

## For Immediate Release

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# Significant Historical Role of Hunt Club Revealed

## New book brings oldest western fox-hunting club to life

New from Arcadia Publishing is *Woodbrook Hunt Club*, by local author and horseback riding enthusiast Joy Keniston-Longrie. With more than 200 black and white images from an extensive variety of sources, *Woodbrook Hunt Club* offers a fascinating look at the history of hunting and recreational riding on the southern prairies of Washington state.

The Woodbrook Hunt Club, co-founded in 1926 by Maj. J. H. Mathews and Thornwood Estate superintendent Thomas Bryan, is the oldest fox-hunting club west of the Mississippi. Horses have long played an important historical role on the prairies south of Tacoma. The Nisqually Indians were the first to ride horses on the Nisqually Prairie in the early 1800s followed by the Hudson's Bay Company and horse-race activities in the 1840s.

The establishment of Fort Lewis in 1917 has protected this unique prairie ecosystem, resulting in a longstanding partnership with the Woodbrook Hunt Club. Today the club continues its rich tradition on the last remaining three percent of native prairie in the Puget Sound Corridor.

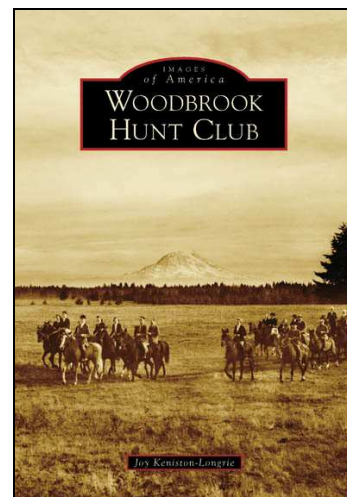
### Highlights of *Woodbrook Hunt Club*:

- Photographs for this book were contributed from a variety of collections, including the Tacoma Public Library, the Washington State Historical Society, the Museum of History and Industry, the Woodbrook Hunt Club, Horseland/Starfire Farms, the Brookwood Equestrian Center, and the private collections of local residents.
- Horses were first introduced to the prairies south of Tacoma when Chief Leschi's father Yanatco married a Yakama Indian maiden named Cornucita and horses were part of the dowry.
- Woodbrook Hunt Club's historic membership reflects the history of Tacoma and Lakewood – yesterday and today.

*A portion of the profits from this book is being donated to support the hounds and to protect the last 3% of the prairie.*

Available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com) or (888)-313-2665.

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Author Joy Keniston-Longrie, a recreational rider and graduate of the University of Washington, is the great-granddaughter of Clay Lincoln Keniston who arrived in Tacoma in 1884 as a blacksmith. Keniston-Longrie combined her passion for history and recreational riding to create this pictorial equestrian history of the prairies in Lakewood, south of Tacoma.

### **Woodbrook Hunt Club**

by Joy Keniston-Longrie  
*Images of America Series*  
Price: \$21.99  
128 pages/ softcover  
Available: **March 2, 2009**

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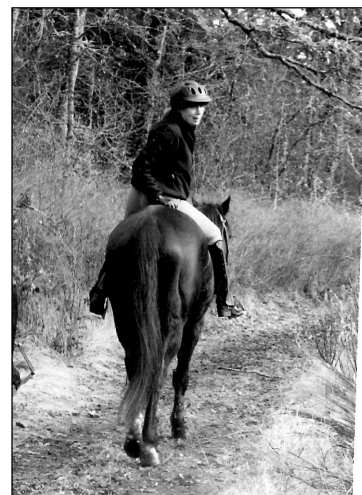
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## About the Author of *Woodbrook Hunt Club*

Joy Keniston-Longrie is a native of Tacoma, Washington. She has a keen interest in the environment, horses and history. Her family first settled in the Seattle/Tacoma area in 1884; her Great-grandfather Clay Lincoln Keniston arrived in Tacoma as a blacksmith. She was strongly influenced by oral history told by her grandfather George Keniston and her father Dick Keniston, who was a long-time history/civics teacher at Fife High School.



Courtesy Patti Authement

A graduate of the University of Washington, Keniston-Longrie has dedicated nearly 30 years of her professional life to environmental health and protection at the local, regional and international level. She is honored by the opportunity to document this photographic history of horses on the prairie south of Tacoma, historically utilized by the Nisqually Indians, Hudson Bay Company, US Military and the Woodbrook Hunt Club. Keniston-Longrie is a member the Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma Historical Society, Fort Nisqually Living Museum and Museum of History and Industry, along with a number of other professional organizations. When not working, researching or spending time with her family, Keniston-Longrie finds time to ride horses, ski, swim and participate in YMCA Zumba classes.

She hopes that this work will help document the rich history of horses, people and the ecosystem on the prairies south of Tacoma. This pictorial history of the prairie and events link our past to the future, and hopefully will elevate awareness of the fragileness of the last 3% of the prairies left in Puget Sound, to help protect it and the equestrian activities which have taken place here for centuries and preserve it for future generations.

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### What lasting impact do you hope your book will leave?

I hope this book will document the rich history and critical role horses have played on the prairies south of Tacoma, beginning with the Nisqually Indians, continued with the Hudson Bay Company and the establishment of Fort Lewis, as well as the centuries old tradition of riding to the hounds which continues to be practiced by the Woodbrook Hunt Club today on the last 3% of the South Sound Prairies. I want to raise awareness of this critical habitat located south of I-5, which is at risk of being lost due to natural events as well as major public policy decisions being made today which could dramatically impact this historical place and the activities today and for future generations.