

How to comment

JUN 17 2015

Comments on the Harney Peak renaming proposal will be accepted until June 20. Written comments and contact information may be submitted by mail to the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names, in care of the Department of Tribal Relations, at 302 E. Dakota, Pierre, S.D., 57501; or by email to david.reiss@state.sd.us.

South Dakota Board of Geographic Names;

I have a comment to make concerning the renaming of Harney Peak. When I first read about it in the Rapid City Journal it sounded as if it was going to happen as a for sure thing. I was rejoicing. It's something that I have thought for years would never happen.

Look at this quote from the article for a moment:

"Harney Peak is in the Black Hills and is named for Gen. William S. Harney, who is reviled by some Native Americans for commanding troops who killed Sioux women and children at the 1855 Battle of Ash Hollow in present-day Nebraska. An Army topographical engineer under Harney's command named the peak for the general in the 1850s."

First the article doesn't mention those killed in Florida. Second, notice that the topographical engineer who changed the name was under Harney's command. It wouldn't be for love of the man. He was ordered to make the name change. They just don't do those things on their own. Harney ordered that name change. It should have never stuck. Once Harney was gone it should have changed back to what it was really called in the first place.

Harney spent several years in the Pacific Northwest. History has nothing good to say about him here either. I have photocopied some pages from David Richardson's history, *Pig War Islands*. It's well documented, Harney was a trouble maker and disagreeing meant imprisonment. That topographical engineer was forced to make that name change. Harney was no hero, he was all ego.

I don't have a preference for a new name, I just want Harney's name off that peak. It's not on there like most names are on put on things to honor someone. He's not honorable. There's no reason to keep it and it wasn't legitimate in the first place.

Every map maker in the country is waiting for your decision. It is my sincere hope that you decide to get rid of that name. If not, then it should be made known through all literature printed for tourists that the mountain was name by and for a less than honorable person.

Harney named a channel in the San Juan Islands after himself also. If you have the power, get rid of it too.



Please take the time to read the photocopied pages from Richardson's history.

Richard Nordstrom
823 South Pine Street
Tacoma, Washington
98405

Mills, both of whom took ranches in the rolling open ground of San Juan Valley. Mackay, who was from Glasgow, Scotland, stayed until 1860 and then left to go silver-mining in New Zealand. Mills was killed by Indians within the year.

Others who settled on San Juan in 1858 or early 1859 included John Witty, William Smith, Daniel W. Oakes, Charles McCoy, and the brash, good-humored young fellow by the name of Lyman A. Cutler. Cutler already had a well-deserved reputation as a dead shot with a rifle who "didn't scare worth a cent"; but his permanent place in history was to be won in the unlikely confrontation with Charles Griffin's pig.

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MAKING A BUNKER HILL OF IT

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM Selby Harney, U.S. Army, believed it was a soldier's business to fight. From the moment he entered the service as a second lieutenant in 1818, his was a career which generally found him in the thick of some battle, somewhere. His Indian-fighting expeditions in Florida paralleled those of his idol, Andrew Jackson, and led to rapid promotions which found him a full colonel at 46. In the Mexican War he was ranking cavalry officer under General Winfield Scott, whose concept of soldiering was somewhat broader: Scott considered Harney's exploits in Florida as over-zealous—he had hung some Indians there on rather flimsy grounds—and suspected him of emulating Jackson's expansionist as well as his military traits.* He also considered Harney impetuous and unmanageable, and had him relieved.

Harney at first complied, then defied Scott and resumed command on his own orders. Scott had Harney court-martialed,

* Nor was Scott any admirer of Jackson, who once challenged him to a duel—declined by Scott, on grounds the nation could "spare" neither of them.

57

but Harney pulled some political strings and it was Scott who drew a mild reprimand.

Restored to command, Colonel Harney fought brilliantly under Scott and opened for him the road to Mexico City with his decisive victory at Cerro Gordo, personally leading his men in hand-to-hand battle to take El Telégrafo hill.

Harney's next exploits were in the Platte country where he defeated the Sioux in the battle of Sand Hill, and in the Utah "Mormon War" of 1857-8. It was Harney who, faced with superior forces and being implored to withdraw, replied, "Gentlemen, I have orders to winter in Utah, and I'm going to winter there or in Hell." And Harney was on the point of hanging Brigham Young, together with a number of the latter's fellow apostles, when removed from command of this campaign — which his superiors felt should have been waged with more tact and less vigor.

Such was the man selected to command the newly created Department of Oregon. He arrived at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River in October 1858.

Meanwhile Governor Douglas' anxiety over the burgeoning invasion of San Juan Island by Yankee "squatters" continued. In February, several Americans came to the island from Victoria with a surveyor, Edward C. Gillette, and began staking claims to land; by making a few minimal improvements they hoped to qualify for preemption claims later on.* Hudson's Bay agent Griffin reported this to his superiors, whereupon some Vancouver Island politicians proposed forestalling American settlement by banishing the more troublesome of their Indian population to San Juan.

