**Reeds Bay**  
*San Juan County - Spelling Clarification*

**Township:** 35N  
**Range:** 1W  
**Section:** 28

**USGS Quad:** Lopez Pass

**Location Description:** Bay; located on SW end of Decatur Island at 48° 29' 38.31" N, 122° 49' 7.35" W.

**Proposal Summary:**  
Reeds Bay: bay; located on SW end of Decatur Island at 48° 29' 38.31" N, 122° 49' 7.35" W.; Named for the Reed family who settled on the bay in the 1860's. Tacee and her husband John P. Reed were the first settlers on Decatur Island.; San Juan County, Washington; Sec 28, T35N, R1W, Willamette Meridian; 48° 29' 38.31" N, 122° 49' 7.35" W USGS map - Lopez Pass 1:24,000.

Named for the Reed family who settled on the bay in the 1860's. Tacee and her husband John P. Reed were the first settlers on Decatur Island.

The name currently appears misspelled on maps as "Reads Bay".

**Proponent:**  
Kendra Lamb  
35 Decatur Island  
Anacortes, WA 98221

**Proposal Received:** 4/18/2022  
**Initial Consideration:** 7/26/2022  
**Final Consideration:**

**WA Committee Decision:**  
**WA Board Decision:**  
**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**
Proposed Name: **Reeds**  
County: San Juan  
 Township: __________ Range: _______ Section(s): _________  
Lat. ___________ N, Long. ___________ W (Begin)  
Lat. ___________ N, Long. ___________ W (End)  

**Description**  
Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): Bay (off Decatur Island)  
Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered):  

A stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: N/A  
This feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names: Currently on Maps it is spelled Reeds Bay BUT most locals write Reeds as everything else is spelled that way.  
Is it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when? I could only find records of it being on maps & charts starting in the early 1970's. At that time it was being spelled incorrectly (Reads). Prior to that, it does not seem to be named officially.  

**History**  
Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings, this might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land/is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (floods, etc.) 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.  
Origin of name: The Reed family settled on that bay in the late 1860s. Tacee (a native Tlingit from Alaska) and her husband John P Reed were the first settlers on Decatur Island. Here is a map from the San Juan County Website. Showing Reeds Bay Rd, Reeds Shipyard, & READS Bay (Incorrect spelling) and right in the middle of the triangle made by these 3 things, is the Reed cabin, homesteaded in 1867. I will also include a panorama photo from the cabin over to the bay that needs the spelling corrected.  
A commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature: John P Reed & Tacee Reed (a native of Alaska, a Tlingit Indian) settled on Decatur on the bay in 1867. They built a cabin that is still there today. They had 7 children named Reed. All but Mary (later Mrs. Henry Cayou) were born at Decatur. Mary was a baby when they settled here. John P; Tacee lived on Decatur from the time they settled to their deaths.
The proposed name will best serve the public interest: Many other features are named for the Reed family and spelled correctly. It is confusing that the bay is not as most locals just spell it like the family name.

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? I think it was always (since 1860's) called Reeds Bay as that is where they lived... But at some point (1960's) it seems to have been officially named & spelled incorrectly at that time.

List all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history pertaining to proposed name) The book "Native American Wives of San Juan Settlers," Plat maps on San Juan Co. website, 1880 Census records, records of births & death certificates of the Reed family.

What type of support is there for the proposed name? All groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

- Reed Lamb 503-803-2164 reedlamb@gmail.com
- Jacey Webb 503-593-7797 facejwebb@yahoo.com
- George Lamb 360-375-6655 islandlamb44@yahoo.com
- Norine Jones 360-375-6007 no email 25 Reed's Shipyard Rd
- Jodee Jacobson 253-278-4402 Jodeejaacobson@icloud.com
- Jessica Stratton 360-477-0164 Jessica.Stratton@yahoo.com
- Kres Jones 425-949-2055 Kresjones@hotmail.com

Application submitted by:

- Kendra L. Lamb
- 35 Decatur Island
- Anacortes, WA
- 98221
- 503-804-4777 or 360-375-1655
- I lambo@yahoo.com
- Date of Application: 04-19-22

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

Printed Name: Kendra L. Lamb
Signature: Kendra L. Lamb
Date: 4-18-22

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:

WA State Board on Geographic Names
PO Box 47030
Mary Tacee Weldon Gustoff Reed (1846-1918)
First lady of Decatur Island
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J P Reed</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Self (Head)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Reed</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Reed</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issabella Reed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. H. F. Reed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Reed</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Reed</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah W. Reed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margret Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The occupation column is partially filled with handwriting that is not clearly legible.
Comments

Received
Washington State Committee on Geographic Names
PO Box 47030
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Reeds Bay

Dear Committee Members:

Although I normally argue against changing a perfectly good name, this particular suggestion makes sense to correct the spelling error. To the best of my knowledge, the name first appeared on NOAA chart 18429 entitled Rosario Strait, Southern Part. The chart was dated March 17, 1979 which is a bit strange as it was entered into GNIS in September 1979. Regardless, as part of a sweep to collect local names during the late 1970s, this one was picked up. But it was apparently misspelled as the proponent described. And who better to act as the final arbiter of the correct spelling than a member of the family!

I would suggest as the Committee considers this proposal, that it take the final step of eliminating the possessive/plural aspect to the name as was done long ago by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, and simply call it: Reed Bay.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Blumenthal

Author: Maritime Place Names. Inland Washington Waters
Reeds Bay; located on SW end of Decatur Island at 48° 29' 38.31" N, 122° 49' 7.35" W.

Named for the Reed family who settled on the bay in the 1860's. Tacee and her husband John P. Reed were the first settlers on Decatur Island.

The name currently appears misspelled on maps as "Reads Bay".