JOURNEY INTO
KEY PENINSULA HISTORY
AT
LONGBRANCH

After visiting each site use the last page to answer questions and draw pictures about each one. The museum will be closed from Nov. 20 - Feb. 8. If you do the scavenger hunt during this time, please contact us at **kphsmuseum@gmail.com** to arrange a time to meet with a docent, deliver your work and receive your prize. The museum will re-open in February 2022, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Visit the museum to show the docent your work and receive a prize. While there, take time to look at the displays and learn more about local history.

www.keypeninsulamuseum.org
 kphsmuseum@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/KPHistoricSociety

WELCOME to our Journey to Longbranch!

Longbranch

In the late 1880s, The Winchester-Petersen logging company initially established floating logging camps in Filucy Bay to house the loggers as they practiced shoreline logging. As the trees near the edge of the water were logged out, the floating camps were moved to where there was more timber. The married employees acquired the logged off lands and were eventually able to farm and raise families. These became our first pioneers of the south end of the Peninsula. Transportation was poor, and the many foot trails were hard to follow or ended up going nowhere. The skid roads left behind by the logging operations were often impassable during the long rainy months. The Sound's adjoining waterways were the only way to get in and out of this remote area. For many years, travel by canoe, rowboat, a small sailboat, steamer or launch were the only means of travel.
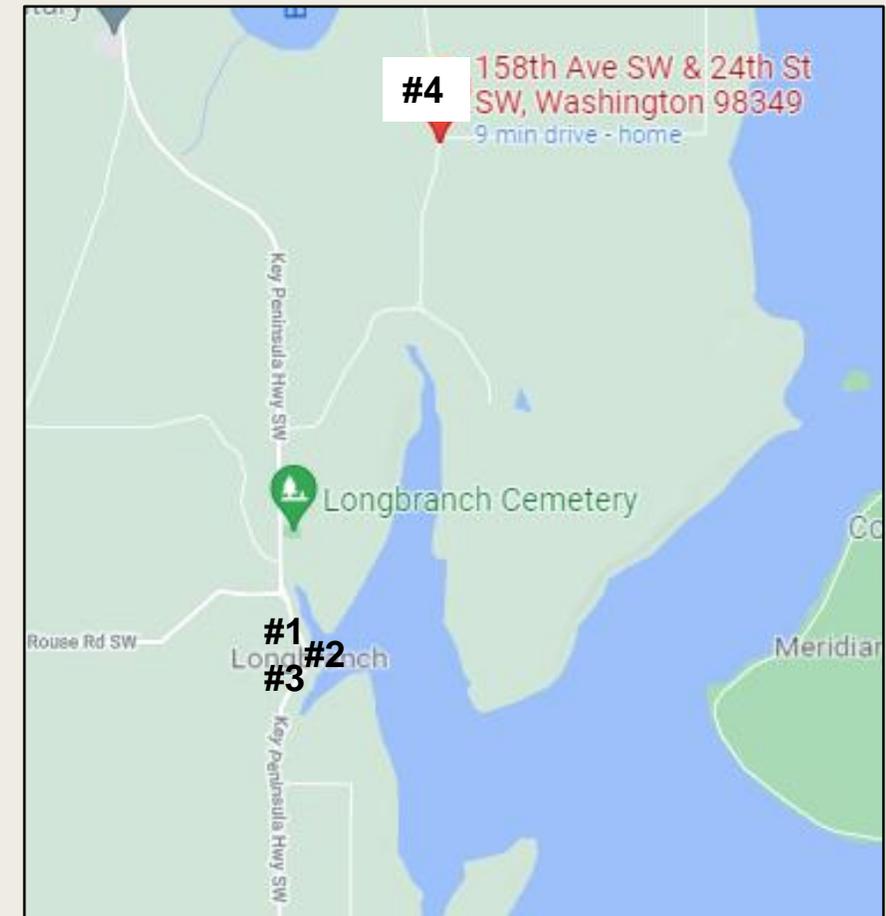
In 1889, Edward Yeazell wanted to duplicate the Long Branch resort on the Atlantic Coast. Although his plan failed, Longbranch received its name, though eventually the name was changed to a single word by the post office in 1894 to avoid delivery confusion with the nearby Long Beach.

<u>**Answer the following questions**</u>:
What kind of land did the pioneers acquire?
Who named Longbranch?

Photos and text courtesy of Key Peninsula Historical Society Archives;
Key Peninsula History by Simon Priest & KP Trails Assoc.;
Early Days of the Key Peninsula by R.T. Arledge

#1 Longbranch
#2 Longbranch Marina
#3 Longbranch Improvement Club
#4 Old German Church Cemetery

#1. LONGBRANCH IMPROVEMENT CLUB

The Longbranch Improvement Club was incorporated on December 10, 1921, close to one hundred years ago. This was before paved roads had arrived in Longbranch. The original stated purpose was to "purchase real estate for recreation and for a consolidated school." The large school gymnasium, built by the Works Progress Administration is now the main hall of the Longbranch Improvement Club. There are presently no school activities taking place in the facility. The Improvement Club was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 28, 1987. This magnificent facility has been used for many years as the central gathering place for dances, weddings, memorial services, bazaars, swap meets, formal presentations and gatherings of almost any kind. The acreage that accompanies the improvement center has ben the site of many logging events, baseball games, street fair type of events and carnivals for many years.

