA</td>
<td>98221</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-21</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Clayton Cromley</td>
<td>Littleton, CO</td>
<td>80127</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-21</td>
<td>&quot;Spent formative years in Washington and would like future kids to grow up in a place that acknowledges better angels from its past.&quot;</td>
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<td>Simone Lee</td>
<td>Calgary, T2K, Canada</td>
<td>8104</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;Names and maps are powerful!&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Chamberln</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>98104</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;I have family in Friday Harbor and go to the islands often. As a resident of Washington I hope we can begin to recognize and undo the harms of settler colonialism. Names on the land reflect stories; let them be ones that: honor people who lifted us up, not those who destroyed.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Puhlman</td>
<td>Pacific, WA</td>
<td>98047</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;The power to name our lands and seas should be used to uplift historical exemplars of the core values of democratic society. This change does exactly that.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Mielia</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>98112</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;History matters.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isis King</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>11222</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;This needs to change! Name it after a local Native community member instead of a murderous White Man!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Robinson</td>
<td>Friday Harbor, WA</td>
<td>98250</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
<td>&quot;We should be honoring those who raise up our entire community.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin McCoy</td>
<td>Olga, WA</td>
<td>98279</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
<td>&quot;Very Appropriate&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ria Harboe</td>
<td>Lummi Island, WA</td>
<td>98262</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
<td>&quot;This is the right thing to do. Our family has lived along this channel for almost 40 years and I've never known this about Mr. Harney. Thanks Kan, for bringing this to our attention! This should be happenig everywhere!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Lake</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>19127</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
<td>&quot;It is imperative that our naming conventions honor those who love the land and who are themselves honorable. Harney doesn't deserve anything named after him.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Loew Lowse</td>
<td>Eastsound, WA</td>
<td>98245</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-24</td>
<td>&quot;Henry Cayou is a much better representative of our area.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Self</td>
<td>Raleigh, NC</td>
<td>27612</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-25</td>
<td>&quot;My parents have lived on Orcas for many years and our extended family spends much time there. I would love to see this honor for such a positive contributor to the region.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Es Warwick</td>
<td>Victoria, V8T, Canada</td>
<td>98260</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-26</td>
<td>&quot;This would be what reconciliation looks like. Do the right thing.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette Garver</td>
<td>Greenville, SC</td>
<td>29601</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-26</td>
<td>&quot;I lived for 20 summers on Orcas Island and it is still a place with means peace to me. I never knew when passing through that channel on the ferry countless times, that it was named for such an unworthy person. To me, it will be Cayou Channel from now on.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollie Shea</td>
<td>Bend, OR</td>
<td>97702</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-04-26</td>
<td>&quot;Honoring people who have intentionally done great harm to others, by naming features of nature after them, is a cruel way of continually inflicting excruciatingly painful memories for generations of ancestors while at the same time inferring brutal domination tactics are to be rewarded. Honoring people who have consistently gone out of their way to help fellow brothers and sisters, to stand peaceably for justice, and to care for the&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Zip Code</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
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<td>---------------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Luke Newton   | Oakland  | CA 94612 | US      | 2021-04-27 | "My family lives near this soon to be named Cayou Channel on Orcas Island and this renaming must happen. I wish there were a record of what the original Coast Salish place name for this channel is, along with the many islands and waters throughout the region. This renaming should also be seen as just one small step towards supporting reconciliation, reparations and Indigenous rights in these Coast Salish territories."
| Suzanne Floudy| Lopez Island | WA 98261 | US      | 2021-04-27 | "As a San Juan Islands resident and boater I strongly support the renaming of Harney Channel to Cayou Channel. General Harney’s actions against black and Indigenous people as well as during the Pig War were despicable. It is time for us to learn about Henry Cayou and to honor him. His life is representative of the spirit of these islands."
| Margot Shaw   | Eastsound | WA 98245 | US      | 2021-04-30 | "I agree with having names connected with those who lived here"                                                                                                                                       |
| Nancy Schafer |          |          |         | 2021-05-01 | "Nancy Schafer. Even small changes can have an accumulative positive cultural effect. I believe re-examining our history is so important for the future we want to have."                                           |
| Kimber Taylor | Lopez Island | WA 98261 | US      | 2021-05-01 | "It’s the right thing to do."                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Christy Beer  | Bellevue  | WA 98007 | US      | 2021-05-03 | "The honor of having a geographic place named after you should go to people who exemplify humanity at its best - it’s time to rename Harney Channel!"                                                      |
| Colias Kaplan | Bellevue  | WA 98008 | US      | 2021-05-03 | "Make this right! Change the name."                                                                                                                                                               |
| Arriba Stature| North Bend | WA 98045 | US      | 2021-05-03 | "We need to stop rewarding racism and cruelty in our country."                                                                                                                                      |
| Yvonne Brandon| Redmond  | WA 98052 | US      | 2021-05-04 | "Harney does not deserve this honor."                                                                                                                                                             |
| Michael Higgins| Seattle  | WA 98118 | US      | 2021-05-14 | "Cayou seems much better."                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Denny Redman  | Duvall    | WA 98019 | US      | 2021-05-17 | "I’m signing because I agree that it was named originally for someone who does not share current human values."                                                                                 |
The San Juan Islands, shown here, sit in the center of the Salish Sea, with Vancouver Island to the west, the Strait of Georgia to the north, mainland Washington state to the east, and the Olympic Peninsula to the south. To the southeast is Admiralty inlet, the entrance to Puget Sound. (Photo courtesy of Creative Commons)

Pacific Northwest islanders want to dump the name of a notorious general and rename a Salish Sea channel for a 20th century Native leader

Richard Arlin Walker  
Special to Indian Country Today

A channel of water in an archipelago north of Puget Sound carries the name of 19th century U.S. Army Gen. William S. Harney, notorious for whipping to death a Black woman in Missouri, leading the killing of Sicangu Lakota men, women and children in Nebraska, and taking the U.S. to the brink of armed conflict with Great Britain over a jurisdictional dispute in the Pacific Northwest.

If a proposal is approved by the Washington state Board of Geographic Names, however, the channel would be renamed in honor of Henry Cayou, a fishing, maritime and political leader of Lummi and Saanich First Nation ancestry.
San Juan Islands waterway could be renamed for Naive leader - Indian Country Today

The channel is located east of Canada’s Vancouver Island, between Orcas and Shaw islands in San Juan County, Washington – a point of origin for several Coast Salish peoples, including the Lhaq’temish, or Lummi.

Cayou, who died in 1959, was a successful commercial fisherman who to this day is the only Indigenous Islander elected to the county’s Board of County Commissioners, on which he served for nearly three decades. He also served as a postmaster, helped found the islands’ electrical utility, and served as a regional representative of Chemawa Indian School.

