

John Petroff

Message from our President

As our first quarter of 2009 draws to a close, our busy season lies just around the corner. Thanks to Fern for coming to training Saturday the 14th, and thanks to Nancy, Rick, Eileen, and Harriet for holding it. We hope to have more attendees on March 28th at 1 PM and we also hope to get the remaining holes in our schedule filled. We look forward to opening day, April 4th, as we are continuing several new traditions begun last year. Mayor Joe Marine will be raising the Mukilteo city flag, Mary Gregoire, mother-in-law to the Governor, will be raising the state flag, and the Mukilteo Boy Scout troop will have a color guard presenting and raising the US flag. We will have re-enactors present, cup cakes and drinks, and a new presentation of old exhibits in the Interpretive Center. It should be a grand day and all are invited!

This quarter we have had much progress in old business. A firm direction for Lighthouse Park Phase II has been determined. There will be no major pathway through the grounds and we will get to keep a fence separating the Lighthouse grounds from the rest of the park. This is a major step in protecting what we have: it will limit after-hours exposure of the Lighthouse to the public in general. That is as safe as we can be. The main proposed changes are: first, widening and extending

the sidewalks, and second, replacing and moving the parking lot. The existing lot is to be removed and a grasscrete lot put in. This will have less physical and environmental impact than what we currently have. Widening the sidewalks and extending the sidewalks allows more access to the grounds for the handicapped. Wheelchairs will now be navigable on the grounds. There will even be a ramp to the Lighthouse itself. The plan preserves the history by not changing the original sidewalks and gives the additions a "faux historicity", meaning they will blend in with minimal impact while still revealing that they are new.

Chris Wilson has done a lot of work with the City, DAHP, and the Parks Department to bring this decision to a consensus. Simple thanks can not be enough. This is a vast improvement over the original plan and we owe Chris and all who helped bring this about our extreme gratitude.

We also have news from the Coast Guard on the lens: they are moving forward with privatization and have asked for a contact from the City to prepare the lease paperwork. This is a major victory for protecting what we have. This preserves the highest interpretation of our light and lens in an "as it sits and as it works" fashion. That's the most we can

ask for as a historical society.

It has been a busy quarter and 2009 is going to be a great year for our society. The Board and I want to invite everyone to participate as much as they can. We have a great group of people to share our preservation work with, and we have a lot to preserve.

Thank you all for participating in MHS,
John Petroff t

Interpretive Center Gets A New Look

Work began early in February to spruce up the Interpretive Center.

We checked the attics, closets, basements, upstairs, downstairs, all around and used what we already had on hand. There are more pictures, good information and it's now a nice place to spend some time.

Sally Prentiss was up from California and stopped by to help. Rick Rigby hauled the heavier items. We even pulled Ursula Stuart out of the flower beds to help with a problem curtain rod. Bev Schreiber donated a spot..light! Charlie Koch hung a curtain rod - twice! Of course, Ann Collier checked the historic info...all designed by Ellen Koch.

Stop by the Interpretive Center and
CHECK IT OUT! t



Would you like to maintain your “own beacon of beauty” on the grounds of the lighthouse this year? For example, Marilyn Minnich has adopted the bed containing the lilac bushes near the Losvar condo, and she weeds and deadheads there separately when she can’t garden at the same time as some of the other MHS gardeners do. Thank you, Marilyn! We are hoping there may be others who would like to claim a garden bed as their responsibility—how ‘bout you?

The MHS gardeners usually work at the light station on Thursdays—the time tends to vary with the weather! If you’d like to join us and want to know what time to come to the light station, please contact any of the following “coast gardeners”: Rosemary Nellist, Margaret Bridge, Joan Ames, Ursula Stuart, Ann Collier, Char Keane, and Ellen Koch. We’d love to have you join in the fun! t

Lighthouse and Gift Shop Volunteers Needed

The 2009 season begins on Saturday, April 4th and there are still openings in our volunteer schedule.

The current need is for first and third Sundays. On first Sundays, help is needed in the tower. Please contact Inge Greeninger (425-349-1137). On third Sundays, help is needed in both the tower and gift shop. Please contact John Petroff (425-355-1264).

