

Pig War!

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Signing of the Treaty of Oregon,
Washington, D.C., 1846

We are agreed?

The border
will run down
the middle
of the channel
which separates
the continent
from Vancouver
Island.

Do you think
they know there
are TWO channels
there,
with a bunch
of islands
in between?

San Juan Islands, between Haro Strait and Rosario Strait



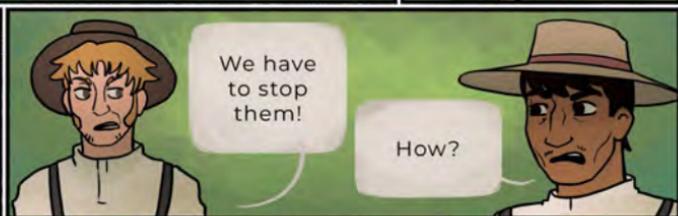
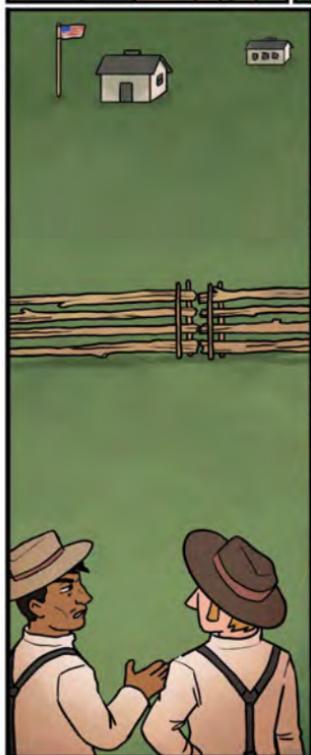
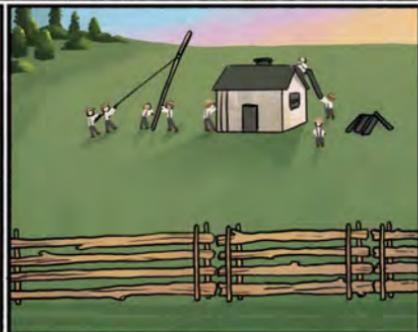
Belle Vue sheep farm, May 1854

You were right, sir. This is good pasture.

Soon the whole island will be a Hudson's Bay Company farm!

James Douglas

If we can just keep those American rascals away.



June 15, 1859



A few days later...

Give us one good reason why we shouldn't arrest you.

I'm an American!

Perhaps we should just remove you all from OUR land.

General Harney will send troops to protect us!

July 27, 1859

Is there no way to get rid of Pickett and his men?

Don't worry, men. The British don't control this island just yet.

Captain George Pickett

Captain Geoffrey Phipps Hornby of the British Royal Navy



We have two more warships on the way.

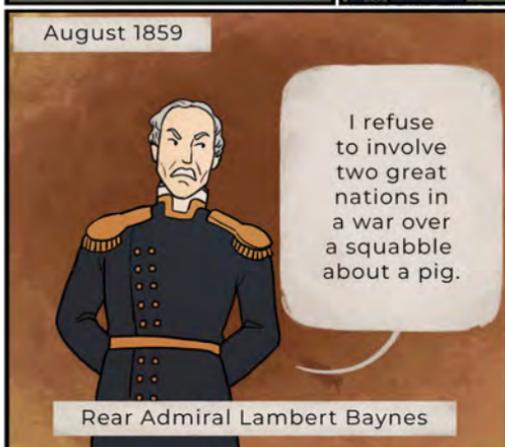


General William S. Harney, commander of the Department of Oregon



The British will never have our islands!

Send reinforcements!



August 1859

I refuse to involve two great nations in a war over a squabble about a pig.

Rear Admiral Lambert Baynes



Those are the Americans, dear.

American President James Buchanan sends War of 1812 officer General Winfield Scott to sort things out.

Six weeks later, October 1859



Harney, you nincompoop! Why did you let things go this far?

General Winfield Scott

So, the two countries would share the islands?

For now, anyway.

We'll both keep forces here until the border issue is settled for good.

For 12 years, Britain and the U.S. both had a military presence on San Juan Island. In 1872, a commission in Europe decided that the border would run through Haro Strait, giving the islands to the United States. British forces pulled out. The Pig War had ended peacefully, but it did not end well for everyone.

Their border — it's imaginary but it separates our families.

And the Americans no longer allow us WSÁNEĆ to fish where we always have.