It would be the second significant name change in the islands in recent years. Residents successfully petitioned the state in 2017 to change the name of Squaw Bay on Shaw Island to Reef Net Bay, a reference to the type of Native fishing that is still conducted there. And a county agency’s Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee is determining if other name changes are needed.

Ken Carrasco, a retired fisheries biologist who lives on Harney Channel, said he was spurred to propose the name change after reading histories about Harney, who died in 1889.

A further examination revealed Harney spent little time in the San Juan Islands, and an individual’s long association with a place is one of the criteria for the naming of a landmark or body of water.

“We don’t have statues here, but we do name landmarks and bodies of water after people of note who have had a great influence upon our lives — people we still hold as models for our younger people and for society in general,” Carrasco said.

“General Harney fails to meet that expectation, that standard of someone we want our lives to emulate. Henry Cayou, from everything I’ve heard, exemplifies the type of person that we can hold as a person to value.”

Carrasco and Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island said they will post a petition on Change.org and submit a name-change application in April to the state Committee on Geographic Names. The committee will decide whether to recommend the change to the state Board on Geographic Names.

Among the early supporters of the proposal are former Lummi Nation Chairman Jay Julius; former Lummi Nation Councilman Freddie Sul ka dub’ Lane; Rosie Cayou James, a Samish cultural educator and Cayou’s grand-niece; former state Sen. Kevin Ranker, D-Orca Island; and several members of the Mitchell Bay Band, descendants of Indigenous people who chose to remain on the islands and not relocate to reservations after the treaty was signed in 1855.

A sacred place

The San Juan Islands sit in the center of the Salish Sea, between Vancouver Island to the west, the Strait of Georgia to the north, mainland Washington state to the east, and the Olympic Peninsula to the south. To the southeast is Admiralty Inlet, the entrance to Puget Sound. The largest islands in the archipelago are San Juan, Orcas, Lopez and Shaw.
The archipelago is a sacred place to the Lummi, Samish, Saanich and Songhees peoples. Their histories say it was on San Juan Island that their common ancestor – swéh-tuhh, the First Man – appeared. It was here that the Creator gave the people reef netting, a type of salmon fishing unique to the San Juan Islands.

The islands were the center of a vast Indigenous economic and kinship network when the British and the Americans laid claim in the 1840s. For centuries, Indigenous families traveled to and from the islands in skillfully carved cedar canoes to visit relatives, attend longhouse ceremonies, harvest resources and engage in trade.

Much of that world was changing when Henry Cayou was born in 1869 on Orcas Island. He was one of more than 10 children born to Louis and Mary Ann Cayou. His mother was Lummi and Saanich; his father was a Kentucky-born farmer and lumberman whose ancestors hailed from France.

Harney Channel was already identified as such on navigational charts when Cayou was born, reportedly so-named for Harney because he was serving at the time as a brigadier general in command of the U.S. Army’s Department of Oregon, which included Washington Territory. In an interesting twist, one of Cayou’s younger brothers would be named General Scott Cayou, in honor of U.S. Army General Winfield Scott, who in 1859 defused the tensions started by Harney and established the peaceful joint military occupation of the islands until the territory dispute could be resolved.

When Cayou was born, British Royal Marines and U.S. Army troops were encamped on San Juan Island, awaiting settlement of the dispute. The prairies that had been maintained for centuries for the cultivation of food plants were being used by newcomers for livestock grazing. Limestone was being quarried to supply critical building material. Cedars that provided wood for longhouses and hand-carved canoes, as well as fiber for clothing and ceremonial items, were being felled to feed a growing hunger for quality lumber.

Then, in 1872, when Cayou was 3, an arbitration panel led by Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany settled the territory dispute in favor of the United States. The British Royal Marines left the island and their encampment – the former Coast Salish community of Pe’p’row’ohl – was made available for homesteading.

In the ensuing years, young Henry Cayou learned to navigate life in two worlds. He learned to fish the traditional way from his Lummi stepfather, Pe Ell, played baseball for a team composed of Native Americans on Orcas Island, married a woman from the family of Sheiyksh (pronounced Shakes), a line of hereditary Tlingit leaders, and served as the islands’ point of contact for the Chemawa Indian School.
Cayou used his Indigenous knowledge and business acumen to prosper in the new economy, taking each stroke of fortune and further investing it. He became a successful fish trapper and seiner. In 1895, he invested in his brothers-in-law's shipyard and over time built a fleet of fishing boats and tugs.

By 1897, he was serving as a county road supervisor on Orcas Island. In 1902, he established a 500-acre farm on Decatur Island and was appointed the island's postmaster. In 1906, he was elected to his first of several terms on the San Juan County Board of County Commissioners. In 1907, he was elected president of the San Juan County Fruit Growers Association.

One of Cayou's most significant legacies is one felt today each time an islander turns the lights on – the co-founding in 1937 of Orcas Power Co., the islands' electrical utility now known as Orcas Power and Light Cooperative.

While he walked in two worlds — elected to county office before enrolled Natives had the right to vote — he never gave up his Coast Salish identity. He was listed as “Indian” on the 1910 U.S. Census and in 1919 was included in a federal census of unenrolled Indians in Washington state.

In the 1919 census, Cayou was listed as a member of the “Mitchell Bay Tribe,” a descriptor used by Office of Indian Affairs agent Charles Roblin for those who, after the treaty was signed, had chosen to stay on the islands rather than move to reservations. Most if not all of those listed, including Cayou, had ancestral or familial ties to the historical Indigenous community at Mitchell Bay. Some of Cayou’s siblings moved to reservations, however, and several of his nephews and nieces served in elective office in the Swinomish Tribe.

Carrasco said Cayou "was a bridge between cultures during a transformative time for the islands."

Buffum, former longtime executive director of a nonprofit environmental protection organization on the islands, agreed.

She said Cayou — successful in county politics, maritime and fishing — “represents so much of what this body of water represents to people here in the San Juan Islands."

**Renaming would be ‘a just act’**

Place names in the Salish Sea historically told the story of a site’s significance — a village location, the best place to harvest certain resources, the animals most common to an area, or a gateway to another geographical location.

Buffum said renaming Harney Channel to Cayou Channel would be “a just act that would carry an appropriate history of this place to future generations and honor a person worthy of emulation by future generations."

Local historians agree.
"Henry Cayou was a major figure in the San Juan Islands and he was Native American," said Mike Vouri, an author and retired historian for the National Park Service. "There is a dearth of Native American names [of features] in the islands and that needs to change."

He added, "Place names reflect the values we have. If we can take these collective waters — Haro Strait, Rosario Strait, the Strait of Georgia, the Strait of Juan de Fuca — and in 2010 name them the Salish Sea after the great Coast Salish people, there's no reason why we shouldn't look at other Native names that have meaning to us."