We also need help on the fifth Sundays this season, May 31st and August 30th. Please contact Bev Schreiber (425-710-0678) if you are available either of these days.

MHS and your fellow volunteers thank you. t



MHS Schedule

§ Saturday, March 28th, 10 AM – Lighthouse cleaning to prepare for opening day

§ Saturday, March 28th, 1 PM – Volunteer training at the lighthouse
 § Saturday, April, 4th, 12 Noon – Light Station Opening Day for the 2009 season
 § Thursday, April 9th, 7 PM – General Membership meeting



§ Thursday, May 14th 7 PM – General Membership meeting,
 § Saturday, May 16th, 9 AM – Cemetery cleaning at the Pioneer Cemetery
 § Saturday, June 27th, Day trip to New Dungeness Spit Lighthouse – contact Ellen Koch (425-338-4413) or Nancy Joao (njoao@verizon.net) for more info.
 § Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 11th, 12th and 13th – 2009 Lighthouse Festival t

Community Opportunities

Mukilteo Art Walk will take place on July 30th, August 27th and September 10th.

Open Mike will be held at Whidbey Coffee on Thursday evenings.

Farmer’s Market will be held in Lighthouse Park on Wednesdays starting in June.

Waterfront Art Festival – July 18th.t

(How Things Used to Be continued from page 1)

is still available. Possibly the advertisement referred to the still available "mushroom sauce."

In skimming the recipes inside the book, I was amused by instructions for making "celery sandwiches." The British of a century ago apparently had some peculiar eating habits but they probably wouldn't have cared for a Big Mac with fries.



Have any of you ever tried eating haggis? I'm told that it is an acquired taste but I can give you a recipe. Would anyone like some carrot jam? I can give them a recipe for that too.

There were several recipes for preparing mutton. Most Americans have never eaten mutton and have missed nothing by the omission. I have described mutton to foreign friends as tasting like "tough lamb that has been liberally injected with soft candle wax." I know that some people like it, but I'm not one of their number. Still, the people of a century ago didn't waste meat just because it was a mature animal with yellowed fat.

For the more adventurous, the book also offered recipes for calf's

brain, calf's feet, and hashed calf's head. Organ meat recipes are available too.

Bon appetite! t

MHS Gift Shop Make over

You won't believe your eyes! The gift shop has all kinds of novel new items, colorful new clothes and even a fresh new look! Custom thermal mugs and tumblers, knit and fleece tops, "I'm a Keeper" baby tees, sun catchers, mermaids, spring jewelry, candles and rows of enchanting new books for kids of ALL ages.

All of this and LOTS of other new surprises await your discovery when you visit the great MHS gift shop.

Thanks to Chris and Inge, of course, and Bev, Rick Rigby, Gene Greeninger, Karen Carpenter, Pres. John and even Bruce Brown for all their time working on the shop this year.

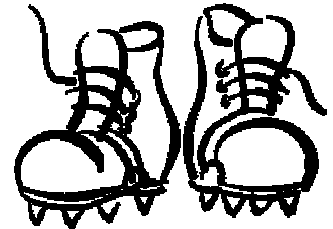
You'll have to restrain your shopaholic impulses once you enter this delightful nautical store, but remember, with your membership card, you get 10% off any purchases, so not too much restraint! t

Day Trip to New Dungeness Lighthouse

We are planning a day trip to New Dungeness Lighthouse on Saturday, June 27th. This trip will include:

carpooling from Mukilteo, two ferry rides, an eleven mile round trip hike and dinner on the way home. The cost will include: money to share in the gas for the vehicles, ferry rides between Edmonds and Port Kingston and dinner somewhere on the way home. There are no food facilities at the light station, so please bring a sack lunch and beverage for the day.

New Dungeness is being contacted to see if there is transportation to the lighthouse grounds for those unable to hike. If this can be arranged, it will be for a limited number of people, so most should plan to hike to the light station.