* Americans who showed they had lived on and made improvements to government land had first chance to buy, and at cheap rates, when the land was released to public sale. Under the Oregon Land Bill "donation law" of 1850, which was in effect through 1855, Henry Weber had already filed a claim — comprising the choicest parts of the Hudson's Bay Farm on San Juan Island.

In April, Lyman Cutler arrived and began looking around for a place to settle on. The tall, light-haired Ohioan was not known for an overly industrious nature. Hoping to avoid the manual labor entailed in clearing the giant firs which grew "thick as hairs on the back of a dog"* over most of the island, he made his choice on a bit of rolling, sparsely timbered prairie a mile to the north and west of Bellevue Farm. That this spot was exactly in the middle of Charles Griffin's best sheep run did not bother him in the slightest.

Cutler threw together a log shack and selected a winsome copper-skinned lass to share it with him, after the custom of the country. He spaded up a third of an acre of garden, around which he built a half-hearted fence. Then, rowing twenty miles across the Strait to Dungeness, he paid ten dollars for a peck of seed potatoes and planted them in his modest plot. At such prices, a neighbor of Cutler's liked to point out, "spuds is spuds."

Before long Agent Griffin could count upwards of sixteen American settlers on or near his premises. Alarmed, he reported to Douglas the newcomers were assuring him the island was considered U.S. soil by their government, that it was about to be officially surveyed, and that land claims were soon to be recognized.

Paul Hubbs was worrying too. Northern Indians were still making periodic forays and it was hard to say how long the British would continue to protect the unwelcome settlers. It appears that Hubbs wrote to General Harney about May 1859, asking that a guard of around twenty soldiers be stationed on San Juan for protection against Indians. Harney was also invited to visit the island and "view its resources and its commanding position."

The invitation may or may not have influenced Harney's decision to make an inspection trip of the northern Puget Sound area the following July.

* The phrase is from "The Old Settler," a popular pioneer song by Francis Henry.

Sound, it seemed, was converging on San Juan. Pickett discovered with dismay that it was his own reassignment there which largely encouraged the new influx of undesirables; the commanding general had rebuked Hunt, that fastidious sportsman, and replaced him with the more earthy Captain Pickett! These signals were being interpreted to mean that, under its new commander, San Juan Island would be "wide open."

Pickett however had no such thought in mind. Appalled at the lawlessness increasing unchecked on all sides, he re-read his orders:

You will... acknowledge and respect the civil jurisdiction of Washington Territory in the discharge of your duties on San Juan, and... you are directed to communicate with the civil officer on the island in the investigation of all cases requiring his attention.

Very charming — only no civil officer had set foot on the island since Magistrate Newsom had thrown up his hands and walked off the job. How was Pickett to "acknowledge and respect" a civil jurisdiction that did not exist?

Pickett fired off an urgent appeal to Judge Fitzhugh, begging him to appoint a suitable officer. Fitzhugh decided to look matters over first. Arriving early in May, he was accompanied by E. C. Gillette, the surveyor, now a Whatcom County commissioner. After observing the situation on San Juan and listening to Pickett's pleas, Fitzhugh asked Gillette to take on the job of justice of the peace and U.S. Commissioner for the island. Gillette agreed and, promising that the latter would return as soon as he could be sworn in and get transportation back to the island, both men departed in haste for Whatcom.

Two weeks later Pickett had seen nor heard nothing further from either Fitzhugh or Gillette. A letter to the judge went unanswered. Running into Henry Roeder, another of Whatcom's leading citizens, on board a calling steamer, Pickett pleaded with him to see if something couldn't be done at once. But nothing was.

By May 20, 1860, something close to complete anarchy prevailed on the southern end of San Juan Island. Except within the four-mile military preserve, law and order were non-existent. Robbery had become commonplace. The streets of San Juan Town were unsafe for women at any time. Pickett now estimated fully two thirds of the Indians were drunk by day as well as by night. Whisky-sellers had become so numerous he had lost count of them. Meanwhile, decent citizens, living in constant fear, were entreating the captain for protection he was powerless to give them.

That evening, a Sunday, the streets of San Juan Town were thronged as usual with boisterous crowds of Indians and riffraff. From the interiors of the dozens of bars and whisky shanties came the sound of raucous laughter, fights, curses, and bawdy songs. Nearby in the drygoods emporium of one Isaac Higgins — described by Captain Hunt as the only legitimate storekeeper in town* — a group of saner citizens sat, forlorn, listening to the cacophony.

At about nine o'clock a new sound was heard — the unmistakable *krak* of a nearby pistol. The occupants of the store glanced uneasily at one another. But the riotous roar from the drinking spas never paused; seemed actually louder than before. Someone started for the door to investigate — his wiser friends pulled him back. No use to be foolhardy. Out there, now, an honest citizen wouldn't stand a chance.

Next morning at daylight the body of a Haidah Indian was found, shot through the head, near the Higgins store. His body had been robbed. All that day wailing relatives and angry friends clustered around it. Pickett, who knew the proud northern Haidahs only too well, feared their inevitable revenge-taking would fall on some totally innocent person. Orders or no orders, now he felt compelled to act.

* The distinction was short-lived. Higgins later converted his store into a saloon, too.