Kevin Loftus, executive director of the San Juan Historical Society and Museum, said renaming the channel after Cayou "makes a lot of sense."

"Names impart a historical tie-in and give us a better understanding [of a place] than something neutral," he said. "We have road names here that tell us something about the families that lived here. Spring Street tells us there was a spring there and, though it's now underground, it's still there.

A place that carries the name of an individual, he said, "makes me curious as to who this person was, what they did, what kind of contributions they made to the islands."
NEWS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2021
Prepared by Ken Carrasco, resident of Orcas Island
Email address: renameharneychannel@gmail.com

Proposal to Rename Harney Channel Passes Major Milestone

The Washington State Board of Geographic Names recently voted unanimously that a proposal to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel is of enough merit to advance to the Final Consideration phase.

During this phase, staff working for the Board will solicit comments from the community including the tribes and governmental entities before their Final Consideration vote, projected to occur at the Board’s meeting in April of next year. Should the proposal be adopted at that time, it will be passed to the federal level for its consideration.

The authors of this proposal, Ken Carrasco of Orcas Island and Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island, initiated the proposal last year after learning of General William Harney’s history of brutality including his atrocities against indigenous people at the Battle of Ash Hollow in 1845, his brutal murder of a woman in Missouri in 1836, and his role as US Army Commander in 1859 in greatly escalating the potential for war in the islands. Harney only visited the islands once for an overnight visit just before the “Pig War” and most likely never came to the channel that bears his name.

Instead of honoring Harney, Carrasco and Buffum are proposing that the Channel be renamed to honor Henry Cayou, who was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and inhabited the San Juan Islands throughout his 90 years of life. Cayou was half Coast Salish and remains the only Native American who has served on the San Juan County Council/Commission, a post he held for 27 years and of which he was chair for many of them. Henry Cayou moved easily in both worlds, leaving both many relatives and material accomplishments which island residents enjoy today. He was a commercial fisherman with a processing plant in Deer Harbor, operated a boatyard on Decatur Island, and owned a farm on Waldron Island. Without question, he transited this particular channel hundreds of times during his lifetime.

More information is available about the renaming proposal at the website of a petition created to support the proposal: change.org/renameharney. If they desire, visitors to that site are invited to sign the petition and leave comments, but are encouraged not to pledge money if prompted. The email of the proposers is renameharneychannel@gmail.com.

Comments about this proposal can be sent by email to Caleb Maki at the Board of Geographic Names at bogn@dnr.wa.gov, and comments will also be accepted by mail addressed to Caleb Maki, WA State Committee on Geographic Names, PO Box 47030, Olympia, WA 98504-7030.
Hi Caleb: time really got away from me and I'm just now putting a news release together for our renaming proposal.

I wanted to run it past you because you are on it as contact for the Board. Please let me know of any corrections or thoughts you have.

Thanks!!

-Ken Carrasco
Caleb: as a courtesy and FYI so that you know, attached is the final news release sent to the newspapers.

-Ken
NEWS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2021  
Prepared by Ken Carrasco, PO Box 336, Orcas, WA 98280  
Email address: renameharneychannel@gmail.com  

Proposal to Rename Harney Channel Passes Major Milestone  

The Washington State Board of Geographic Names voted unanimously in a recent meeting to advance a proposal which seeks to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel into the Final Consideration phase.  

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To gauge community support for the proposal, a petition was established last spring at change.org(renameharney and, to date, more than 848 people have signed this petition in support of the proposal. Visitors to that site can still sign the petition and leave comments if they wish. Also, the well-respected news organization Indian Country Today has covered the proposal with both an article and a video interview with a local journalist.  

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Caleb: I am attaching a document which has images from all 3 newspapers in the county which carried the news release about our proposal passing the Board's Initial Consideration.

-Ken
Ken Carrasco
Media coverage in three San Juan County newspapers about renaming Harney Channel
November 2021
Ken Carrasco, acmeleaf@gmail.com

The San Juan Journal, San Juan Island
November 17, 2021

The Island’s Sounder, Orcas Island
November 17, 2021

The Islands’ Weekly, Lopez Island
November 16, 2021
Proposal to rename Harney Channel passes milestone

Submitted by: Ken Carrasco

The Islands Sounder, page 5
Nov. 17, 2021

Guest column

Proposal to rename Harney Channel passes milestone

Submitted by: Ken Carrasco

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Page 2 of 2
Deer Harbor, Henry Cayou's house

![Image: Deer Harbor, Henry Cayou's house](https://www.washingtonruralheritage.org/digital/collection/orcas/id/4640)

**Item Description**

**Resource Identifier**
jigh0001-082-03

**Title**
Deer Harbor, Henry Cayou's house

**Creator**
Geoghegan, James T., 1869-1953

**Description**
Henry Cayou's house and swimming pool at Deer Harbor. Cayou was a County Commissioner and ran a very profitable fish trap and cannery.

**Location (TGN)**
United States — Washington — San Juan county — San Juan Islands — Orcas island — Deer Harbor
(//digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/United States — Washington — San Juan county — San Juan Islands — Orcas Island — Deer Harbor/field/place/mode/exact/conn/and)
Access file format
image/jpeg (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/image/jpeg/field/acform/mode/exact/conn/and)

Access file specifications
filesize: 664 kB; bit depth: 16bits per pixel; color mode: grayscale; pixel dimensions: 1986x1074; resolution: 400 ppi; compression software: Adobe Photoshop CS5.1 Windows

Digitization specifications
master file format: image/tiff; master filesize: 31 MB; bit depth: 16bits per pixel; color mode: grayscale; pixel dimensions: 5460x2953; resolution: 1100 ppi; capture hardware: Epson Perfection V750-M Pro

Archival file location (AIP)
orcasVolume10 (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/orcasVolume10/field/archiv/mode/exact/conn/and)

Notes
2020remediation

Project
2014grant (/digital/collection/orcas/search/searchterm/2014grant/field/project/mode/exact/conn/and)
There is indeed a Cayou Island. I mentioned it one time during a phone call with you (not that I’m expecting you to remember every detail of our calls — that would be hypocritical of me!).

At the southern end of Lopez Sound, Ram and a third island.

It is only about an acre in size, though, depending on the tide. So very inconsequential. I don’t know the history of how it got named.

Henry Cayou’s fish processing plant was in Deer Harbor but he also owned a 500-acre farm on Decatur Island. Also vessels including a steamer. I can easily see him “commuting” between the two via Harney Channel and the pass by Cayou Island.

There is also Cayou Quay marina and a Cayou Road past his residence, both in Deer Harbor.

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 9:24 AM MAKI, CALEB (DNR) wrote:

Hey Ken,

I was poking around a bit in the names database, and noticed there is a Cayou Island in San Juan County (see attached map, it’s just north of Ram Island in the Lopez Pass).