We are trying to establish if there is enough interest for this trip, so please contact either Ellen Koch, 425-338-4413 or Nancy Joao njoao@verizon.net. And let them know if you are willing to be one of the drivers. t

MHS Weekend Gift Shop Opening and Free Raffle - April 4th & 5th

Prizes include a large German Nutcracker, framed Mukilteo Festival Poster and more. Winner need not be present for Sunday drawing. Winner will be called the following week to arrange gift pick-up. t

Storytelling and Historical Reenactments for Spring 2009

As stated in our bylaws, a primary goal of MHS is to develop educational materials and promote recognition of the history and development of the city of Mukilteo. One way that we have been accomplishing this mission is through the development and presentation of a series of storytelling and historical reenactment programs.

Mukilteo Historical Society members and other community history enthusiasts have been active in telling visitors from far and near about the history of our beautiful area. Some storytellers research the genealogy of a particular Mukilteo resident and talk specifically from one person's point of view.

For example, at the Mukilteo Pioneer Cemetery last year, Ellen Koch dressed and behaved as Alice Pallas Brooks. She researched information included in Opal McConnell's MUKILTEO: PICTURES AND MEMORIES book.

Another example is Tony Tinsley. He dressed in typical outdoor work clothes as a 1920's roustabout and told about the happenings around town from the perspective of a common day laborer. He also related those stories about the early development of Mukilteo to current town developments. He enjoyed both relating history and creating a bigger than life persona of a community employee.

Another storyteller explained that the early inhabitants of this area probably crossed a land bridge from Asia that disappeared eons ago. The Native Americans who lived in this area before the white settlers arrived are descended from these prehistoric wanderers. The present day members of the Tulalip Tribe, the modern day descendants of these earlier settlers, are organizing and distributing information on the internet relevant for MHS. The internet also has so much about individual biographies and brief summaries of important historical events.

John Petroff has portrayed Peter Puget who sailed from England in April 1791 with Captain George Vancouver, who was one of the first white men to visit Puget Sound in 1792. Peter (John) explains the origin of many of the English names by which local landmarks are now known. He describes the detailed journal kept by Captain Vancouver in which he chronicled the exploration and the beauty of this area.

Each storyteller approached their research and involvement in the storytelling and historical reenactment program in a unique way.

I hope that you will think about a historical figure whose story you would like to make come alive this year. Make a commitment now to join with our other storytellers and have fun educating others about Mukilteo history.

Potential program dates include the MHS opening weekend on Saturday, April 4th, and Sunday, April 5th, at the light station; Saturday, May 16th, during the General Aviation Day activities at Paine Field; and Saturday, May 30th, during Memorial Day Remembrance activities at Pioneer Cemetery.

Your participation is critical to the success of this program.

Call or email Diane Tinsley (425.493.6833, diane.tinsley@verizon.net) or Christopher Summitt (425.438.0307) for more information. Have fun talking about Mukilteo history and the Historical Society this spring and summer. t

2009 Membership Dues

Have you paid your 2009 MHS membership dues? Per the by-laws, dues should be paid within 60 days of the 1st of the year.

If you have not received your 2009 membership card but have paid your dues, please contact Eileen Pridmore at 425-355-4482 or by email at epridmore@msn.com. Otherwise, please mail your dues before April 1st, using the form on the outside of this newsletter.

This will be the last correspondence you will receive from MHS if we do not receive your dues by the deadline, and you will be dropped from the membership roster. t

Mount Pickett

There is a little known mountain on Orcas Island that has an interesting story behind its namesake. Mount Pickett, as it is known, is named after George Edward Pickett.

George Edward Pickett was born in Richmond, Virginia in January 1825 to a prominent Virginia family. He went west to study law in Springfield, Illinois, and likely knew Abraham Lincoln. He was nominated to West Point either by Lincoln himself, or by Lincoln's law partner, Congressman John Stuart, a friend of Pickett's uncle.

He graduated last of 59 students in 1846, probably due to more attention as class clown than focusing attention on his studies.

In January 1851 he married Sally Harrison Steward Minge, great-great-grandniece of President William Henry Harrison and great-great-granddaughter of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. She, however, died in child birth in November of that year at Fort Gates, Texas, while Pickett was serving on the Texas frontier shortly after the Mexican-American war.

In 1856, he served in Washington Territory and commanded the construction of Fort Bellingham. He also built a frame home that still stands and is considered the "oldest house in Bellingham".

