

## Dedication Ceremony

### Jarrell's Cove Cemetery

May 26, 2018 at 12:00 noon

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Welcome everyone! Thank you all for coming today to take part in this dedication ceremony for the Jarrell's Cove Cemetery. A few years ago, Marty Harrell, then a member of the Mason County Historical Commission, began talking to me about getting the cemetery on the MC Historic Register. With her continuing encouragement I took on this task about a year ago. As the historian for the HICC, I had previously worked with MCHC to gain the "Place of Historic Interest" status for the community hall during our Centennial Celebration.

The first step in gathering the information for the register was more daunting than I expected. Gerri Lewis was most helpful in providing much of the history, as she along with her husband Frank, had been on the cemetery board for around 20 years before turning over the responsibilities to Scott Newman. They both had some of the records, but not all of them. I then started my quest for the legal documents that were missing. Dudley Panchot, Legal-Council for the HICC, was instrumental in providing some of the missing original Warranty Deeds, Quit Claim Deeds, and land survey which were given to him by Frank Lewis, now deceased. Not to mention the several trips to the county for missing documents. Previously during the Centennial Celebration Eileen Jacobson Meyer donated an original postcard of Philura Jarrell in front of her home/Post Office, now on display in the community hall. Eileen also donated a list of "All those who have died on (or from) the Island since 1917 since we came here" written by Grandma Marie Jacobson in Swedish. This is a real treasure and can be found in the HICC History Records, available upon request.

Other sources of information include articles entitled "Harstine Island Cemeteries" by Elizabeth McElroy Allison written in the 1960s and "The Jarrell's Cove Cemetery History" by Gerri Lewis in 1998.

"The Island Remembers A History of Harstine Island and Its People" written by Beulah Hitchcock and Helen Wingert in 1979, was most enlightening. It provided

the history of Robert Jarrell, who first came to the Puget Sound in 1852, where he was engaged with others in the logging business for 12 years doing a thriving business. In 1872 he was the first non-native man to make a settlement on Harstine Island where he continued his logging business, homesteading 160 acres of choice land on the cove, now known as Jarrell's Cove. In 1878 he married Philura, who was the only non-native woman on the island for fifteen years. Robert died in 1894 at age 65, "having injured himself internally by heavy lifting he commenced to fail some years ago and this finally caused his death. The Bible was his book of comfort during his last days on earth". His monument is surrounded by four Douglas Fir trees, now well over 175 feet tall covered by English Ivy.

As the Jarrells had no heirs, Philura deeded the original one-half acre area to Jacob Wingert and the residents of Harstine Island to be used exclusively by the public as a burial ground on Feb. 19, 1897.

Philura died at age 83, on Good Friday and was buried on Easter Sunday in 1913. She was the island's post mistress for 48 years and she enjoyed smoking a corncob pipe. The Jarrells were friends of the Indians. Quite often they who would come single file in their canoes to visit them. The string of canoes would reach from one end of the cove to the other.

In 1971, after the Scott family donated some additional land from their adjoining-property, a new access road was built from North Island Road, the county road. The parking lot was constructed in 1975. This and other improvement work has been accomplished from the Cemetery Fund.

The care of individual graves has been left to the families of the deceased, with general care of the cemetery being done by islanders. In the 1970's Joe Lalande, Sid Baunsgard, Ervie Wingert, Tom Tierney, Bill Ashby, Al Bacon and other citizens upgraded the cemetery including a survey, building a fence, clearing and establishing a Memorial Garden for cremated remains. Their work led to the formation of Cemetery Board which makes decisions necessary for the cemetery operations and the cleanup prior to Memorial Day. They also meet with family members to stake the graves for the deceased and keep the cemetery records. The Community Club promotes the annual cleanup and helps collect donations and memorials which are held in a trust account for cemetery maintenance and

improvements. Each summer the water tank in the northeast corner of the cemetery is filled when the Fire District is tested. The water is used to irrigate the plants and shrubs as is not safe for drinking.

On November 9, 2017 at the monthly meeting of the MCHPC we were given the *stamp of approval* by officially recommending the County Commissioners accept the proposal to add Jarrell's Cove Cemetery to the County Historical Register. The commission approved the recommendation on the basis that the cemetery met at least two criteria for being an area of significance: #1) Is a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance and is the only surviving structure or site associated with that person #2) Is a cemetery which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events or cultural patterns.

On December 7, 2017 the official address for the cemetery was assigned as, 3020 E. North Island Drive, Shelton WA 98584 and we were added to the official Mason County Historic Register.

<http://www.co.masoncounty.wa.us/historic/theregister.php>

After approval by the HICC Board, on January 25, 2018 an order was placed for the historical marker which arrived on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Follow by an order for new flags to be displayed on the graves of each veteran in honor of their service to our county each Memorial Day weekend. I will be applying for the Mason County Heritage Grant in the next cycle for reimbursement of the marker and sign post.

The next order of business was to form a new Cemetery Committee. I am happy to announce we have commitments from Mike Plomski, Elaine Wingert Ireland, Warren Ireland, Teresa Barnes, Bill & Carol Bush, Fred Burgdorf. We are looking to expand the cemetery board, interested parties should contact a member of the committee for more information. Thank you to members of the committee for understanding the importance of the cemetery to the community of Harstine Island, not only for its historical significance but for those buried here and their loved ones too.

I would like to acknowledge the Mason County Historical Commission, chairperson Rick Calvin, Stephanie Neil, Ed Huber, Steve Rose, Pat Jarrells, Lorilyn Rogers and Michael McSems. Thank you all for your consideration and approval of

the Jarrell's Cove Cemetery becoming a member of the Mason County Historic Register.

Thanks go to Chris Rowley for repairs to the Jarrell's headstone; to Gary Benz for making a custom mounting & pole for the "Place of Historic Interest" plaque; to Mike Plomski and Gary Benz for installing the new marker and sign; to Dana Kampa, reporter of the Shelton-Mason County Journal, for the excellent article on the Jarrell's Cove Cemetery quest to be added to the MC Historic Register; Bill Bush for his maintenance work on the water tank; to the Mason County Fire District 5 for filling the water tank; to all the islanders that helped me collect the information for the Mason County Historic Register application; to Elaine Ireland who has taken on responsibility of placing the flags on the gravesites of our veterans for many years; to Tom Mullydy, HICC Photographer, Ed Murphy for his help and understanding in this year-long endeavor and to all islanders who continue to show up each year to clean-up the cemetery for the Memorial Day weekend. Many thanks to you all.

This concludes our ceremony. But before you go, take another moment to look around the cemetery now in its 121 year to see the beauty of the rhododendrons in bloom. They were donated by Jim Bowers in the 70's in memory of his wife Edith and planted by Grangers Al & Francis Bacon and Bill & Hildur Ashby. That's what it all about, love, memories, and reflections.

Thank you all for coming and we'll see you at 4:30 for the All Island Spaghetti Feed at the hall.

Sandy Murphy, HICC Historian