I can’t seem to find the origin of the name, but thought to give you a heads up if the Committee members ask. The database I usually use is down for maintenance (of course), so I’ll keep checking.

Caleb A. Maki

Photogrammetry Supervisor – Engineering Division

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Phone: 360-902-1280 / Fax: 360-902-1778

caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov

www.dnr.wa.gov
Two more documents in addition to the two sent yesterday are respectfully attached for the consideration of the State Committee for Geographic Names to support our proposal to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel.

One document depicts the local media coverage of the Committee's Initial Consideration in the fall of 2021. The columns printed in the three newspapers are identical, and one of them is enlarged for your convenience.

The second document depicts the third update, published March 16, to our proposal's petition and which was distributed to the petition's signers. This update also publicizes the successful Initial Consideration.

Both documents were compressed for more convenient distribution to you -- please let me know if a higher resolution document is preferred.

Thank you,

Ken Carrasco
Orcas Island
Renaming Harney Channel proposal

Media Coverage in the San Juan County newspapers covering the Initial Consideration by the State Board of Geographic Names

Published November 2021
Proposal to rename Harney Channel passes milestone

Submitted by Ken Carrasco.

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The authors of this proposal, Ken Carrasco of Orcas Island and Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island, initiated the proposal last year after learning of General William Harney's history of brutality including his atrocities against indigenous people in Nebraska while commanding the Harney Massacre at Ash Hollow in 1845, his brutal murder of a black woman in Missouri in 1836, and his role as Commander in 1859 when he greatly escalated the potential for war in the islands. Harney only visited the islands once for an overnight visit just before the “Pig War” and almost certainly never came to the channel that bears his name.

Instead of honoring Harney, Carrasco and Buffum are proposing that the Channel be renamed to honor Henry Cayou, who was born on Orcas Island in 1869 and inhabited the San Juan Islands throughout his 90 years of life. Cayou was half Coast Salish and remains the only Native American to serve on the San Juan County Council/Commission, a post he held for 27 years, and he was chair for many of them. He was a commercial fisherman with a processing plant in Deer Harbor, operated a boatyard on Decatur Island, and owned a farm on Waldron Island. Henry Cayou moved easily in both the indigenous and European worlds, leaving many relatives and accomplishments which have benefitted the islands beyond his lifetime. Without question, he transformed this particular channel hundreds of times.

To gauge community support for the proposal, a petition was established last spring at change.org/renameharney and, to date, more than 840 people have signed this petition in support of the proposal. Visitors to that site can still sign the petition and leave comments if they wish. Also, the well-respected news organization Indian Country Today has covered the proposal with both an article and a video interview with a local journalist.

Comments about this proposal can be sent by email to Caleb Maki at the Board of Geographic Names at bogn@dnr.wa.gov, and comments will also be accepted by mail addressed to Caleb Maki, WA State Committee on Geographic Names, PO Box 47030, Olympia, WA 98504-7030. To contact the proposers directly, email can be sent to renameharneychannel@gmail.com. Readers can obtain more information about the proposal at the petition website in the paragraph above.
Rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel petition
Comments left on petition by some signatories
change.org/renameharney, as of April 15, 2022, compiled by Ken Carrasco