Pickett bought some time by giving the widow of the murdered Indian some provisions and by making assurances the killer would soon be brought to justice and punished. The catch was that nobody would or could identify the culprit until after the suspect had managed to slip off the island in a small boat.

Reluctant even to take charge of the body— obviously that was a function of civil government — Pickett opened all the stops as he again wrote the Whatcom County commissioners, reporting the murder and begging for an officer to be sent over immediately.

“My hands are tied,” he wrote; “I am to assist the civil authority; where are they? Things cannot remain in this position. In order that there shall be no further delay, I now send over my whale-boat, with a *request* that you may despatch by it either a magistrate or a commission for some individual here. My commiseration for the good citizens residing here induces me to this course, and my duty will compel me to make a full report of all the circumstances if immediate action is not taken.”

That evening, and for some days afterward, Pickett sent a guard of soldiers into the town to try to keep some semblance of order — “to protect the inhabitants from the Indians and each other,” as he put it in a report to headquarters.

This episode at last brought E. C. Gillette hasting to the scene with apologies for his tardiness, which Pickett overlooked in his relief that the magistrate had shown up at all. Without losing time, the captain submitted a list of the worst of the hooch-merchants. Complaints were drawn up for selling liquor without a county license, and for selling to Indians.

Hauled before the new magistrate, all the defendants volubly protested the latter’s authority. Most of them were openly defiant, gleefully insisting no law of any kind could touch them on the island, and fully expecting Pickett to back them up. Convening court, Gillette read to them the part in Pickett’s orders about acknowledging the jurisdiction of Whatcom County, and co-

operating with its civil officials. When five of the defendants still disputed Gillette’s authority he called on Pickett for assistance and the five speedily found themselves incarcerated in the camp guardhouse. There would be no jury trial in San Juan Town, either; the prisoners would be held for trial before Judge Fitzhugh at the next session of District Court in Whatcom. The whisky entrepreneurs were astonished to discover not only that Gillette meant business, but that Captain Pickett did, too.

Justice Gillette turned next to investigating the Haidah Indian’s murder. Learning the suspected killer had returned to the American side and was seen in Dungeness, he swore in a constable and sent him over to apprehend the suspect. A cromy who just might have been implicated, and who was still in town, was arrested on suspicion.

By June 2 the *Victoria Colonist* could report a changed situation on San Juan Island. As justice of the peace, Gillette was “making havoc” with whisky dealers by prosecuting them for selling without a license; while as U.S. commissioner, he was declaring the whole island “Indian country” and any liquor brought to San Juan would henceforth be seized and destroyed.

Yet two weeks later Pickett realized he had won a battle and not the war. Liquor was simply being smuggled onto the island with ease, to be hidden in the woods and sold clandestinely — particularly to Indians. Ruefully, Pickett had to report to General Harney that whisky dealers were “still in full blast” and moreover, that quantities of northern Indian women were now being imported to the island for purposes he delicately described as “nefarious.” Pickett thought it would help to have an Indian agent assigned to San Juan.

Instead, Harney resurrected part of his order of the previous summer, when he stationed Pickett’s men on the island under the pretext of a protection against Indian incursions: “You will not permit any force of these Indians to visit San Juan island or the waters of Puget’s Sound in that vicinity over which the United

States have any jurisdiction. Should these Indians appear peaceable you will warn them in a quiet but firm manner to return to their country, and not visit in future the territory of the United States; and in the event of any opposition being offered to your demands, you will use the most decisive measures to enforce them....”

To back this up, Harney ordered Captain W. H. Fauntleroy, commanding the *Massachusetts*, to cruise the waters of the archipelago and keep northern Indians away. Any that refused to leave were to be arrested and brought to Fort Stelling.

Pickett was aghast as he considered the consequences of obeying such an order. Thousands of northern Indians came to San Juan in the spring of each year to fish and to work for the Hudson's Bay Company. Already there were four thousand of them reported near Victoria, and many more on their way. To oppose them with military force could only lead to the copious shedding of blood. And with a single company of men—it was seriously under strength at that—Pickett could not hope to protect the farmers scattered in isolated spots over the island. Confound that Harney, Pickett thought. He was determined to stir up trouble, somehow.

This time Pickett refused to be stampeded. He wrote Harney, pointed out the realities of the situation, and bluntly declined to “commence the war” without more specific instructions.

These Pickett would never receive. For before Harney could reply, the general was to acquire some disheartening instructions of his own.

General-in-chief Winfield Scott had been discussing Harney with the Secretary of War. He doubted the general would accede for long to the peaceful arrangement Scott had made of affairs in the Pacific Northwest. Indeed, he told Mr. Floyd, Harney was obviously jealous of what he considered interference on the part of higher authority; he probably could not be trusted to follow orders, but would soon find a new way to heat things up. Perhaps

he should be removed from command before that happened? But the War Department, recalling Harney's political connections, at first preferred to wait and see.

