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Later References:

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[Charting Gabriola—the survey of HMS \*Egeria\*, 1904](#)

[Malaspina's lost gallery.](#)

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# Maybe you can answer this

Have a question? have an answer? Here's where it goes.

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## Gabriola placenames

The little book by Aula Bell and Neil Aitken, *Gabriola Island Place Names*, published in 1996 goes a long way toward recording the origin of placenames, past and present, on Gabriola Island; yet, there remain some mysteries. The following is a list of names Aula and Neil have marked as “help!” in their book, plus one or two new names. The origin of some names have been identified, but others remain a mystery. If you know something we don't about any of these names, please let us know and we'll publish the results as they come in, and of course, pass on the results to Aula and Neil for incorporation in any new edition of their book.

### *Still a mystery*

Bath Island	Broadview Road
Cameo Road	Carrier Road
Daniel Way	Eva Place
Evans Road	Ferne Road
Fisher Road	Gayle Road
George Road	Grayston Road
Hamlet Road	Hess Road
Irene Road	Kevan Drive
King Road	Lock Bay
Lubbock Road	Lyngail Place
Marvin Road	Norwich Road
Pam Spring	Perry Road
Ricardo Road	Seymour Road
Spring Beach Drive	Tait Road
Tamala Drive	Tarbert Road
Thomas Place	Timber Lane
Tugboat Island	Watercliff Road
Wilson Road	Windham Road

### *These we know*

#### ARBUTUS POINT

Name for Malaspina Point in an 1853 Admiralty plan of Nanaimo Harbour based, in part, on Hudson's Bay Company surveys.

#### SCHOONER POINT

Name for Malaspina Point in an 1859 chart by George Henry Richards, HMS *Plumper*.

#### TURNABOUT DRIVE

The short spur attached to the south end of the El Verano Drive loop. The name appears on subdivision plans, but was not used for street addresses. “The sign that is up there now was found in the bush while making my vegetable garden.” *Christine Anfossie*

#### WINTHUYSEN INLET (*various spellings*)

Name originally given by the Spanish explorer Narváez in 1791 to all of the Nanaimo harbour area in honour of Francisco Javier de Winthuysen, a lieutenant-general in the Spanish navy. In the early 1850s, used for the Northumberland Channel.

### *Corrections? or maybe just differences of opinion*

#### LOCK / LEBOEUF BAYS

There is a suggestion that the names of these two bays have been swapped, which would make sense since pioneer LeBoeuf's land is nearer Lock Bay than Leboeuf Bay. Any truth in this do you think?

#### HORSESHOE ROAD

Not as it says in the book because of the shape of the road—the bend was added later—but because one of the Johnstons, one-time owners of the LeBœufs' place, was a farrier. Tim Brown still has the forge. *Neil Aitken*

### *New mysteries*

CARLOS ISLAND Flat Top Islands

ROWBOAT POINT Flat Top Islands

SANTA BAY BEACH

At the boat ramp on El Verano Drive.

### **Mudge placenames**

Roads on Mudge have names too, even though they're dirt! Where are these names from? All from the 70s?

Apple Orchard Way	Chum Road
Coho Boulevard	Driftwood Drive
Halibut Hill Road	Herring Heights
Ling Cod Lane	Lover's Loop
Narrow View Place	Needle Fish Way
Perch Place	Pickerel Place
Salal Drive	Sea Fern Lane
Sockeye Drive	Sole Road
Tyee Trail	View Ridge Road
Weathers Way	

### *These we know*

DAVIDSON BAY

Bay at the southeast end of the island adjacent to the False Narrows tidal flats. Davidson is the name of a property owner who lived there from 1965 onward.

DODD NARROWS

More often known locally as Dodd's Narrows. After Captain Charles Dodd who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company for 25 years. Dodd was born in Norwich, England in 1808 and died in 1860. He is buried in the old cemetery, Quadra Street, Victoria.

NANAIMO RAPIDS

Name for Dodd Narrows in the 1850s and 60s. Known locally as "The Narrows".

PORTLAND ISLAND

Name for Mudge Island appearing on an unpublished chart in the 1850s used by HMS *Virago*.

PURVIS POINT

On Mudge at Dodd Narrows. After Lieutenant John Child Purvis, later a vice-admiral in the British navy. Named by Captain Michael De Courcy, HMS *Pylades*, 1859–1861.

SKOO-QUACHT

Name for Dodd Narrows on a map of the Nanaimo Country, published in Victoria in 1860. A Chinook or Snunéymux<sup>w</sup> word for rapids?

