

### *San Juan County*

complete as possible for that time. The reports of the other superintendent of pre-state days, E. C. Gillette, in 1887-1889, are really remarkable histories of the schools under his charge. The report for 1887 to J. C. Lawrence, Superintendent of Public Instruction, is so unusual compared to the majority of county reports that it is given in full here rather than in the appendix.

#### STATUS OF SCHOOLS IN 1887

Friday Harbor, July 29, 1887.

“This county, from its insular character, is peculiarly and perhaps somewhat unfortunately circumstanced in regard to its school facilities. The three largest islands in the group, San Juan, Orcas and Lopez, contain by far the greatest portion of the population. There are several smaller islands, as Shaw’s, Blakely, Spider and Waldron, on each of which there are from two to six families. These latter have all been attached to the school districts on one or the other of the first three, by which they have been practically debarred from their school privileges, as it is out of the question to send children to school every day in a boat across dangerous channels, from a mile to three miles in width. On the 25th of June last, the families residing on Shaw’s Island containing eight children of school age, organized into a new district under the provisions set for them in section 33 of the school law. This action of the superintendent will probably be sanctioned by the board of county commissioners at their meeting on the 1st of August next and a school be established there. With this exception, all the schools in the county are located on the three first-named islands. I will give a brief account of the schools in each one of them, beginning with the most populous.

#### San Juan Island

“There are four school districts on this island; number 1, 2, 8 and 9. No. 1, is provided with a roomy and well lighted house, built of squared logs, and whitewashed inside and out. At the present time it has 30 scholars, 15 of each sex and is presided over in an able manner by Miss Ella Cousins.

“The schoolhouse in District No. 2 is also built of squared logs. It is tolerably well lighted, but the desks and benches are old, clumsy and uncomfortable. In this connection I might remark on the great importance of having children seated as easily as possible while at their studies. Painful postures, aching limbs, and an uncomfortable seat, are not a favorable condition for study, or any sort of mental