There hadn't been long to wait. Harney's arch-enemies on the frontier, the Hudson's Bay Company, still occupied property at Fort Vancouver—it had been their fort, in fact, until the boundary treaty of 1846 placed it in Yankee territory and led to the establishment, instead, of the one at Victoria (its site having been selected over many others by James Douglas himself). The continued presence of Hudson's Bay buildings and cultivated fields, cheek-by-jowl with Harney's military headquarters, rankled the old Indian fighter beyond endurance. Finally he advised Chief Trader James Grahame that he no longer recognized the Company's right to “any lands within the military reserve,” adding that if Hudson's Bay had been allowed to stay until that time, it had only been “conceded by the courtesy” of General Harney.

The Company protested—with reason—that the Treaty of 1846 guaranteed them possessory rights to the property; but to no avail. Harney gave them a week to vacate, after convening a board of three of his own officers to assess the value of the trading company's improvements. The eight buildings and four to five hundred yards of fences were put at not over \$250 total, which was to be paid the company only “in the event of any compensation being allowed them hereafter by the government.”

Chief Factor A. G. Dallas, with whom Harney had been locking horns over the San Juan pig business, threw in the towel and wrote Harney he was pursuing his only recourse—“to withdraw entirely from the [Washington] territory.” To this the general replied, for once, with an offer of “every facility” to help them fulfill this intention. But news of this latest outburst of aggressiveness toward our brother Anglo-Saxons in the north did nothing to enhance Harney's deteriorating standing in Washington City.

Moreover, Harney was outstripping even his own notorious reputation for harshness toward subordinates. Soon after taking command at Fort Vancouver, there had been a disagreement between the general and his ordnance officer over some trivial matter of procedure, which the officer proposed to appeal to the chief of ordnance, whereupon Harney had him arrested, charged with disrespect to a superior officer, and relieved from duty.

Then there was the case of Lieutenant Henry V. De Hart, who had the temerity to question Harney's right to furlough soldiers so they could be put to work building the general's private residence. De Hart was no ordinary guard-house lawyer: he knew military law backwards and forwards (he later wrote the book on court martials) and was sure of his ground. When Harney preferred charges against De Hart, his nemesis — General Scott — pointed out that the charges were worthless and would surely not be upheld by Washington. Learning that the lieutenant was being held prisoner in Harney's stockade all the while, Scott peremptorily ordered the general to release him. Once again, Scott took opportunity to write the Secretary of War, that "the highest obligations of my station compel me to suggest a doubt whether it be safe in respect to our foreign relations, or just to the gallant officers and men in the Oregon department, to leave them longer, at so great a distance, subject to the ignorance, passion, and caprice of the present headquarters of that department."

Another lieutenant, Henry C. Hodges, was meanwhile being placed under arrest for the dastardly crime of omitting from a report the rank and designation of Harney's staff officer. Harney was again called on the carpet for taking such extreme measures over a minor irregularity, and Hodges was ordered restored to duty.*

* Harney was, moreover, in trouble with the Ordnance Department for trying to force the Pacific Department's ordnance officer to erect an arsenal on a tract of land owned by Harney, for which Harney was asking a tidy \$3,480.

The general's stock fell yet lower when, in April, he closed down Fort Townsend for the second time, General Scott having specifically ordered it reactivated a few months earlier. When news of this reached Washington, Secretary of War Floyd crossly ordered Harney to report "on what ground it has been abandoned."

Simultaneously with this, Winfield Scott received Captain Hunt's hastily sent letter from San Juan Island, and read with mounting anger the captain's account of events culminating in his replacement by George Pickett. Laying all of this before Secretary Floyd, Scott particularly pointed out portions of General Harney's orders to Pickett which denied "within the knowledge of the general commanding" that joint occupation had ever legally been authorized, insisting that the act of the territorial legislature making the islands part of Whatcom County was "the law of the land," and warning that "any attempt of the British commander to ignore this right of the Territory will be followed by deplorable results...."

"If this does not lead to a collision of arms," Scott told the Secretary gravely, "it will again be due to the forbearance of the British authorities."

By now Floyd, his disposition souring as the distant rumblings of approaching civil war began more and more to command his attention, found himself fresh out of patience:

Special Orders — No. 115.

WAR DEPARTMENT

Adjutant General's Office, Washington, June 8, 1860

Brigadier General William S. Harney, United States Army, will, on the receipt hereof, turn over the command of the Department of Oregon to the officer next in rank in that Department, and repair without delay to Washington city, and report in person to the Secretary of War.

By order of the Secretary of War:

S. COOPER

Adjutant General



TWO FLAGS FLYING

ALL OF GENERAL HARNEY'S tortured attempts to justify his actions in the San Juan affair were curtly disapproved by Secretary Floyd, who perhaps would have taken sterner action but for the congealing furor in the South. President Buchanan, however, supposed a fighting general like Harney might come in a bit handy before long. So he had the old Indian fighter appointed commander of the Department of the West, at St. Louis, where he could be kept on ice until needed. But Harney's continued penchant for playing the military bull in political china closets got him relieved from the post twice in as many years, and culminated in his capture by Southern forces eleven days after the fall of Fort Sumter.