STUART CHANNEL

Between Mudge/Link/De Courcy and Vancouver Island. After Captain Charles Edward Stuart, an officer of the Hudson's Bay Company.

### **De Courcy placenames**

Are there any, apart from De Courcy and Pirate Cove?

### **Snake Island placenames**

#### *These we know*

LIGHTHOUSE ISLAND

Name for the island in an 1859 chart by George Henry Richards, HMS *Plumper*.

SNAKE ISLAND

According to John T. Walbran, in *British Columbia Coast Names*, Snake Island is a local name used on account of the island being infested with (garter) snakes (that's what he says), and also from the appearance of the island. Changed from Lighthouse Island by Commander John F. Parry, HMS *Egeria*, in 1904.

### **Link Island placenames**

GRASSY ISLET

LINK ISLAND

It is not hard to figure out why the island has these names, but are these the first names, and when were they named? ◇

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Have a question? have an answer? Here's where it goes.

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## Gabriola placenames

In the last issue, we listed some placenames on Gabriola and the surrounding islands, the origin of which are unknown. Here is an update of those lists. If you know something we don't, then let us know. The basic reference book is *Gabriola Island Place Names* by Aula Bell and Neil Aitken, Reflections Books, Gabriola, 1996.

### Old and new mysteries

#### NORTH END

Broadview Road	Colleen Road
Conville Road	Dole Road
Gayle Road	Gillen Road
Haig Road	Irene Road
Keith Drive	King Road
Larch Road	Lubbock Road
Norwich Road	Pam Spring
Ricardo Road	Ritchie Road
Sarah Place	Sea Meadow Drive
Starbuck Lane	Tarbert Road
Watercliff Road	Windham Road

#### CENTRAL

Carrier Road	Ferne Road
Lackhaven Drive	Santa Bay Beach
Seymour Road	Wilson Road

#### SOUTH END

Cameo Road	Dragon's Lane
Evans Road	Fisher Road
George Street	Hamlet Road
Marvin Road	Perry Road
Sands Road	Timber Lane

These we know:

#### BARE ISLAND

Former name for Carlos Island. *Janet Mason*

#### BATH ISLAND

Probably so named because of the large potholes in the sandstone on the island. Bath Island was possibly named by Royal Vancouver Yacht Club member R.W. Purves in the 1930s. *Phyllis Reeve & Janet Mason*

#### CARLOS ISLAND

Adopted in 1944. After the *San Carlos*, a *paquebot* (lightly-armed frigate) which, under the command of Francisco de Eliza, took part in the Spanish naval expedition to the Strait of Georgia in 1791. *Janet Mason*

#### COHO POINT

Local name for the north point of Gabriola Island. A good fishing spot. *Digby Jones*

#### DANIEL WAY

Named after Tim Brown's father, Dan Brown. Tim owns what was originally the LeBoeuf lands and was born on Gabriola. *Vera Wayman*

#### EVA PLACE

Named after the wife of Tommy Shaw. Tommy and Eva owned the Grande Hotel until 1987. *Phyllis Reeve, Vera Wayman, Tom Stothard, & Aileen Adam*

#### FLAT TOP ISLANDS

This name appears on a manuscript British Admiralty Chart dated 1859.

Probably bestowed by Captain George H. Richards, HMS Plumper. *Nick Doe*

#### GRAYSTON ROAD

After the Grayston family, long-time residents of the island. *Aileen Adam*

#### GREENGAGE BEACH

East-facing beach on Gabriola, south of the east end of Sears Island, north of the islet.

Named for the trees of an abandoned orchard. *Digby Jones & June Lewis-Harrison in her book, p.69*

#### HESS ROAD

The name of a developer. Ferne Road may be a related name. *Vera Wayman*

#### KEVAN DRIVE

Named after the son of Tommy and Eva Shaw, who owned the Grande Hotel until 1987. *Phyllis Reeve, Tom Stothard, & Vera Wayman*

#### KNIGHT BAY

Name adopted by Commander John F. Parry, HMS *Egeria*, 1905 for Descanso Bay. After Lieutenant John Harry Knight.

