



## Mukilteo's History: As Written in Bronze

The use of bronze (essentially copper with various alloys) to commemorate the past has a long history, with many examples from ancient China, the Mediterranean, Benin (West Africa), Europe, and Mukilteo.

Yes, Mukilteo, for our community has a new bronze plaque that celebrates the fact that the Mukilteo Light Station is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Washington Historic Register, and the Mukilteo Register of Historic Places. The new plaque was unveiled on April 4 with a trumpet fanfare at the Opening Day ceremony of the 2015 summer season at the lighthouse.



*New plaque installed on rock at right.*

MHS has wanted for some time to have a plaque commemorating the historic nature of the lighthouse, both because it is impressive and as a reminder to visitors to treat the historic site with respect. MHS purchased the plaque and stone, and city employee Jeran Hurst carried out the placement of the stone and installation of the plaque.

Two older bronze plaques that commemorated the signing of the Point Elliott Treaty have recently been re-installed by the city in Lighthouse Park. Now set in cement on the ground near the interpre-

tive signs "Native Americans" and "Point Elliott Treaty," these plaques were previously displayed in a kiosk when the area was a state park.



*Bronze plaques in Lighthouse Park.*

One of the plaques had actually been originally mounted in 1953 on a cement bench in the former state park as part of the Washington Territorial Centennial celebration. The inscription on that plaque reads:

COMMEMORATING SIGNING  
POINT ELLIOTT TREATY  
MUKILTEO  
ERECTED FOR WASHINGTON  
TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL  
1953  
BY  
OLD GUARD POST 2100  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The MHS Archives contains a 1953 photo of Opal and George McConnell's two-year-old daughter, Betsy, standing near the plaque on the cement bench.



*Betsy McConnell by plaque in 1953.*

Sometime later, vandals chiseled the bronze plaque off the bench and threw it into the bay. The plaque was found (reportedly by a scuba diver) and turned over to Mukilteo's Mayor, Al Tunem. The theory that a historical sign will minimize vandalism only works if vandals do not steal the sign!

The second plaque recently re-installed in Lighthouse Park has the inscription:

REGISTERED STATE HISTORIC PLACE  
POINT ELLIOT TREATY SITE  
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ACT OF 1967, THIS PROPERTY  
POSSESSES PARTICULAR VALUE IN  
COMMEMORATING OR ILLUSTRATING  
AMERICAN HISTORY  
PLACED ON THE STATE REGISTER  
AUG. 31 1973 BY THE GOVERNOR'S  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVA-  
TION  
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS &  
RECREATION COMMISSION

MHS is delighted to see the two plaques back on display in Lighthouse Park, especially the one that had been thrown into the bay. If only it could talk!



*Ronald Kane at Rosehill dedication of Treaty Monument in 1931.*

*(Continued on page 3)*

*John Collier*

## A Message from our President

I don't know about you, but my idea of "preventive maintenance" is to prevent myself from ever thinking about the subject. Now this works, sort of, around our house, which now consists of a collection of temporary fixes on top of a lengthy list of long-delayed projects. I am not alone in this. All of us can think of cases where public band-aids are being applied to deep and persistent problems, also known as "kicking the can down the road."

I write this, however, to share some good news about our Mukilteo Light Station. Both MHS and the City are working closely to identify and prioritize needed maintenance and restorative measures, and then to find the resources to make the necessary improvements.

We just applied for a grant from the organization that receives funds from the sale of lighthouse license plates, to apply toward fixing the windows and other items in the Maritime Exhibit building (garage) and the Interpretive Center. The City is expecting a significant grant to carry out several repairs and restoration work on Quarters A and B.

This means that we will have several opportunities in the near future for volunteers to pitch in to help maintain and beautify our city's historic icon (something our fabulous gardeners are already doing with gusto). You can let me know what skills and interests you have, but if you want to talk to somebody who actually knows something, see Mitch Owensby, the leader of our Maintenance Committee.

And now, back to our regularly scheduled activities. In case you missed it, we had a fine time on April 4 when we launched our 2015 season at the Mukilteo Light Station. Mukilteo's new Director of Management Services, Christopher Phillips, emphasized the strong bond of cooperation between MHS and the City. Our own Christopher Summitt once again brought Mukilteo founder, Jacob Fowler, back to life with his rousing welcoming speech. Another highlight was the dedication of the new plaque and stone (see story on page 1), that was unveiled dramatically by Ann Collier and Sally Morrison, as Aaron Coe energized the crowd with a stimulating fanfare on a herald trumpet.

Thanks to Lisa Romo, Becky Owensby, and a host of others, our docent service on weekends at the lighthouse is underway and running smoothly. We plan to expand the hours of operation to include Wednesday evenings when the Farmers Market is open, beginning on June 3. Volunteers, as usual, will be needed. Perhaps this is the chance for those of you who say your weekends are sacrosanct to come forward to help out during the week. Check with Lisa or Becky to get more details.