One of the very first Union officers to be taken prisoner in the war, Harney was released a short time afterward and allowed to proceed to Washington, after some remarkably friendly visits with Robert E. Lee, General Joseph Johnston, Virginia's governor John Letcher and other high-up Southerners. Under these circumstances he was given no more commands and in 1863

a hard-pressed government decided the safest thing was to retire him altogether.*

Harney's old department of Oregon was given to Colonel — soon General — George Wright, who took command just as those distant rumblings of war drums were reaching the Pacific coast. Kept busy with a rising tempo of troop movements and war preparations, Wright paid a minimum of attention to San Juan Island, allowing events there to settle into their own groove. Captain Pickett was doing a surprisingly creditable job of restoring order and, once out from under Harney's impelling thumb, seemed more than willing to keep peace with the British. Wright decided to leave Pickett in command for the time being.

Meanwhile a hundred-man complement of red-coated Marines had finally landed on San Juan. There had been a great deal of intervening friction between certain "hawks" and "doves" on the British side. Back in October, 1859, when General Scott's proposal of joint occupation arrived in Victoria, doughty old Admiral Baynes took it upon himself to send a copy via pony express and Western Union telegraph — the fastest communications available then — to the British ambassador in Washington City. Douglas wasn't happy when he received orders back to accept the proposition.

Douglas' pique took an odd form. Verbally telling Baynes to land an occupying force on San Juan, he declined to show the admiral the orders directing the landing. Baynes stated he was not about to make such a move just on Douglas' say-so. But the governor maintained that, as representative of the Queen, he could not "delegate" his instructions to anyone, and steadfastly refused to show Baynes the order. The deadlock was not broken until Baynes wrote the Admiralty in England for a copy, which was not received until February.

There was another month's delay while a site for the encamp-

* Toward the end of the war, Harney was awarded a brevet in recognition of earlier successes.

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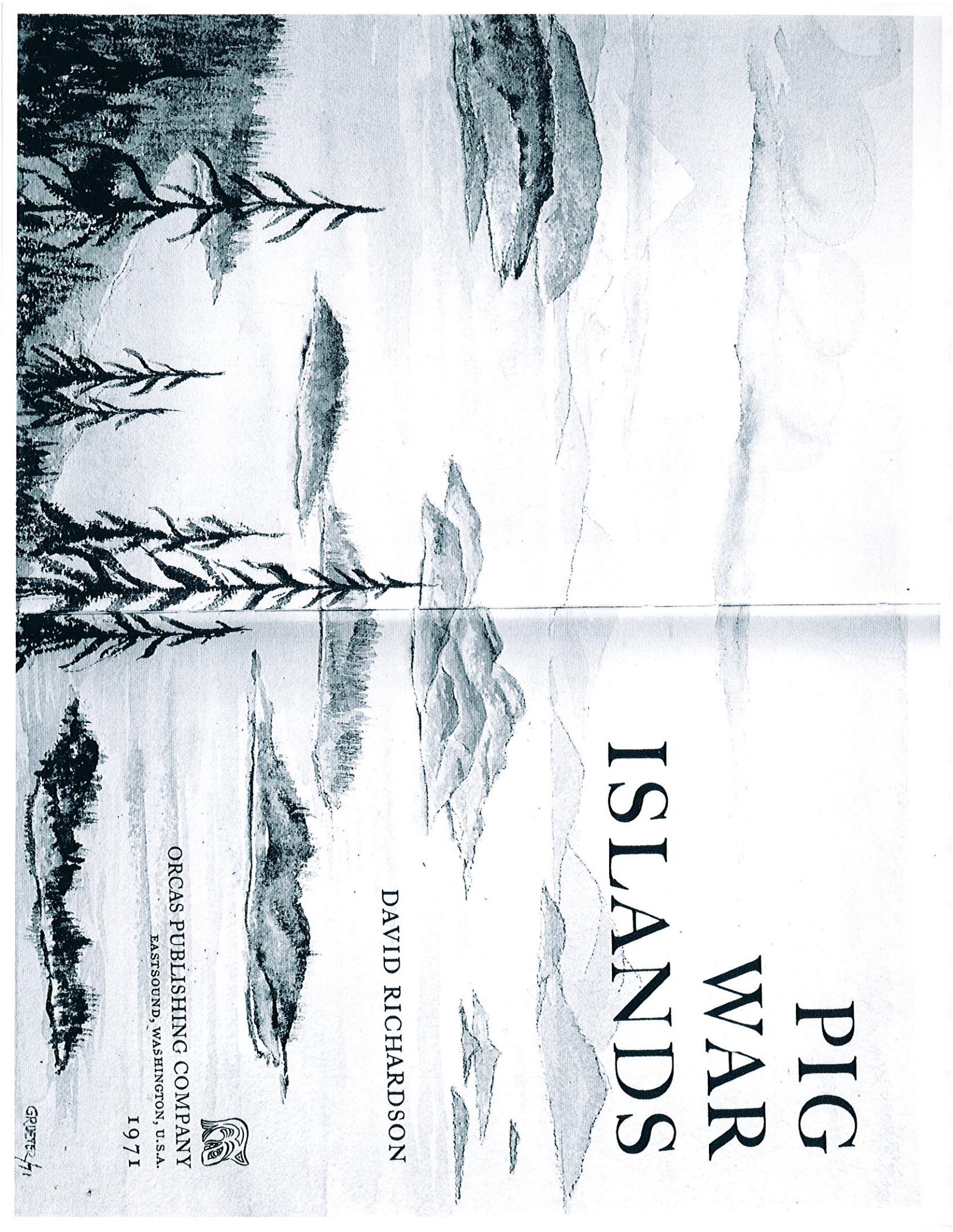
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*to the memory
of
my grandparents
Ivan & Lulu Blair*

designed and printed in Canada by
MORRIS PRINTING COMPANY LTD.
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA



PIG WAR ISLANDS

DAVID RICHARDSON

ORCAS PUBLISHING COMPANY
EASTSOUND, WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

1971



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JUN 17 2015

6-15-2015
605-342-5877

In regard to re naming Harney Peak.