The assertion of John T. Walbran, in *British Columbia Coast Names*, that it was Parry who named the bay Descanso Bay in 1904 is not correct. It is shown in British Admiralty Chart No. 2512, 1908 and in Parry's survey notes as Knight Bay. The name also appears in editions of the British Columbia Pilot up to at least 1923 in spite of the Geographic Board of Canada's, June 30 1906, declaration that it is "Descanso Bay (not Knight Bay or Rocky Bay)". The Spanish *Puerto del Descanso* was actually Pilot Bay. *Nick Doe*

#### LAVENDER BAY

According to a BC Archaeology Branch document, a local name for the bay along Berry Point Road, just before you get to the junction with Seagirt Lane. *Nick Doe*

#### ROWBOAT POINT

Name suggested by the Canadian Hydrographic Service and adopted in 1944. Small fishing boats used to congregate here in large numbers to fish for coho using live herring as bait. *Janet Mason & Digby Jones*

#### SPRING BEACH DRIVE

Within living memory there was a spring pooling here in the sandstone rocks. Destroyed by a developer. *Island rumour*

#### TAIT ROAD

After the Tait family that used to run the garbage service and the island's taxi. *Phyllis Reeve, Vera Wayman, & Aileen Adam*

#### TAMALA DRIVE

Named after the daughter of Tommy and Eva Shaw, who owned the Grande Hotel until 1987. *Phyllis Reeve, Tom Stothard, & Aileen Adam*

#### THOMAS PLACE

Named after Tommy Shaw. *Vera Wayman, Tom Stothard, & Aileen Adam*

#### TIN CAN ALLEY

Absolutely no prizes for this one, but for the benefit of the lone researcher in the archives a hundred years hence, home of Gabriola's recycling centre since March 1991. A "name-that-road" contest winner.

#### TUGBOAT ISLAND

In the 1940s, tugs stopped here to refuel. Standard Oil barged in oil to Page's Marina. The service stopped after tugs were fitted with large enough tanks for them to be able to complete their journeys back to the Fraser River. Also used by log-salvagers and the Gulf of Georgia towing company before it was sold to the Royal Vancouver Yatch Club. *Phyllis Reeve, Vera Wayman, & Digby Jones*

### ***Corrections? or maybe just differences of opinion***

#### **LOCK BAY**

This name appears on a manuscript British Admiralty Chart dated 1859. It is therefore very unlikely, as was suggested in the previous issue of *SHALE*, that this name was ever applied to Leboeuf Bay.

The name was probably bestowed by Captain George H. Richards, HMS *Plumper*, after Michael Lock (Lok), the business man who heard and reported to the world the story of Juan de Fuca (Apostolos Valerianos) in Venice in 1595.<sup>1</sup> Richards must have been aware of Lock's account of the voyage that Juan de Fuca is alleged to have made in 1592 because one of his lieutenants, Richard C. Mayne, devoted two pages to it in the introduction to the book he wrote about his four-year-long visit to BC. *Nick Doe*

#### **LYNGAIL PLACE**

After two daughters of the Cox family? Not so, according to Hazel Windecker.

#### **MALASPINA GALLERIES**

Commonly held to be just a local name for what the Geographic Board of Canada named the *Galiano Gallery* in 1906. In fact the name *Malaspina Galleries* appears in all of the survey documents of Commander John F. Parry, HMS *Egeria*, 1905. *Nick Doe*

### **Mudge placenames**

These we know:

#### **ZACHARIAH POINT**

Former name for Purvis Point on the west tip of Mudge Island at Dodd Narrows.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren Cook, *Flood Tide of Empire—Spain and the Pacific Northwest*, 1543–1819, pp.22–29, 539–543, Yale University Press, 1973.

Possibly after Lieutenant Zachary Mudge who was with the Captain Vancouver expedition of 1792. Mudge is named after William T. F. Mudge, a lieutenant aboard HMS *Pylades* (1859–60) and a great-nephew of Zachary Mudge. *Nick Doe*

### **De Courcy placenames**

Are there any?

### **Link Island placenames**

These we know:

#### **GRASSY ISLET**

The name Grassy Island first appeared in British Admiralty Chart No.3618, 1907. Adjusted to Grassy Islet at some later date. Rescinded altogether in 1965 because it was considered by the Canadian Hydrographic Service to be a feature of Link Island. *Janet Mason*

#### **LINK ISLAND**

Named by Commander John F. Parry, HMS *Egeria*, 1905. *Janet Mason* ♦

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## **Missing trees**

One species of tree that may grow on Gabriola and/or the surrounding islands is the Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). So far however, Phyllis Fafard, who maintains Gabriola Island's list of flora has no proof positive of this. Nobody reports having seen a spruce (outside a garden that is), but they might be here. They are tall trees, usually grow along sandy shorelines, have cones that hang down, and foliage that is very sharp to the touch. The Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), which has blue berries, appears in an old list compiled by an off-island specialist. The location of one tree is known, but that's all. Have you seen any lately? Let us know if you have. ♦

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# Maybe you can answer this

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## Placenames

Nothing much new in recording the origin of placenames on Gabriola and adjacent islands since the last issue, but we can add the following:

### DRAGON'S LANE

Nothing to do with petroglyphs. Frank and Francine Trebell put the road in and Francine is rather fond of dragons. *Phyllis Reeve*

### GILLEN ROAD

It's where the Gillens live. *Phyllis Reeve*

### PETKAU ROAD

A new mystery. It doesn't seem to be one of Captain Ahab's lot.