On the docket right now are two events at Pioneer Cemetery: Spring Cleaning on Saturday, May 16, at 10:00 a.m., and then our Memorial Day Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25. Shortly thereafter, Joanne Mulloy will be getting us organized for our "mass planting" to be held on Saturday, June 6 (rain date is June 13). Watch for publicity by email and in our local papers.

Now, where is that list of things to do around the house...

John Collier, President ♦



### MHS Calendar

Thursday, May 14, 7:15-8:45 pm - **Monthly Membership Meeting**, Brewery Gulch history, Rosehill.

Saturday, May 16, 10 am - **Cemetery Cleaning**, Pioneer Cemetery.

Monday, May 25, 11 am - **Memorial Day Ceremony**, Pioneer Cemetery.

Saturday, June 6, 10 am - **Mass planting**, Lighthouse.

Thursday, June 11, 7:15-8:45 pm - **Monthly Membership Meeting**, Port of Everett Review, Major Initiatives, How the Waterfront has Changed, Rosehill. ♦



### Special Tours Co-ordinated by Special People

Kris Hoffman and Marianne Anderson recently volunteered to serve as Co-chairs for Special Tours. Kris and Marianne are both retired teachers and have been volunteering with Special Tours for several years.

Kris and Marianne take over the job from Karen Carpenter, who led the Special Tours activities for many years. Karen plans to continue helping with special tours. Thank you Kris and Marianne for stepping up, and to Karen for her many years of faithful service. ♦

(Continued from page 1)

The Rosehill Community Center also hosts a monument with a plaque commemorating the 1855 Treaty, which is on the National Historic Register. The 1931 photograph of Ronald Kane (on page 1) at the dedication ceremony for the Treaty Monument is a reminder of the importance of that event in Mukilteo's history. (Mr. Kane later became Mayor of Mukilteo.)

Other historic plaques appear in Mukilteo: plaques at Pioneer Cemetery remind us that the cemetery is on the Washington State Historic Register and celebrate Jacob Fowler and Morris Frost, Mukilteo's founders, who are buried in the cemetery.

MHS will perform its annual cleaning of the cemetery on Saturday, May 16, at 10:00 a.m. The annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony will be held at 11:00 on Monday, May 25.

The Fowler Pear Tree is also on the Washington State Historic Register. A plaque near the tree tells of its history and of the assistance and preservation efforts of both the Mukilteo Way Garden Club and the Rose Point Garden Club. The

Mukilteo Way Garden Club continues to care for the Barbara Brennan Dobro Park that surrounds the tree. Recently three pear tree saplings were planted near the Rosehill Community Center and in the Pioneer Cemetery to ensure the continuity of the Fowler Pear Tree.

At the Mukilteo Japanese Memorial in Centennial Park on Fifth Avenue, a bronze plaque stands in remembrance of the large Japanese-American community that contributed so much to the development of Mukilteo in the first three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Other bronze markers are placed around Mukilteo, notably the George Vancouver plaque near the lighthouse, as well as plaques at Totem Park, Kamiak High School, Fire Station 3, and on a number of benches erected in honor of individuals.

The next time you are out for a walkabout in our community, take a look at the remembrances cast in bronze. They may reference only our local history in Mukilteo, but in a larger sense they connect us to bronze relics everywhere that celebrate human history. ♦



*This plaque was initially placed on a cement bench in 1953 and was later found in the bay.*



*1973 Plaque marking Point Elliot treaty site.*

### About that Lens...



The 4th order Fresnel lens on display downstairs in the lighthouse tower was originally thought to be from a lighthouse on the Columbia River, the Desdemona Sands lighthouse. However, Chad Kaiser, a local lighthouse expert, recently told us he believes the lens might be from another lighthouse in the Pacific Northwest. Guess we have to learn to live with the mystery! ♦

### Upcoming events

Join your friends and neighbors for these upcoming activities:

- Spring cleaning at Pioneer Cemetery - May 16 at 10 am.
- Memorial Day Ceremony at Pioneer Cemetery—May 25 at 11 am.
- Mass flower planting at the lighthouse—June 6 at 10 am.
- And don't forget the monthly MHS meetings at Rosehill—on the second Thursday of each month. An interesting lineup of speakers is planned! ♦





**In Memoriam****Jo-An Chandler Cannon**

MHS is saddened to learn of the death of Jo-An Chandler Cannon on March 2, 2015. Born in 1930, Jo-An was a lifetime resident of Mukilteo and was celebrated as Mukilteo's Pioneer of the Year in 2010. She attended Rosehill School and graduated from Everett High School.