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Stat</th>
<th>Postal</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Asterino</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98256</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Yes, This water should be renamed after Henry Cayou who helped bridge communities.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jim glozier</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>60622</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Though I the FB icon attached to my name say's Chicago. I have lived on Orcas Island for nine years now. I agree that the name should be changed.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gene Helfman</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98256</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;long overdue.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariann Carrasco</td>
<td>Orcas</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98280</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;About time!!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Barr</td>
<td>Anacortes</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98221</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;This honors a more holistic historical representation of this place&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Alderton</td>
<td>Deer Harbor</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98243</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Harney's awful legacy is a disgrace. Honoring Henry Cayou is a wonderful plant!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Williams</td>
<td>Eastsound</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98245</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Representation in names are the underlining pulse of the public. Let's right this wrong.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Henriksen</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98256</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Henry Cayou should be honored and Harney should not.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Pinegar</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Compelling rationale for honoring Cayou and consigning Harney to ignominy.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jess Newley</td>
<td>Friday Harbor</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98250</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Names are important!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>becky Borgquist</td>
<td>Friday Harbor</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98250</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Becky borgquist&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathie Soderman</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>80301</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;My husband Paul is a descendant of General Harney and we do not support Harney's name being on this Channel. He is an oppressor, the waterway should be given a name of an honorable person, like Cayou!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer King</td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98006</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;It matters who we honor with place names.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Foley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;It's the Right Thing to do.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Coilyer</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;We have a duty to erase the names of white supremacists.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Shuster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;It is the right thing to do! Honor those that deserve it.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris Graville</td>
<td>Lopez Island</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98261</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;I signed because it's a small step toward healing relationships with indigenous peoples.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Marshall</td>
<td>south Pasadena</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>91030</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;I'm to be a full-time resident of Lopez Island next month (May 2021). I grew up in Omaha, NE and there was a Harney Street that I see was named for William S. Harney. In reading about his background, it was very ugly, especially in regards to Native Americans. I think this is an excellent idea to rename this channel after someone who was a &quot;bridge&quot; between peoples.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Bryant</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>97213</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;No place on Earth should bear that Monster's name!! If he had succeeded our Islands would be covered in military graveyards instead of the tale of how two Great Countries can resolve a dispute...even one as large as the boundary which decided who owned these Islands...WITHOUT the loss of a single Human Life! All disputes should be settled like this...in International arbitration instead of bloodshed [杀]&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbie Raker</td>
<td>Katy</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>77450</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Changing the name of this body of water to honor a local resident who represented Native American and white communities, over someone of such a horrible legacy, is a no brainer. Please make the change&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Schwindt</td>
<td>Bellingham</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98225</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;It's above time!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elinor Howell</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>97202</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Special places such as this deserve to be named after local heroes, not foreign conquerors.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegra Sioman</td>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>VSE</td>
<td>DN</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;All place names should be relocalized.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawni Williams</td>
<td>Anacortes</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98221</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;That&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton Cromley</td>
<td>Littleton</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>80127</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>&quot;Spent formative years in Washington and would like future kids to grow up in a place that acknowledges better angels from its past&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simone Lee</td>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>T2K 3S8 CDN</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;Names and maps are powerful!&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barb Chamberlin</td>
<td>Seattle WA</td>
<td>98104 US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;I have family in Friday Harbor and go to the islands often. As a resident of Washington I hope we can begin to recognize and undo the harms of settler colonialism. Names on the land reflect stories; let them be ones that honor people who lifted us up, not those who destroyed.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Putnam</td>
<td>Pacific WA</td>
<td>98047 US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;The power to name our lands and seas should be used to uplift historical exemplars of the core values of democratic society. This change does exactly that.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Mula</td>
<td>Seattle WA</td>
<td>98112 US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;History matters.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iais King</td>
<td>Brooklyn NY</td>
<td>11222 US</td>
<td>2021-04-22</td>
<td>&quot;This needs to change! Name it after a local Native community member instead of a murderous White Man!&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Robison</td>
<td>Friday Harbor WA</td>
<td>98250 US</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
<td>&quot;We should be honoring those who raise up our entire community.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin McCoy</td>
<td>Olga WA</td>
<td>98279 US</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
<td>&quot;Very Appropriate&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ria Harboe</td>
<td>Lummi Island WA</td>
<td>98262 US</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
<td>&quot;This is the right thing to do. Our family has lived along this channel for almost 40 years and I’ve never known this about Mr. Harney. Thanks Ken, for bringing this to our attention! This should be happening everywhere!&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Lake</td>
<td>Philadelphia PA</td>
<td>19127 US</td>
<td>2021-04-23</td>
<td>&quot;It is imperative that our naming conventions honor those who love the land and who are themselves honorable. Harney doesn’t deserve anything named after him.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Loew Lo</td>
<td>Eastsound WA</td>
<td>98245 US</td>
<td>2021-04-24</td>
<td>&quot;Henry Cayou is a much better representative of our area.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Self</td>
<td>Raleigh NC</td>
<td>27612 US</td>
<td>2021-04-25</td>
<td>&quot;My parents have lived on Orcas for many years and our extended family spends much time there. I would love to see this honor for such a positive contributor to the region.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Es Warwick</td>
<td>Victoria VII</td>
<td>V8T CDN</td>
<td>2021-04-26</td>
<td>&quot;This would be what reconciliation looks like. Do the right thing.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette Garver</td>
<td>Greenville SC</td>
<td>29601 US</td>
<td>2021-04-26</td>
<td>&quot;I lived for 20 summers on Orcas Island and it is still a place with means peace to me. I never knew when passing through that channel on the ferry countless times, that it was named for such an unworthy person. To me, it will be Cayou Channel from now on.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollie Shea</td>
<td>Bend OR</td>
<td>97702 US</td>
<td>2021-04-26</td>
<td>&quot;Honoring people who have intentionally done great harm to others, by naming features of nature after them, is a cruel way of continually inflicting excruciatingly painful memories for generations of ancestors while at the same time inferring brutal domination tactics are to be rewarded. Honoring people who have consistently gone out of their way to help fellow brothers and sisters, to stand peaceably for justice, and to care for the well-being of all is to honor nature herself with remembrance of what is possible for all of us - to live and love in accordance with our true nature - in alignment with the best of who we are.&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Newton</td>
<td>Oakland CA</td>
<td>94612 US</td>
<td>2021-04-27</td>
<td>&quot;My family lives near this soon to be named cayou channel on Orcas Island and this renaming must happen. I wish there were a record of what the original Coast Salish place name for this channel is, along with the many islands and waters throughout the region. This renaming should also be seen as just one small step towards supporting reconciliation, reparation and Indigenous rights in these Coast Salish territories.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne Roundy</td>
<td>Lopez Island WA</td>
<td>98261 US</td>
<td>2021-04-27</td>
<td>&quot;As a San Juan Islands resident and boater I strongly support the renaming of Harney Channel to Cayou Channel. General Harney's actions against black and indigenous people as well as during the Pig War were despicable. It is time for us to learn about Henry Cayou and to honor him. His life is representative of the spirit of these islands.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margot Shaw</td>
<td>Eastsound WA</td>
<td>98245 US</td>
<td>2021-04-30</td>
<td>&quot;I agree with having names connected with those who lived here&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Schafer</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>2021-05-01</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Nancy Schafer. Even small changes can have an accumulative positive cultural effect. I believe re-examining our history is so important for the future we want to have.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirman Taylor</td>
<td>Lopez Island WA</td>
<td>98261 US</td>
<td>2021-05-01</td>
<td>&quot;It's the right think to do.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Zip</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christy Bear</td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98007</td>
<td>2021-05-03</td>
<td>&quot;The honor of having a geographic place named after you should go to people who exemplify humanity at its best - it’s time to rename Harney Channel!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oolaa kaplan</td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98008</td>
<td>2021-05-03</td>
<td>&quot;Make this right! Change the name.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arriba Stature</td>
<td>North Bend</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98045</td>
<td>2021-05-03</td>
<td>&quot;We need to stop rewarding racism and cruelty in our country.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Brandon</td>
<td>Redmond</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98052</td>
<td>2021-05-04</td>
<td>&quot;Harney does not deserve this honor.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIICHAEL HIGGI</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98118</td>
<td>2021-05-14</td>
<td>&quot;Cayou seems much better.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denny Redman</td>
<td>Duvall</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98019</td>
<td>2021-05-17</td>
<td>&quot;I’m signing because I agree that it was named originally for someone who does not share current human values.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Berman</td>
<td>Bellingham</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98225</td>
<td>2022-03-02</td>
<td>&quot;It’s long past time to right our historical wrongs. We must not ignore such wanton disregard of the values which set us apart from the savages of the past!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Abreu</td>
<td>Eastsound</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98245</td>
<td>2022-03-16</td>
<td>&quot;It’s high time that we rename these traditional native waters to reflect the people who have lived with them, and in them, and cared for them for thousands of years.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Swihart</td>
<td>Randle</td>
<td></td>
<td>98377</td>
<td>2022-03-17</td>
<td>&quot;Righting past wrongs...&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Kibble</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98115</td>
<td>2022-03-20</td>
<td>&quot;Conquerors are not heroes!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ayn gailey</td>
<td>Eastsound</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98245</td>
<td>2022-03-23</td>
<td>&quot;I love this idea. Restoring the world.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
External Email

Regarding our proposal to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel, the following are respectfully submitted to the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names for your consideration:

1) A column publicizing our proposal was submitted to, and published by, the local online news source "The Orcasonian" in March and was copy/pasted in its entirety here. Nine comments are included, some with alternative thoughts.

2) As of this email, 1,026 people have signed our petition to rename Harney Channel. 59 of them left comments and a pdf of these comments are also attached to this email.