### THOMPSON POINT

At the south end of Thompson Road.

For a complete list of placenames of unknown origin, see the previous issue of *SHALE*. ◇

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## Reviews & reports

This section of *SHALE* provides an opportunity for contributors to record interviews and to write about books, journals of other societies, Internet sites, exhibitions, conferences, symposia, and meetings.

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### Book reviews

*Treaty Talks in British Columbia—  
Negotiating a Mutually Beneficial Future*  
by Christopher McKee (2nd Edition, UBC  
Press, 2000);

*Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada*  
edited by John Hylton (1st and 2nd Editions  
Purich Publishing, 1994 and 1999);

*First Nations? Second Thoughts* by Tom  
Flanagan (McGill-Queen's, 1994).

REVIEWED BY NICK DOE.

Nobody living on Gabriola can be unaware of the long historical connection of the

Snunéymux<sup>w</sup> with the island—their petroglyphs, burial grounds, and middens are everywhere. That connection, as the current treaty talks remind us, is very much alive. In a very direct way, we who live in these times are engaged in writing an unfinished chapter of the island's history.

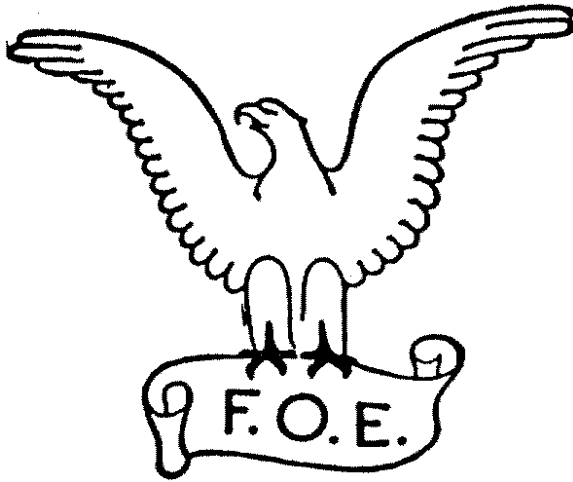
McKee presents an impartial review of the treaty process and its prelude. Although the book was funded by the Treaty Commission, McKee, formerly at UBC, was left to write about those issues that he himself felt deserved attention. He has done this in an unbiased, informative manner, and although

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## F.O.E. 11.1621—by Nick Doe

Down by Green Wharf on Gabriola Island, there is a large sandstone boulder that was used by the surveyors of HMS *Egeria* under Commander J.F. Parry in 1904 as a benchmark for their tidal observations in Dodd and False Narrows. On top of the rock, there is also a small modern Canadian Hydrographic Service benchmark, BM8 1978.<sup>1</sup>

Now, the who and why of the very visible 1904 tidal benchmark is well enough known,<sup>2</sup> but what is something of a mystery is an additional carving, in smaller lettering but in similar style, now almost completely obscured by the trunk of a Douglas fir tree. This inscription simply says F.O.E. 11.1621.

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<sup>1</sup> Reported by Debi Williams in *The Gabriola Sounder*, p.1, March 31, and p.8, April 14, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> There is a *SHALE* article on the *Egeria* in the works.

Because of its position behind the 60–70 year-old tree, and the similarity of the font to that of the mark put there by the HMS *Egeria* crew, it seemed at first, a reasonable assumption that this inscription also dated back to 1904. However, extensive research in the records of the UK Hydrographic Office has failed to reveal any connection whatsoever between the two.

The closest I have been able to come to a naval abbreviation like FOE is those of type: F&C V<sup>h</sup>10<sup>m</sup>

which commonly appear on old charts. The time in these abbreviations refers to the time of day the tide is high on the days of the full and new moon. This time is a useful guide to the time of high tide when tide tables are not available, which of course they often weren't in the past.<sup>3</sup>

Having drawn a blank among hydrographic circles, I tried quizzing the land surveyors in BC. But nobody knew of any marking in this style.

