



News Release

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Contact:
Brian Zylstra
Deputy Communications Director
(360) 902-4173

State Library contributes *The Islander* to Chronicling America ***Site is home to nearly 2.7 million historic newspaper pages***

OLYMPIA... The *Islander* is among seven newspapers and more than 23,000 historic newspaper pages recently contributed to Chronicling America, making Washington State's contribution to the program a total of 23 titles and over 115,000 pages.

Chronicling America is a project of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

The [*Islander*](#) was first published by James Cooper Wheeler on March 6, 1891, in Friday Harbor, Washington. It was common for rural newspapers in this period to experience delays in production due to the difficulty of moving equipment to remote locations, and the *Islander* was no exception. In its first issue, the paper noted that "our keg of printing ink was lost overboard and floated around the bay two or three days before being found." The *Islander* also declared its opposition to the other weekly paper in Friday Harbor, the *San Juan Graphic*, published by Frank L. Baum (no relation to the famous author). The *Islander* promised to be independent in politics and more sympathetic to the patrons of the local saloons. The *Islander* later became the [*San Juan Islander*](#) and ceased publication in 1914. People can read and research issues from this and other newspapers around Washington and U.S. for free at chroniclingamerica.loc.gov.

"These historic newspapers are a rich resource for historians, genealogists and other researchers," said Acting State Librarian Rand Simmons. "They provide names, dates, images and tell the story of a

community or region in such a comprehensive way. They bring local history alive.”

Chronicling America provides free and open access to nearly 2.7 million full-text searchable pages from 348 titles published between 1860 and 1922 in 22 states and the District of Columbia. The [Washington State Library's National Digital Newspaper Program \(NDNP\) grant](#) was renewed through June 2012, allowing more pages from other newspapers around Washington State to be uploaded over the next two years.

“It’s exciting to have this collection in Chronicling America,” said Deputy State Librarian Marlys Rudeen. “It will give researchers the ability to search across multiple collections of newspapers from various states at once.”

Part of the mission and purpose of the Washington State Library is to collect, preserve and make accessible to Washingtonians materials on the government, history, culture and natural resources of the state. [Read more about the State Library.](#)

Newspapers from Washington State currently included in Chronicling America are:

- [Cayton's Monthly](#), 1921
- [Cayton's Weekly](#), 1917-1921
- [Co-operative News](#), 1917-1921
- [Colfax Gazette](#), 1900-1912
- [Colville Examiner](#), 1907-1922
- [Commonwealth](#) (Everett), 1911-1914
- [Daily Republican](#) (Seattle), 1896
- [Industrial Freedom](#), 1898-1901
- [Islander](#), 1891-1898
- [Leavenworth Echo](#), 1904-1922
- [Northwest Worker](#), 1915-1917
- [Pullman Herald](#), 1888-1922
- [The Ranch](#) (Yakima), 1894
- [The Ranch](#) (Seattle), 1902-1914
- [Ranche and Range](#) (Yakima), 1897-1902
- [The Republican](#) (Seattle), 1896-1898
- [San Juan Islander](#), 1898-1914
- [Seattle Republican](#), 1900-1913
- [Seattle Star](#), 1899-1910
- [Tacoma Times](#), 1903-1918
- [Washington Farmer](#) (Spokane), 1914
- [Washington Socialist](#), 1914-1915
- [Yakima Herald](#), 1893-1912

For more information about Chronicling America, contact Laura Robinson, Washington’s National Digital Newspaper Program manager, at laura.robinson@sos.wa.gov or (360) 570-5568.

The Washington State Library is a division of the Office of Secretary of State. Visit the library’s web site at www.sos.wa.gov/library .

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