I feel very strongly against this action!

Please leave as is.

at least 50 people/friends I have visited with
also are against this action. Phyllis Clary-Poigree

Reiss, David

From: Rick and Karen Schumacher <snomacher@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Don't change the name of Harney Peak!

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed name change for Harney Peak. When we hear the word Harney we don't think about some general we think of a mountain. If it must be changed please call it something people can pronounce, spell and remember like Elk Peak or something simple like that. The name you are proposing will do nothing but confuse and divide people. ThankYou, Rick and Karen Schumacher, 23921 Sun Country Lane, Rapid City

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: John and Ginger <johnngingerolson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

I oppose renaming Harney Peak . I believe it is too costly to change a geographic name for frivolous reasons. History is history. We should remember history, not cover it up. Please let it be.

Respectfully, Virginia Olson
24068 Knotty Pine Court
RAPID CITY, SD 57702

Reiss, David

From: Virginia Johnson-Gruver <vgruver@hughes.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 2:52 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name the mountain Hinhag Kaga Owl Mountain

Please take my vote to name the mountain Hinhag Kaga Owl Mountain

==+==+==+==+==+==+

Virginia Johnson-Gruver, RN, CCM, Nurse Patient Educator

Reiss, David

From: Representative Bordeaux, Shawn L
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Hinhan Kaga

Dear Sir,

Thank you and the Board for the good work in making the public heard and recommending changing the name to the original name by the Lakota people, Hinhan Kaga. This is a very difficult thing to do in making such a change and I am proud that the state recognizes these important changes. I represent two counties that comprise part of the original Rosebud Sioux Tribe in District 26A in the people's House of Representatives. My community members have told me they support this change and I hope it gets final authorization.

My children's great, great, great, great grandma was shot and left for dead at the Battle of the Blue Water in Nebraska. She was Iron Shell's mother-in-law and she survived to tell the story and carry on in spite of the experience that Harney and his men dealt the Lakota on the prairie that day. I don't understand how this was considered a battle and I hope to see our history books reflect the spirit of change in telling some of these horrible stories that our people endured during the Frontier era. Maybe massacre ought to be the way this Battle was explained to the masses through education. I believe we need to focus on some of the historical curriculum in the state and change it too.

Again, Wopila Tanka (Big Thanks) to the Board and team for this outstanding work. South Dakota is looking better already. It is difficult work but important to our race relations and healing as a state.

Pilamaya pelo, (Thanks to all of you)

Rep. Bordeaux
District 26A
SD House of Representatives

Reiss, David

From: Yufna Soldier Wolf <yufnanathpo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 3:49 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposed Name for Harney Peak
Attachments: Harney Peak 2015.docx

David,
Our letter is attached from the Northern Arapaho THPO.
Thanks!

--

Yufna Soldier Wolf
NATHPO-Director
307-840-0837 call or text Cell
307-856-1628 Office call or lv msg

Hinon'ainino'

Northern Arapaho Tribe
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 67 - St. Stephens, Wyoming 82524 - PH: 307.856.1628 - yufnanathpo@gmail.com

June 17, 2015

David Reiss
South Dakota
Board on Geographic Names
Harney Peak

David,

Greetings! I am the director of the Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office/NAGPRA. We currently received your letter about Harney Peak.

As you know many tribes hold many of the land marks as significant to their oral histories and creation stories on this continent. For the Northern Arapaho our creation story dates as far back as this continent being created. The Northern Arapaho, not always called the Northern Arapaho, we The Northern Arapaho also known as "The Ancient One" was a progenitor of the various religious entities that we still carry and protect today within our religion. As nomadic high plains natives we explored early on this continent, grew to survive and be care takers of this land. Our main source of surviving on this land was the buffalo.

Our creation stories pre-date the idea of a land bridge; our creation begins when there was no land, only water, what that exact date is will remain unknown. The Northern Arapaho are a practicing tribal people today who are very protective of their way of life including the four ingredients that make them Arapaho which are: 1.) Religion, 2.) Land, 3.) Language and 4.) Tribal Law. With these four ingredients we were to make our own sacred destiny into which we can proudly stand before you today and say we are not extinct; we are alive and moving forward into the future by embracing the four ingredients. Today through Sovereignty and Self Determination we gladly extend our hand, in honor of our ancestors, to greet today's technology to continuously work in fortitude towards protecting and preserving our culture for future generations.