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<sup>3</sup> F&C = "full and change". Only on these days do the solar and lunar tides occur at the same time of day. In this example, Nanaimo Harbour, the first high tide of the day is 5<sup>h</sup> 10<sup>m</sup> after the midnight closest to full or new moon. On average, M2, which is usually the largest tidal component, occurs 50 min. later each day, so if you know the time of high tide on the day of full or new moon, you can figure out the approximate time of high tide on any subsequent day by adding 50 min. per day. The method works much better for the Atlantic Ocean than the Pacific because the Atlantic is smaller and shallower, and doesn't therefore support longer-term (diurnal) resonances. On our coast, forecasts based solely on M2 may be up to two hours out as owners of those Lee Valley tide clocks can attest.





The Douglas fir has grown so tightly against the rock, it is hard to see the F.O.E. inscription, yet alone photograph it. Here only the “E” is visible. Recent interest in the marking was triggered by a threat to close near-by Green Wharf, which has been here since the 1870s. It is only thanks to some unknown Mudgee gently scraping away the outer bark that it can be seen at all (*Souder*, Mar./Apr. 2000).

The next move was one I should have tried a long time ago—ask Barrie Humphrey at the museum. He quite casually remarked, “...you do of course know that there is an Aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Nanaimo?” Yikes! Barrie.....no I didn’t.

A connection to the Internet and a few taps on the computer keyboard brought forth all sorts of interesting information—there were F.O.E.s everywhere.

The fraternal order was founded in Seattle Washington in 1898 by six theatre owners who called the organization “The Order of Good Things”. Because of the theatre connection, attention was drawn to the new order very quickly all across the United States. Possibly (I don’t know) it was the theatre connection that brought it so quickly to Nanaimo. Its Aerie Number, #15, is very low. New York, for example, is #40. So the dates make sense in the context of a possible early-20th century carving.

Having made some progress on the F.O.E.-bit, the natural thing to do was to try the 11- and 1621-bits too. No problem.

Apparently, everyone in the US knows that the year 1621 is the traditional date of the first Thanksgiving of the Pilgrim Fathers, and of course, American Thanksgiving is held in November, the eleventh month of the year. The potential problem of the difference between the date of Thanksgiving in Canada and the US was quickly resolved by a trip to the library. In the *Nanaimo Free Press* for Thursday, November 3, 1921, there is a notice that begins: “Monday, November 7, is Thanksgiving, and all stores who come under the early closing act are required to close that day...”. If that wasn’t sufficient to identify the Canadian Thanksgiving that year, there was also an advertisement for “Thanksgiving Poultry” which included “Gabriola Island Turkeys (60¢ a pound) and Gabriola Island Ducks (40¢ a pound)”.

So, all the pieces of the puzzle are in place.

We have:

1. the Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.)
2. the date of the first Thanksgiving, probably inscribed on the third centennial in 1921; and
3. we have a rock on Gabriola Island.

Your task, dear reader, is to tell me what on earth the connection is between these three things. It beats me. ◇



“Tell me good Snunéymux<sup>w</sup>, is this the island they call Gaviola?”

Green Wharf, November 1621

...with apologies to the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society's History Committee

## Unidentified early visitors—*Gabriola Museum Archives*



Gabriola Museum Archives 1997.022.001

Lots of people on Gabriola have photographs taken at the Galiano Gallery—otherwise known as the Malaspina Galleries—arguably the island’s number-one tourist attraction. Interesting examples of such photographs, some dating as far back as the late-19th century are in the BC Archives and can be viewed online; others are in the museum archives here on Gabriola.

One correspondent sent us a complete album of family photographs, several of which were taken at the galleries (see above). We don’t know who the people in the pictures are (see letter right); however, there are some clues. Written, not very clearly, in pencil, on the inside cover of the album, which is black, is:

*Xmas 1920: (signed) Stella Hill, Maud Saker [Salter?], S.J. Cook, L.C. Shaw, A. Hill, Jim Saker, Nellie [Mollie?] Cook, Frank Gregory*

The Gabriola Museum archivist, Lynda Poulton, would be delighted to hear from anyone who can tell us anything more about these pictures. ♦

July 12 / 96

This photo album was given to our daughter by a friend who was cleaning out an old home in Victoria. She took it to the Royal Victoria Museum. As there were no names available they were not interested but suggested sending it to you as several pictures were of your area.

I have no more information than this but hope you will find something of interest in the pictures.

Sincerely

(signed) Audrey Matthews