Thank you,
Ken Carrasco
Orcas Island

As of April 15:
Islanders want to dump the name of a notorious general, rename a Salish Sea channel for 20th century Native leader from Orcas

March 19th, 2022 | 6 Comments

FROM KEN CARRASCO

You may be aware that a proposal was recently submitted to Washington State to rename Harney Channel. Several of us, notably Stephanie Buffum of Shaw Island and myself, a resident of Orcas, realized that General William S. Harney (1800-1889), for whom the channel was named by the British around 1860, is not the sort of person who should be so honored. He was not only responsible for greatly exacerbating our local so-called Pig War in 1859 which almost resulted in armed conflict with Britain, but he also commanded the US Army attack against the Sioux in 1855 at the Battle of Ash Hollow (aka the Harney Massacre or the Battle of Blue Water Creek). He also beat a black woman to death in 1836, for which he was found responsible by both a coroner's inquest and a grand jury.
Battle of Ash Hollow

We have also learned from credible sources that Harney very possibly committed a war crime during the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. Contrary to the Articles of War in effect at the time which provided for swift punishment and prohibited hanging except for very circumscribed circumstances, he hanged 30 deserters at Chapultepec instead of the more humane firing squad (the condemned were soldiers in the Saint Patrick’s Brigade who had deserted, but obviously not because of cowardice). He also delayed their execution and made them wait on the gallows until the end of the battle so they could watch the American flag replace the Mexican before they died. At the time, Harney was also convicted for insubordination in a court martial for another offence, but the conviction was reversed by President James Polk.

We are proposing that the channel instead be named for Henry Cayou (1869-1959), who lived his entire 90 years in the San Juan Islands and was both born and interred here on Orcas. Both he and his first wife were half Native American and Henry lived in both cultures. He is the only Native American who has served on the San Juan Island County Council and, as chair, his signature is on the documents incorporating Friday Harbor. Henry Cayou was in multiple ways a positive force for our county and the quality of our present life.

Our proposal has attracted both local and national attention, and last year the respected Indian Country Today news outlet carried both an online story and an eight-minute news webcast which can be seen in this link by skimming to minute 19:00 after a thirty-second advertisement. In addition, State Representative Debra Lekanoff has very positively given us her support.

Our proposal was accepted for consideration last fall by the State Committee on Geographic Names and they will make a final determination at their next meeting on April 26. If approved, the proposal will then be passed up the hierarchy to the State Board of Geographic Names and, upon their own approval, the proposal will be passed on to the Federal government for their consideration. This could come as early as late summer of this year.

More detailed information can be read at our online petition, and you can express your support by signing the petition and additionally by leaving comments there which we will forward to the state board. Otherwise, you may also express support — or opposition — by directly contacting the State Board and Committee on Geographic Names via email at bogn@dnr.wa.gov or by USPS at P.O. Box 47030, Olympia, WA 98504-7030.

You can also telephone them by contacting their staff, Caleb Maki, at 360-902-1280. Finally, you can also directly contact us, the proposers, at renameharneychannel@gmail.com.
9 Comments

**Gretchen Krampt** 19/03/2022 at 6:08 PM
This is an excellent initiative and I am delighted to see you are gathering additional momentum. It would be a step in the right direction to rename Hamey Channel and honor Henry Cayou’s legacy. May it be so!

**Doug Pearson** 19/03/2022 at 6:29 PM
Do it.

**Janet Alderton** 19/03/2022 at 7:04 PM
Thank you, Ken Carrasco and Stephanie Buffum for your initiative and perseverance in the renaming of Hamey Channel. Your decision to honor Henry Cayou is perfect!

**John Titus** 20/03/2022 at 8:51 AM
I support the name change to Cayou Channel.

But it does open up some interesting doors, for instance, the ignoble career of General George Pickett (Mr. Pickett, etc.).

Pickett was a washed-up Confederate General who also led the infantry in the famed "Pig War". Here is a snip from Pickett's Wikipedia page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Pickett

"During the Gettysburg Campaign, his division was, much to Pickett's frustration, the last to arrive on the field. However, it was one of three divisions under the command of General Longstreet to participate in a disastrous assault on Union positions on July 3, the final day of the battle. The attack has been given the name "Pickett's Charge." In February 1864, Pickett ordered 22 North Carolinians in Union uniform hanged as deserters after a failed assault on New Bern. His military career came to an ignoble end when his division was overwhelmed and defeated at the Battle of Five Forks.

Following the war, Pickett feared prosecution for his execution of deserters and temporarily fled to Canada. An old Army friend, Ulysses S. Grant, interceded on his behalf, and he returned to Virginia in 1866. He could not rejoin the Army, so he tried his hand at farming, then selling insurance. He died at age 50 in July 1875 from an "abscess of the liver."[2]"

Kind of a slippery slope, but perhaps we should traverse it…

**Michael Hriordan** 24/03/2022 at 2:10 AM
That Wikipedia entry also states that Pickett graduated last in the class of 1846 at West Point. Pretty undistinguished figure to name a mountain after.
Ken Wood 24/03/2022 at 2:01 PM

 Aren't there REAL problems that need attention before submitting every person in history to current standards of behavior?

 Where are you going to stop? The Americas are named for Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine merchant, navigator and explorer who claimed to have discovered 'A New World'. That, of course, was fully populated with people who had been here for at least 20,000 years and probably much more! Is that fair? Is it right? I certainly don't think so, but are we going to rename North America 'Turtle Island', as Gary Snyder suggested?

 I share the sentiment behind this but the whole thing seems silly when there are real problems that could be addressed with that attention.

Ken Carrasco 13/04/2022 at 5:00 PM

 Ken Wood brings up an important point. Where do we stop with the renaming? And, also, is there something to be said for letting names remain so that the person can be remembered for the bad things they did?

 We live on the shoreline east of the Orcas ferry landing and I lived with the name of Harney Channel for years even though I knew the namesake did some bad things. I didn't think much of it. However, I eventually realized that Harney's list of heinous acts was too long and too appalling to ignore any longer. And in answer to Mr. Wood's valid concern that this holds people to today's standards of behavior, General Harney's behavior was considered appalling even during his lifetime by many of his contemporaries.

 So I became one of the proposers of this name change. But I'm not automatically supporting others, such as removing Pickett's name. I can't describe a threshold where I can be moved to consider that a name should be changed, but the fact that they did not get good grades at West Point is far, far from an adequate reason.

 Another motive for my proposal is that our society is in the process of reconciling our history of violence to the indigenous peoples who preceded us here and also we engaged in the slavery of human beings. (This might make it sound like my proposal comes from a political motive — but ironically I'm a veteran and this opinion comes from my service in the the military). General Harney's violence against the indigenous peoples and black people cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed.

David Bowman 13/04/2022 at 7:52 PM

 I support the name change but I do not support choosing a new name that is based on a historical figure.

 Honoring someone with native ancestry seems noble but the natives did not often name places for people. They named places for the physical attributes or spiritual qualities that the place held. Individuals were not memorialized on maps in perpetuity. The land, sea, and its non-human inhabitants took priority.

 The name "Cayou" is derived from the French word for "pebble" — reflecting Cayou's French ancestry and this, indirectly reflecting the Euro-American colonist project, which involved the forced removal or integration of Salish people from these islands.

