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Real History Project

December 4, 2024

Battle Ground State Park's history, by name, history, and geology

Research Question:

How have previous influences in and around Battle Ground Lake State Park affected current features of the park?

References:

Caldbick, John. "Battle Ground -- Thumbnail History." *History Link*, History Link, 25 Feb. 2010, <https://historylink.org/File/9321>. Accessed 9 Oct. 2024.

Genis, Jackie. "Battle Ground Lake's Character-Filled History Spills Into the Park's Current Outdoor Family-Friendly Adventures." *Battle Ground Lake's Character-Filled History Spills Into the Park's Current Outdoor Family-Friendly Adventures*, Clark County Talk, 28 July 2021, <https://clarkcountytalk.com/2021/07/28/battle-ground-lakes-character-filled-history-spills-into-the-parks-current-outdoor-family-friendly-adventures/>. Accessed 9 Oct. 2024.

Hewitt, Scott. "Battle Ground Lake a Treasured Getaway as City Grows." *The Columbian*, 27 Oct. 2023, <https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/oct/27/battle-ground-lake-a-treasured-getaway-as-city-grows/>. Accessed 9 Oct. 2024.

McDonald, Cathy. "Volcanic Cone Is Origin of Pretty Battle Ground Lake." *Seattle Times*, Seattle Times, 23 Apr. 2009, <https://www.seattletimes.com/life/outdoors/volcanic-cone-is-origin-of-pretty-battle-ground-lake/>. Accessed 9 Oct. 2024.

Ruth, Maria. "Battle Ground Lake." *Maria Ruth Books*, 14 July 2018, <https://www.mariaruthbooks.net/mariaruthbooks/2018/7/14/battleground-lake>. Accessed 9 Oct. 2024.

Themes:

Environment and Geography:

- Battle Ground Lake is a crater lake, meaning it is a reservoir created by a volcanic cone, filled by precipitation (McDonald, 2009). This results in the lake needing to be manually restocked with fish, and being considerably deep near the center, unlike most other lakes (Genis, 2021).

Politics and Power

- Battle Ground, the city, and namesake for Battle Ground Lake (Ruth, 2018), was named from a conflict between the Vancouver Barracks in Fort Vancouver, one of the first military posts in the Pacific Northwest, and the Klickitat tribe (Caldbeck, 2010) After the tribe escaped capture, a standoff began between them and Captain William Strong. Though this was planned to be an all our war, a surprise shooting and killing of the Klickitat chief, Chief Umtuch, led to a surrender and return to the fort. (Hewitt, 2023) The place was known as “Strong’s Battle Ground,” shortened to “Battle Ground,” to become both the name of the nearby city and this lake. (Caldbeck, 2010)

Work, Exchange, and Technology

- The lake was originally a privately owned resort in the 1900s, starting as a small swimming area in 1916 (Genis, 2021) owned by Henry Blystone. Many amenities had been added to the place over time, with recreational facilities such as a pool, swim tank, high dive, and slide, as well as a small store. (Genis, 2021). In the 1960’s, this was sold off to the state of Washington.

Historical Thinking Skills

2.C Significance of source’s point of view:

As I had noticed in many the main primary and secondary sources of many references referring to the resort at Battle Ground Lake, such as Jackie Genis’s, they seem to occasionally be a bit unreliable in their marketing and seem to only paint the place in a positive light. This also includes Maria Ruth’s article, which is a review. It should be clear that these sources are trying to convince people to go to the state park, or at least make it seem interesting, to encourage others to go. It is entirely possible that parts of the sources my references and I used could be misleading in scale or significance.

4.B Broader context of information:

The standoff between the Klickitat and William Strong was part of the larger stage that was the Yakima war (Caldbeck, 2010). The reason the Klickitat were imprisoned was to avoid the possibility of a revolt and extra violence (Caldbeck, 2010), akin to what America had also done with the detention camps for people of Japanese origin during World War II. It was a small example of the effect the war had on American Indians at the time.