While posted to Fort Bellingham, Pickett met and married a Native American of the Haida tribe. The Haidas are found mostly in the

Queen Charlotte Islands and further north of Puget Sound in parts of British Columbia. How they met at Fort Bellingham is not clear, but Morning Mist, as she was known in her tribe, gave birth to James Tilton Pickett in 1857. Morning Mist would die a few years later.



In 1859, Pickett occupied San Juan Island and became involved in the territorial dispute known as the "Pig War". The Pig War's only casualty, of course, was the actual British pig that was shot by an American farmer when it was found eating the farmer's garden.

Camp Pickett, composed of a 68 man garrison commanded by Captain Pickett, faced down a British force of three warships and 1000 men. He was quoted as saying "We'll make a Bunker Hill of it!" Whether his presence prevented the British from landing or whether they simply had orders not to engage is not known for sure, but either way, the young officer found himself in the national limelight.

Captain Pickett served as camp commander through the beginning of the Civil War. Once word of war reached him, he resigned his commission in the US Army - June

25th, 1861. He had simultaneously been holding a commission as a major in the Confederate Army since March 16, 1861, but was perhaps waiting to see what happened. It is likely that out here, war did not seem imminent. After news of the First Battle of Bull Run, he made his way to Oregon and eventually back to Virginia.

Pickett's name is most commonly tied to the Civil War and what has become known as the Confederacy's high water mark.

After Lee's invasion of the north in 1863, the Confederacy's deepest penetration into union territory came at Gettysburg. Pickett missed the first 2 days of fighting in Gettysburg, but arrived timely - or perhaps untimely - for the third day's fight. Lee was exhausted from war and intent on fighting the Union then and there, despite Union troops having well selected ground and reinforced positions. Lee decided on a frontal assault and selected Longstreet to lead a charge on the Union Center at Cemetery Ridge. The "Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble Assault" is more commonly known as "Pickett's Charge".

Pickett's men charged open ground, uphill, under constant fire for almost a mile. While Union lines were briefly breached, Longstreet would commit no more men to what he considered a suicide attack and Union lines collapsed on the dwindling and exhausted Confederate forces. Most of the men in the charge (cont'd on page 7)

(Mount Pickett cont'd from page 6)

were either killed or captured.

When General Lee told Pickett to rally his division, Pickett allegedly replied "General Lee, I have no division now". Perhaps this drama has led to Pickett's name being tied to the attack more so than any other commander's.

Pickett would survive the battle and the war. He would play another pivotal role in the War as Pickett's defeat at the Battle of Five Forks unraveled the tenuous Confederate line and caused Lee to retreat toward Appomattox Court House, where he would eventually surrender.

Pickett briefly fled to Canada after the war, but after a pardon by Grant, he would return to Norfolk, Virginia. He would sell insurance until his death in 1875.

Here in the Pacific Northwest he is remembered for Camp Pickett, on San Juan Island, Fort Bellingham, now just Bellingham, and Mount Pickett - a glacier carved mount on Orcas Island. Mount Pickett is his major namesake surviving on present day maps.

John Petroff

MHS Volunteer Spirit Award

Our MHS Volunteer Spirit Award recipients for 2009 are as follows:

January – Eileen & Herb Pridmore
February – Rosemary Nellist
March – Inge Greeninger

The list of persons who received the MHS Volunteer Spirit Award starting in March 2008 were:

March - Bev Schreiber
April - Chris Wilson
May – Lisa Garcia
June – Steve Odoi
July – Sheila McGillivray
August – Diane Tinsley
September – Christopher Summitt
October – Ellen Koch
November – Rick Rigby
December – Nancy Joa

Rain in the Lighthouse?

Due to circumstances beyond our control there was some water damage on the inside north wall of the lighthouse. We removed the pictures, dried them completely, and hung them on a different wall.

That started a frenzy of re-arranging. A new reproduction of the Original United States Lighthouse Service Flag was purchased and hung next to an Original United States Coast Guard Flag that was flown at our lighthouse.

Look close and you will find questions tucked here and there: see how many answers you know.

Also added this year was a set of International Code of Signals Flags - complete with a message!

Invite family, friends, neighbors and out-of-town guests to see the lighthouse THIS year! Be our guest, Be our guest, Be our guest starting April 4th, 2009! t



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