Harney Peak in our Arapaho language is set in a range of mountains known to us as "Bear Den Mountains", The peak to the Northern Arapaho were "White Ferret Mountains", Xon-Nii-Na-Haw-Gaii." To re-incorporate the indigenous names would be a huge honor for the tribes to in name sake reclaim what had once been their homeland.

I propose our Northern Arapaho Name of "White Ferret Mountains", Xon-Nii-Na-Haw-Gaii." Be submitted as one of the indigenous names for proposition. I realize the Sioux also want to give an indigenous name to the same peak.

Ha-Hou (Thank You!) for your time,

Yufna Soldier Wolf

Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Director NAGPRA

yufnanathpo@gmail.com

307.840.0837

Hinon'ainino'

Northern Arapaho Tribe
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 67 - St. Stephens, Wyoming 82524 - PH: 307.856.1628 - yufnanathpo@gmail.com

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Board on Geographic Names
Harney Peak

David,

Greetings! I am the director of the Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office/NAGPRA. We currently received your letter about Harney Peak.

As you know many tribes hold many of the land marks as significant to their oral histories and creation stories on this continent. For the Northern Arapaho our creation story dates as far back as this continent being created. The Northern Arapaho, not always called the Northern Arapaho, we The Northern Arapaho also known as "The Ancient One" was a progenitor of the various religious entities that we still carry and protect today within our religion. As nomadic high plains natives we explored early on this continent, grew to survive and be care takers of this land. Our main source of surviving on this land was the buffalo.

Our creation stories pre-date the idea of a land bridge; our creation begins when there was no land, only water, what that exact date is will remain unknown. The Northern Arapaho are a practicing tribal people today who are very protective of their way of life including the four ingredients that make them Arapaho which are: 1.) Religion, 2.) Land, 3.) Language and 4.) Tribal Law. With these four ingredients we were to make our own sacred destiny into which we can proudly stand before you today and say we are not extinct; we are alive and moving forward into the future by embracing the four ingredients. Today through Sovereignty and Self Determination we gladly extend our hand, in honor of our ancestors, to greet today's technology to continuously work in fortitude towards protecting and preserving our culture for future generations.

Harney Peak in our Arapaho language is set in a range of mountains known to us as "Bear Den Mountains", The peak to the Northern Arapaho were "White Ferret Mountains", Xon-Nii-Na-Haw-Gaii." To re-incorporate the indigenous names would be a huge honor for the tribes to in name sake reclaim what had once been their homeland.

I propose our Northern Arapaho Name of "White Ferret Mountains", Xon-Nii-Na-Haw-Gaii." Be submitted as one of the indigenous names for proposition. I realize the Sioux also want to give an indigenous name to the same peak.

Ha-Hou (Thank You!) for your time,

Yufna Soldier Wolf

Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Director NAGPRA

yufnanathpo@gmail.com

307.840.0837

Reiss, David

From: Dr. James W. Schwietert <chirodude@rushmore.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 4:12 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

David,

I think we should keep this historic name for this mountain. We can not and should not try to change history and regardless of a name change, it does not change the facts. There were many other "peoples" in this area, even before the Lakota and they too were displaced from these Black Hills by others.

History is exactly that, history. Unchangeable.

Thank you,

Jim



Dr. James Schwietert
Schwietert Chiropractic Clinic
www.rapidcitychiropractor.net

Reiss, David

From: bernaltire@midconetwork.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 4:24 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney peak

Just wanted you to know how tired I am letting the 10% tell the majority of us what to name our mountains. If you put this on the ballot it would go down like a ball of flames. I ask a lot of people that come into the store and almost all say it's ridicules. Please just leave it alone.

Reiss, David

From: Paul Stover Soderman <paul.stover.soderman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 6:12 PM
To: Reiss, David; Emery, Steve; Nadenicek, Joe
Cc: karen k little thunder; Phil Little Thunder; Jon. Edwards; Scott Highland; Doug GoodFeather; Tim Schaaf; Myron Pouriier; Cathie Soderman; leslie england; Bob G; Nahko Bear; Ben Rhodd; reaglebear@yahoo.com
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change Final Request

To David Reiss and the South Dakota Board of Geographic Name Change

I would like submit a statement concerning the pending name change of Harney Peak. I am a seventh generation descendant of General William Selby Harney and I stand with the many others who are asking that his name be replaced with a new name that more closely honors the United States governments agreement contained in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, concerning the embattled Black Hills ownership. Harney was a member of the 1868 Peace commission , helped design the treaty in St. Louis and is the third signer of that legally binding agreement. Harney's violent and brutal actions at the Blue Water Massacre on Little Thunder's village are well known now.

I have read all the comments submitted to your board and appreciate all the varied views of this issue and really appreciate the opportunity your board has provided us all. I would like to address the name change dissenters main points. We are not a small group of liberal, politically correct troublemakers. I believe we are still outnumbering the name change objectors on this forum. Secondly, this movement may have caught you unaware and seems to have created an unfounded fear that our intention is change more names (such as Custer.) I have not heard anyone in our group intimate such an intention. The Harney Peak issue is primary and singular in it's quest for righting a historical wrong. Lastly, yes this proposition if it passes through, will be inconvenient. A new name in an unfamiliar language is confusing. Hihan Kaga would challenge us to see past our own temporal, limited time here and consider the generations to come. My dream would be that mountain, held sacred to many Native Americans, would not be remembered by their children's children as ever having another name other than the one originally given by their own ancestors. Why is that even relevant today? Because of how far it could go to begin to lift the spirit and self esteem of a young native person or perhaps an elder who has given up trying to fight for their homeland rights. It means more than we will ever know.

