

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Ogle, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Kenn Carpenter, Assembly Member (B) for K.C.
Willy Dunne, Assembly Member (B) for W.D.

DATE: May 24, 2018

RE: Resolution 2018-027, Supporting Proposals to Name Two Mountain Peaks Located East of Resurrection Bay as Mount Mary and Santa Ana Peak (Carpenter)

Two longtime Seward residents, Daniel P. Michaud and Harold E. Faust, who are active mountain climbers and explorers are developing a proposal to name two local mountain peaks Mount Mary and Santa Ana Peak. This resolution is submitted at their request to show borough support of their proposal.

Their justification for naming Mount Mary is to honor Mary Lowell who was born in August, 1855 and died in May, 1906. She was originally from English Bay (now Nanwalek) where she met and married a trader for the Alaska Commercial Company, Frank Lowell. They moved to Resurrection Bay in 1884, built a homesite and together had nine children. After Frank left the family in 1893 Mary stayed on the homesite, successfully raised her children and completed her homestead claim. Mary subsequently died in Seward in May of 1906. Her daughter Alice married a Seward homesteader and Eva married a local dog musher and mail carrier and later a pioneer hunting guide. A number of Seward landmarks are named in memory of the Lowell family including, Lowell Canyon, Lowell Creek and Lowell Point. This mountain is located across Resurrection Bay from the City of Seward and is the main peak east of the ship lift/prison sites, lying on the southeast side of Godwin Glacier. Mount Alice and Mount Eva were named after two of Mary's children. It seems fitting to name this unnamed peak after Mary, the matriarch of the Lowell family.

The proposed naming of Santa Ana Peak would be to honor the SS Santa Ana which brought pioneers to Resurrection Bay in 1903 who started the town of Seward. The ship brought 60 passengers, 14 horses and construction equipment including a pile-driver and a sawmill. They established the base for their enterprise to build a railroad into the interior of Alaska. This peak is about 2.5 miles southeast of Mount Mary, at the south end of the level glacier area east of Fourth of July Creek.

Another mountain in the area is named after a historic ship. In 1794 the ship Phoenix was built at Resurrection Bay by a party of Russians lead by Alexander Baranov using local supplies. A 5,155-foot-high mountain directly west of Seward was named Phoenix Peak in memory of the launch of that important early ship. It would be appropriate to continue the memory of the Santa Ana by naming this peak Santa Ana Peak.

In 1989 the assembly adopted resolution 89-49 which established a naming policy. It requires individuals requesting assembly approval of naming of geographic locations to submit a request to the Local Affairs/Lands Committee for review and recommendation. It also adopts a policy that the naming of public buildings, geographic locations or landmarks shall be restricted to the most common, well-established descriptive usage by residents of the borough. In this case we are not aware of a known well-established descriptive usage and the proponents have provided names with historic relevance for these peaks. In our opinion the assembly should support these names notwithstanding this policy.

Your support of this resolution would be appreciated.