 Replacing one historical figure with another is therefore still an act of internalized colonist thinking. To name a geographical feature for an individual with European ancestry is not really the act of decolonization that it seems to be.

 We know the original native names of the islands, perhaps an alternative name which more closely honors the native way of thinking could be chosen.

Tracy McQueen 14/04/2022 at 9:57 AM

 Ken,

 Pickett was truly awful, even forgetting his bad grades at West Point. You can read about him yourself.

 And David, I completely agree with you on new naming conventions! I've always felt it's dangerous to put folks on any sort of pedestal because eventually… there can arise many a reason for those pedestals to be toppled.
MAR 16, 2022 —

Thank you so much to everybody who have signed our petition to rename Harney Channel to Cayou Channel! We are approaching 1,000 signers, many of whom left comments, and we are thrilled by your support. We are starting to feel fairly confident that our proposal will succeed.

Here is an update on the process: last fall the Washington State Committee on Geographical Names accepted our application requesting their consideration of our proposal (a big step), and on Tuesday, April 26, they will make their final decision whether to actually approve it.

Upon that approval, our proposal will be passed on to a monthly meeting of the State Board of Natural Resources and, upon that board's approval, it will then move on to the Federal government for consideration by yet another board. Both the state DNR and the Federal boards meet monthly so it's conceivable that we may be finished with the renaming approval process as early as late summer!

In talking with people familiar with the renaming process, we have heard that we presented such a strong and effective application for our proposal, and we took such care to document and substantiate everything that we presented about General Harney and Henry Cayou, that it was credible and convincing.

Again, many thanks to you! And, by the way, it certainly helps for even more signers to give their support to this petition, so please feel free to pass the word along.

The photo of the front and back of a card featuring General Harney is from the Indian series of chewing gum distributed in 1933 by the Goudey Corporation. We don't know if the incident of Harney flogging an "unruly Indian" is actually true or not, but it does represent racist attitudes that we hope our society is maturing away from.
Comments

Received
Thank you for accepting comments on the proposed name change for Harney Channel.

I would like to heartily support the change to Henry Cayou Channel! What a great idea! Actually, I live in view of this channel in question, where I have established a historical maritime archive, primarily of the greater San Juan Archipelago. It contains pages and pages to represent Mr. Cayou (1869-1959), a dedicated binder of his life and times in this county.

I have also had the opportunity to catch some of his genealogical records shared by his family with records going back to a First Nations maternal gr. grandmother Pe-el-i. We have a bounty of data collected that relates to his maritime work. It is commonly known that he worked hard in the fishing industry, not only for his own needs, but he used resources to keep the boat building industry alive for many years in support of the Reed Shipyards on Decatur Island. Many workers were employed there for years.

It is well documented that he poured energy into the support of many important organizations, which other commenters have mentioned.

We carry our history forward by recognizing the good people from our local area. This name change will be a fine way of contributing to the historical work we strive for daily in San Juan County.

Regards,

Cherie Christensen, archivist
Saltwater People Historical Society
https://saltwaterpeoplehistoricalsociety.blogspot.com/search/label/Henry_Cayou

On 5Feb, 2022, at 11:11 AM, MAKI, CALEB (DNR)
<CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov> wrote:

I take comments at any time, so feel free to send any my way and I will add it to
the proposal. Let me know if you have any further questions, and thank you for your interest in geographic names!

Caleb Maki  
Photogrammetry Supervisor - Engineering Division  
Executive Secretary - WA Committee on Geographic Names  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Phone: 360-902-1280 / Fax: 360-902-1778  
caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov  
www.dnr.wa.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: cherie christensen <cpc@rockisland.com>  
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:30 AM  
To: MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>  
Subject: Name Change for Harney Channel/ SJC

External Email

Hi Caleb,
Is it too late to send a support letter for a change to Cayou for this body of water between Orcas and Shaw Islands??

Thanks,

Cherie Christensen  
Saltwater People Historical Society  
SJC
External Email

Dear Committee Members—

I am completely in favor of the changing of the name of Harney Channel to Cayou Channel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Moran
Bainbridge Island
Caleb,

I would like to voice my support of changing the name of Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel. If you’re going to name places after people, at least have them be respectable and honoring good in the world.

Thanks for your consideration-  Tom

Thomas Mumford, PhD.
Marine Agronomics, LLC
Olympia, WA
tom@marineagronomics.com	 tmumford@uw.edu
www.marineagronomics.com
@KaptnKelp
Hm: (360) 866-0740
Cell: (360) 789-9684
Dear Caleb Maki,

I live in the San Juan Islands on Orcas Island near the homestead where Henry Cayou was born. Henry Cayou led an exemplary life in contrast to the deplorable behavior of General Harney. There is growing awareness of the history of indigenous peoples in our island archipelago. Renaming Harney Channel after Henry Cayou would honor cooperation between tribal and post-contact cultures. I hope that respect and understanding of the cultures of the Salish Sea tribes and nations will help all of us live more sustainably.

History matters.
Symbolism matters.
I strongly support renaming Harney Channel to Cayou Channel.

Thank-you for your attention to this important effort,

Janet Alderton
Deer Harbor, WA 98243
510-520-1073
Dear Caleb Maki,

Please add me to the list of people who support the proposal which seeks to rename Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands to Cayou Channel.

Thank you.

Keith Wentworth
keith@ckwentworth.org
WA State Committee on Geographic Names
PO Box 47030
Olympia, WA 98504-7030
(via email)

Re: Harney Channel → Cayou Channel

Dear Committee Members:

As an armchair historian and student of our place names, I read with interest the recent proposal to change the name of Harney Channel to Cayou Channel. I am very much opposed.

In reviewing the proposal, several things occur to me. First, consistent with my writing, the proponent attributes the name to Captain George Richards as it first appeared on a pair of “his” Admiralty Charts from 1861. In my book, I wrote that Richards named it for General William Harney. I failed to include a cite for this and found with additional digging that Edmund Meany was the source of that information (Origins of Washington Geographic Names, p.109). Meany wrote that Richards “evidently” named it for General Harney. So, in addition to my failure to provide the cite, I also omitted Meany’s emphasis on the word “evidently.” In other words, Meany didn’t know. He guessed. Richards’ reason for the name has been lost to history. It could have easily been named after one of his friends or acquaintances in England, or a member of the Hudson’s Bay Company, or a crew member. The point is, we don’t know, no one knows. We can only guess.
The proponent acknowledges that the “reasoning behind the name is a mystery to us,” and points out that in particular, with General Harney’s “anti-British sentiments,” it is less likely that Richards so honored him. Thus, it seems strange to me that we would consider renaming something because we suspect it honors a particular individual when there is no data to support the assertion.