My hope is that the board will hold on to the courage of it's conviction shown in the vote a month ago to rename the peak to Hinhan Kaga. Owl Mountain is what Basil Braveheart is now suggesting as a suitable translation. I believe the renaming will happen now, later or much later for we will continue to work for it, for as we approach the 150 year anniversary of the 1868 Ft. Laramie treaty signing (2018)...what better way to promote and cultivate cross cultural and intergenerational healing and forgiveness.

After studying his life in detail I think my ancestor, Gen Harney, would approve of this name change effort and is proud of us for trying, That is what I wholeheartedly believe.

An irrevocable gift I have received in this process is building healing relations with many members of the Little Thunder family and a beautiful new friendship with Basil BraveHeart. No matter what your final recommendation I will nurture and treasure these relations for life and thank you for being instrumental in these introductions. In closing I remind you of what I said at the public hearings. "The holiest place on earth is where an ancient hatred has become a current love". Let it be our generation that has the brave fortitude to make a trail where few have gone and others may follow.

Very Sincerely,
Paul Stover Soderman
7th Generation Descendant

Reiss, David

From: Dee Anderson <60dewl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 6:46 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: re: Harney Peak name change.

Good afternoon,

Please honor our Lakota peoples and change the name of Harney Peak in the Black Hills here in South Dakota. It IS IMPORTANT! It is the right thing to do. I am not native american but I want this to be changed. The Lakota people would like the peak to be named. Hinhan Kaga Owl Mountain.

Dee Anderson
Rapid City, SD
1761 Harmony Heights Lane, #105
Rapid City, SD 57702

Reiss, David

From: Jim Ware <jlware5000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 9:30 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Change the Name of Harney Peak

Mr. Reiss,

I'm not a Native American but I feel that if as an American veteran we can stand for others outside the United States we MUST stand for these people within in ever way possible. Please consider renaming this peak to properly respect the people to which it rightfully belongs, The native people.

Jim Ware
Atlanta, GA

Reiss, David

From: Rod Sather <bison@gwtc.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 10:42 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

I am not in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak .If the problem is war tactics , the Indians did their share of brutal battle also.

Rod Sather
PO Box 26
Vivian.57576

Reiss, David

From: fugierranch@goldenwest.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 10:59 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Fw: Harney Peak

Hello,

Hello,

I'm writing to you in regards to the renaming of Harney peak. I am in opposition to renaming it, it has been Harney Peak for such a long time and I think it would be foolish to rename it. Where does this renaming thing stop, is Custer next? How about all the streams and creeks? Let's get over it and move on, digging up bones isn't going to get us anywhere. Let's grow up and accept things for what they are, history can't be changed, it is what it is.

Leave Harney Peak alone.

Thanks, Shawn Fugier

Reiss, David

From: Chuck Wehrle <chuckyb1943@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 6:04 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change of

Harney Peak

Please add my name to the list of those who oppose any name change. Thank you.

Reiss, David

From: Taylor <tayhowe@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 7:02 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney peak

I vote to change the name of Barney peak to Hinhan kaga.
Thank you
Taylor howe
Sent from my iPhone

Reiss, David

From: Ellen Ballard <eballard@gwtc.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 7:59 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

Dear Mr. Reiss,

Please add another "NO" vote to the name change for Harney Peak.

The cost alone should provide the best reason for avoiding this move, however, there doesn't seem to be good reason **to** change it.

Thank you.

Ellen Ballard
Buffalo Gap, SD

Reiss, David

From: Luke Cox <lukescox1961@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 8:18 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

Dear Mr Riess: I don't usually write to protest things, however I can't believe your committee would continue to change names whenever a group of people believe you should do so. Besides your new name is very hard to pronounce and would hurt SD tourism . I am very much opposed to this change. Luke Cox. I have been a resident of Rapid City for the past 28 years and have climbed Harney Peak many times with my children. Again Please do not change the name. Luke Cox

Reiss, David

From: Joni Hill <jonihill4@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 9:11 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Please do not change the name of Harney Peak! Leave well enough alone.
If I had a vote, I would vote no to changing it.

Thank you,
Joni Hill

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Cody, Spencer
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 9:50 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

Changing the name would be truly absurd and confusing from a science standpoint. Harney Peak gave rise to the designation of Harney Peak Granite, which is a major geological formation in South Dakota that correlates with geological events throughout North America. This is much bigger than geography. There is scientific literature going back more than a century describing this formation. Changing the name of its origin only creates needless confusion.

Spencer Cody
7-12 Science
Student Advisor
Testing Coordinator

Hoven School District
605-948-2252
Spencer.Cody@k12.sd.us