Jo-An's father was Dr. Claude Chandler, Mukilteo's town doctor and the physician for the Crown Lumber Company. Chandler's Drug Store on Park Avenue was known as a gathering place in Mukilteo, and Jo-An worked there at the soda fountain as a teenager. In fact, she met her future husband, Lewis J. Cannon, when he came in to the drugstore as a customer.

Mukilteo will miss Jo-An's smiling face.

**Larry Ames**

Larry Ames, a long-time resident of Mukilteo, died on March 14, 2015, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Larry came to Mukilteo with his wife Joan to begin his teaching career at Rosehill School in 1954. His career in education also included other Mukilteo schools, Serene Lake Elementary and Explorer Middle School. Larry and Joan were chosen Mukilteo's Citizens of the Year in 2006. Joan was active with the MHS Garden Group, spending many hours beautifying the lighthouse grounds.

MHS extends its sympathy to family and friends of Jo-An Cannon and Larry Ames. ♦

**Gift Shop Update**

This year's opening day ceremonies at the light station were wonderful. The trumpet player was an amazing addition. Thank you to all who organized and took part in this event.

After the ceremonies were over, we were glad to see guests visiting the tower as well as the gift shop.

The gift shop is again fully stocked with the Wild Pearle jewelry from British Columbia, including some new designs. Global Village mini glass figures are back. New aprons and towel designs are stocked. Many new ornaments marked with "Mukilteo, WA" are hanging on the tree. These make great gifts for our out of town friends.

We have many new items this year and guests seem to like the selection. Two new children's items with the Mukilteo lighthouse logo started selling during our docent training sessions and are continuing to sell well.



Aqua Mesmerizers and Binoculars

The ceramic tiles designed by a Renton artist have arrived. The new image is as up to date as possible. It includes the rock with the National Register plaque, which was recently installed in front of the lighthouse.



Our custom pillows arrived the night before opening day. Mitch and Becky Owensby managed to get all seven large boxes into their vehicle and down to the gift shop. We were then able to receive and price them before we opened for the day.

If you have not yet visited the gift shop this season, please do. Already visited? Please stop by again and see what may be new.

Thank you from your buyers,

Kim Nguyen and Nancy Joao ♦

**Have You Paid Your 2015 Dues Yet?**

Just a friendly reminder that annual dues are now due. If you have not paid your MHS dues for 2015, you can use the form on the back of this newsletter, or bring your dues to the next MHS meeting. We hope to see you soon. Thanks for supporting your local historical society. ♦

### We Get Questions...

The Mukilteo Historical Society website and the gift shop phone are both places where people can ask questions and get answers or references for further information. Inquiries in the month of April show the variety of questions we get:

A woman wanted information about relatives in the Josh, Kaiser, and Stemmer families; she came to Qtrs. A for more family information, including photos and obituaries.

A listing of Mukilteo's lighthouse keepers and assistant keepers was sent to a man maintaining a website about lighthouses.

A question from the Beacon about the history of the Tank Farm was answered.

A question from the City of Mukilteo about the position of the Klemp hotel on Second Street was discussed.

Questions about the history of the Festival through the years resulted in a person coming from the Lighthouse Festival Association to go through our archives, looking for information about previous festivals.

Lighthouse plans were sent to someone planning to build a model of the Mukilteo lighthouse.

Photos of the McNabs and their house were brought to Qtrs. A.

Do you have questions about Mukilteo's history? If so, you can contact MHS through [info@mukilteohistorical.org](mailto:info@mukilteohistorical.org) or call the gift shop at 425-513-9602. Maybe your question will suggest an idea for a future story in this newsletter! ♦

### Powder Mill Explosion in September 1930

Oscar Olson wrote this description of the Powder Mill Explosion in the May 1982 *Rosehill News*: "I was cutting wood on an empty lot on Shore Avenue between Sorenson's and Hempler's. The earth shook, then the leaves on the trees laid flat, then there was a roar, then a huge column of smoke, then debris started coming down. Pieces of metal, pipe, and other junk.

I knew the powder mill had blown up right away. That had been talked about for some time. I crawled under my pickup truck for safety to get away from the falling objects. Some were large enough to do real damage. They made dents in the Model T cab."



### More Mukilteo trivia...

Jon Evavold, our speaker at the MHS meeting in February, has another background talent that we discovered in the May 1982 *Rosehill News*: he was called "Mukilteo's Marathon Man" in an article telling of his running in the Boston Marathon that year. ♦



**Mukilteo Historical Society Inc.**  
**304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101**  
**Mukilteo, WA 98275**

### 2015

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*[www.mukilteohistorical.org](http://www.mukilteohistorical.org)*

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*Return this form with your payment to:*

**Mukilteo Historical Society - 304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101, Mukilteo, WA 98275**

Individual - \$15 ☐ Senior (65) - \$10 ☐ Senior Couple - \$20 ☐ Family - \$25 ☐

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