Second, I strongly believe that the Washington State Board on Geographic Names has a duty not simply to adjudicate new names but to protect old ones as well. Certainly, I understand pejoratives, e.g., squaw and the “n” word. I agree with their removal. However, we should not cavalierly change an existing name simply because we don’t like for whom it was named. I’m not suggesting we must celebrate the name. But it is part of our history. We can at least understand it regardless of whether political correctness would permit assigning the name today. If our names are not offered this protection, it’s my guess the Board will begin receiving proposals, for example, to change the name of our state because George owned slaves.

Finally, while there’s nothing inherently wrong with the suggested name Cayou, how many names does a fellow need? He has already been honored by a marina in Deer Harbor as well as an island in Lopez Sound. Surely, that’s enough.

I strongly recommend the Committee reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Blumenthal

Richard W. Blumenthal

Author: *Maritime Place Names. Inland Washington Waters*
Dear Mr. Maki,

I understand that you are a DNR staffer involved in the renaming of Harney Channel in the San Juan Islands. I am writing in support of this name change, since it presently honors an unsavory character who committed atrocities against indigenous people and whose insubordination exacerbated the war with Mexico and brought the United States to the brink of war with England.

The recent proposal by Ken Carrasco and Stephanie Buffum to rename Harney Channel for Henry Cayou seems appropriate to me, and I do not wish to detract from it. Yet I would like to offer a suggestion that might be appended to their proposal or considered at a future date.

I have long wondered about the unnamed bay north and east of Harney Channel, which seems to bear no name on nautical charts. That bay is bordered to the north by the entrance to East Sound and to the east by Obstruction and Peavine Passes. It is unclear whether the southern portion of the bay is an easterly continuation of Harney Channel, or whether this is an unnamed channel (south of Blakely Shoal buoy) that continues east to Thatcher Pass, which is the main route of the Washington State Ferries. (charts attached)

Since this bay is the dividing point of so many water courses, I suggest that it be called Cleave Bay. This appellation would have a double meaning which also honors Mr. Cleave C. Vandersluys (obituary attached). The English word *cleave* means "to separate or divide, or causing something to divide" (Cambridge Dictionary) as the waters of this bay are divided into six channels. More importantly it would give a lasting tribute to Cleave Vandersluys, a man of many accomplishments. Cleave was invaluable to the research of Friday Harbor Laboratories (FHL or "the Labs") for decades, and I am happy to say he briefly served as my mentor as I tried to follow in his footsteps.

I would not be averse to calling this Vandersluys Bay, but that's quite a mouthful especially for people who did not know him. More importantly he was simply and kindly known as "Cleave" to countless researchers and students at the Labs.

Cleave taught me and other FHL skippers how to collect specimens within this unnamed bay, especially in the area from Blakely Buoy to Olga. The area was nicknamed the "Potato Patch" because of the potato-shaped sea squirts that are found there. He must have traversed this bay many hundreds of times in his boat the M/V *Hydah*, while commercial fishing or taking the mail run from Friday Harbor to Bellingham.

Cleave's knowledge of the local waters and their biota was critical to the teaching and research programs of the Labs, and it is not an exaggeration to say that Cleave's skill contributed to many scientific discoveries, such as understanding the physiology of muscle cells as demonstrated in the local giant barnacle. Cleave was also one of the first scuba divers in the San Juans, and provided compressed air for the Labs diving programs. He maintained the NOAA tide gauge on the FHL dock before it was replaced by an automated
system. This does not begin to describe his many contributions (see obituary) to San Juan County and in particular as Town Administrator of Friday Harbor. (I can provide other supporting statements, if needed.)

Please advise whether this suggestion of "Cleave Bay" has merit in your opinion, and whether it could be combined with the present "Cayou Channel" proposal, or considered separately at some time in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Craig P. Staude, Ph.D.

Researcher at Friday Harbor Laboratories
Past Vessel Master of FHL
45-year resident of San Juan Island
Student of Mr. Cleave Vadersluys

1273 Three Meadows Lane, Friday Harbor, WA
email: craig_staude@yahoo.com

(I will be away from home for 2 months, but can be contacted by email.)
Cleave C. Vandersluys
(February 15, 1915 - December 05, 2004)

Cleave C. Vandersluys died December 5, 2004. He was born February 21, 1915 to Richard and Wilhelmina (Sherlock) Vandersluys in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He lived in Niagara Falls, Ontario and Vancouver, B. C. before moving to Spokane, Washington where he finished high school and two years of studies at Kinman Business University. Accepting an office position with Roche Harbor Lime and Cement Co. he moved to San Juan Island in 1932. In 1934 he joined the CCC where he served as company clerk and in the first aid station at Moran State Park. Cleave met Irene Taylor of Orcas Island in 1936. They were married January 6, 1938 and settled in Friday Harbor. They have continued to reside in San Juan County ever since. During World War II Cleave signed on for duty with the Coast Guard Small Boat Patrol. Later he became Chief Engineer on an Army tugboat towing ammunition barges in the Alaska area. After the war he worked for UNRA equipping and delivering fishing boats to China. Vandersluys owned and operated the M.V. Hydah for many years, including 30 years as the research vessel for the University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories, as well as working in various types of fishing and other marine activities. He was perhaps the first county resident to learn SCUBA diving, which led to the development of his diving air business. For over 32 years he served as a Tide Observer maintaining the tide gauge and records at the NOAA station at the Friday Harbor Labs. He was appointed to the Washington State Oceanographic Commission by Governor Dixy Lee Ray. He worked 30 years for the Town of Friday Harbor. He was appointed then elected in 1955 as Town
Treasurer, a position he held through 1983. This period included appointment in 1976 as the first Town Administrator. In 1984 he was appointed to the Town Council to fill an unexpired term through 1985. Vandersluys was one of the original members of the Volunteer Fire Department, serving 1953-1973. He was a charter member of the San Juan Golf Club. As a Master Mason, he recently was awarded his 60-year pin. Cleave Vandersluys is survived by his wife of nearly 67 years, Irene Vandersluys of Friday Harbor; two daughters Linda Jean (Ron) Prevost of Des Moines, Washington and JoAnne Campbell of Friday Harbor; two grandchildren Cheryl (Lynn) Whiting of Bellingham and Scott (Patty) Campbell of Ferndale; two great-grandchildren Naomi Lynn and Caleb Cleave Whiting; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother Jack and two sisters, Mary Grader and Carrie Kruger. Services were held at the Valley Cemetery on December 11, 2004. Memorials may be sent to a favorite charity. Arrangements are in the care of Evans Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Anacortes. Share memories of Cleave and sign the online guest register at www.evanschapel.com
Currently name Harney Channel, the proponent wishes to honor Henry Cayou.

Mr. Cayou was a prominent member of the commercial fishing industry and processing plant in Deer Harbor and farmed on Decatur Island. It is presumed that Mr. Henry regularly transmitted this particular channel.
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