The main room has a capacity of three hundred people and is 60 x 63 feet. At one end there is a raised stage, complete with lighting for a theater. In addition to the main hall is a 37' x 30' meeting room that will accommodate fifty people nicely, along with a kitchen that is adequate for refreshments and banquet services. It is available to rent for most local organizations and individuals. Membership in the Longbranch Improvement Club is not a requirement to rent this facility.

THIS BUILDING CONSTRUCTED BY W.P.A. IN 1938 AS A SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
PRESERVED BY THE LONGBRANCH IMPROVEMENT CLUB

HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE

NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES

BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Answer the questions:
When was the Longbranch Improvement Club incorporated?
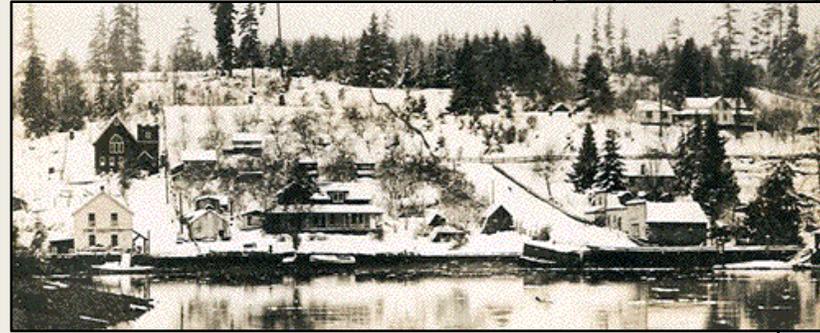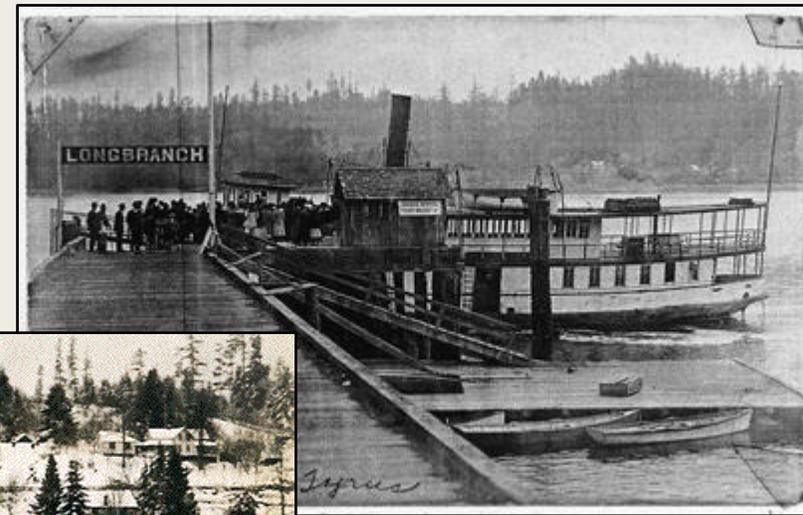What is the capacity of the main hall of the Longbranch Improvement Club?

#2. LONGBRANCH MARINA

The hub of what was at one time the center of the City of Longbranch is the Longbranch Marina on Filucy Bay. The first wharf was constructed here in 1885. This wharf at one time brought in supplies from the other ports on Puget Sound, or the Salish Sea, as it was once called. At one time the Mosquito Fleet docked their ferries here to supply the Longbranch area of the Key Peninsula. The dock area contained a post office (1890), two stores (1886 and 1893), a fruit farmer's cooperative store (moved here in 1907 and collapsed into the water in 1928), a community church (built in 1908, condemned in 1934) and a hotel (built in 1889 and moved to avoid subsidence in 1934).This was the true and historic center making up the city of Longbranch.

This present marina is owned by the Longbranch Improvement Club and operates under an Aquatic Lands Lease from the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources. Local boat owners can enjoy year-round moorage for forty-five boats from 22 to 40 feet in length. In addition, there is seven hundred feet of moorage available for temporary recreational boaters.

The marina is open to the public during normal business hours of the day and visitors may walk down the dock and enjoy the water and view the boating activity.

Answer the following questions:
When was the first wharf built in Longbranch?
Who owns the marina?

#3. OLD GERMAN LUTHERN CEMETERY

The German Lutheran Church is off the beaten path in Longbranch and is known by few. It is located at the intersection of 158th Avenue SW and 24th Street SW. All that is apparent these days from the road is a few tombstones, as many of them are now in the lower, or older, part of the cemetery on this eight-acre parcel of land. Many of the Longbranch and Key Peninsula pioneers are buried in the lower "pioneer" section that is not visible from the road. Entrance may be gained to the cemetery, with permission, by requesting permission according to the directions posted on the admission gate. This cemetery was originally the site of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity that was founded in 1889. Construction of the church was completed in 1890. Early records indicate that the cost of the church was $769.05. As founding Treasurer, Henry Mahncke was elected to be the fund raiser for this initial effort to build the church. The size of the church was 24' x 40'.

Since the early parishioners of this church were new to America and unfamiliar with the English language, the early church records were written entirely in German until in 1905, when English words started appearing.

German Lutheran Cemetery has also been known as:

- *Lakebay German Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery*

- *Old German Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery*

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Cemetery

Answer the questions:

When was the Evangelical Lutheran Church formed?
What is the size of the Old German Lutheran Cemetery?

Answer Sheet

What kind of land did the pioneers acquire?	Who named Longbranch?
#1. Longbranch Improvement Club	#2. Longbranch Marina
#3. Old German Church Cemetery	