



Reid Hansen collection

1900 **Gibson Landing at Crystal Springs:** Gibson Landing was one of 27 steamer piers located around Bainbridge Island from 1890 to the early 1930s. It was built by Captain Gibson, a sea captain who lived at Crystal Springs. Today, the two remaining pilings from the pier can be seen approximately 1,000 feet north of the present Point White fishing pier.

The pier was used by families living along the southwest shore of the island from Point White north to Crystal Springs. The steamer pictured in this circa 1900 photo docking at Gibson Landing was the *Reliance*, owned by Warren L. Gazzam.

From 1900 to 1910, vacationers increasingly discovered the attractions of Bainbridge Island, including Crystal Springs. Warren Gazzam purchased a large plot of land and then divided it into lots for sale to vacationers. He later purchased the steamer *Reliance*.

According to the book "Bainbridge Landings" by Alan Beach, one particular steamer route began at Poulsbo early in the morning, landing first at Seabold. Next stops came at Manzanita, Arrow Point and Battle Point. From there it zigzagged back and forth, making landings at Gilberton, Brownsville and Illahee, then on to Venice, Tolo, Fletcher Bay, Westwood and Gibson Landing. After heading for Seattle, the steamer made stops at Manchester, Southworth, Colby

and Harper. The total trip from Poulsbo to Seattle took three hours! Later, additional routes formed, which shortened the trip to Seattle.

When local Crystal Springs children such as the Hansen and Munro families reached high-school age around the time of World War I, they attended Queen Anne High School in Seattle. The steamer that took them to school each day did not stop at Gibson Landing, so a relative rowed them out from Point White to catch the steamer from Silverdale. On the return trip, they could ride the *Burton* from Seattle directly to Gibson Landing.

In 1935, a tremendous windstorm combined with a very high tide to destroy the Gibson Landing pier. The destruction was attributed to the fact there was insufficient distance between high tide and the deck of the pier. This colorful period of steamer ships moving from dock to dock serves as a wonderful tribute to the ingenuity of the early pioneers in solving transportation problems on Puget Sound.

Here & Then is a collaborative project of the Bainbridge Island Review and the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum. Learn more about the Gibson Landing and other aspects of local history at the museum and reference library on Ericksen Avenue, see www.bainbridgehistory.org or call 842-2772. Reprints of historical photos are available for purchase.