



Collaborative Project Renews Interest in Historic Cemetery

Content provided by Peter Anderson and Margaret Summitt.

A goal of the Mukilteo Historical Society has been to develop an accurate map of Mukilteo's Pioneer Cemetery. That goal neared completion with the April unveiling of a digitized map and interactive website—the result of a collaboration between MHS and the City of Mukilteo.

MHS Director Peter Anderson described how a March 1st meeting with Mayor Jennifer Gregerson and Community Development Director Patricia Love identified synergy between the Society's goal and the City's "story mapping" project.

The City aims to provide a series of online interactive story maps for public use. Coincidentally, MHS Secretary Margaret Summitt had drafted a booklet titled "Mukilteo Pioneer Cemetery: Honoring our History," providing information about some of Mukilteo's early families as represented in the cemetery.

On March 9th, Mukilteo's GIS Coordinator, Jacob Milner, and GIS Technician, Matt Entinger began taking measurements of cemetery grave marker locations using GPS equipment accurate to 10 cm (about 4 inches) or less. Their

measurements were used to produce a digitized Pioneer Cemetery map, which was then incorporated, along with Margaret Summitt's draft text, into a "story map" on the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) website, gis.ci.mukilteo.wa.us.

Milner encourages MHS members to explore the features and capabilities of this story map website and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

The cemetery was placed on the State Register July 30, 1971, by the Governor's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Below is an excerpt from Margaret Summitt's text describing the history of Pioneer Cemetery.

"Welcome to the Mukilteo Pioneer Cemetery, located high above Possession Sound. From the top of the bluff you can see beautiful views of the Sound and of the south part of Whidbey Island.

This $\frac{3}{4}$ acre property was part of the original claim of Mukilteo founder Morris Frost. When Frost was forced to sell out to pay his debts, the property was acquired by Angus McIntosh and his wife, who deeded it to David Deselle.

Deselle sold the property to Louis Kosuth Church in 1890. Church had a document notarized in 1890 stating his intent to reserve part of his property for a cemetery, but unfortunately, he never followed through with the formalities.

A residential community grew up around the cemetery, which never had a formal caretaker. It suffered from dec-

ades of neglect until the City of Mukilteo acquired it in 1982.

The first known burial here was of Nathaniel Fowler in 1873. The last known burial was of Stuart Davis in 1919. Many of the early markers were made of wood, which have rotted away.



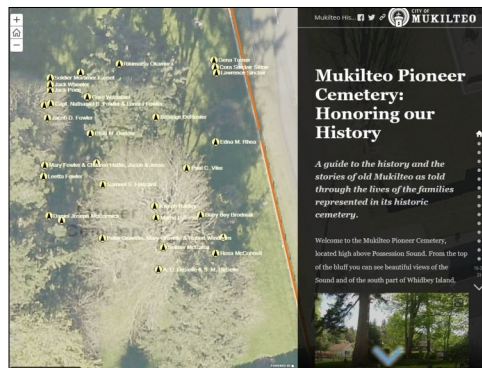
Mukilteo's Pioneer Cemetery.

Today, only 17 stone markers remain. Over the years some graves and markers were lost, as landslides ate away the edges of the 100-foot bluff. Some of the newer markers are for graves whose actual sites are unknown. The cemetery presently has 43 marked graves, but more actual burial sites likely exist.

MHS marked the grave of Jacob Fowler, and each Memorial Day the Historical Society decorates the veterans' graves. The City of Mukilteo maintains the cemetery grounds, but not the headstones.

The headstones were lovingly restored by artist Tim Sadley in 2000-2001. They were cleaned and sanded, and where needed, the original letters, numbers, and motifs were restored.

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Go to gis.ci.mukilteo.wa.us to view this interactive website.

A Message from our President

The Mukilteo Historical Society continues to blossom this spring, in spite of the rain. It's an exciting time now that the lighthouse and gift shop are open for the season. The MHS Board and members are accomplishing their goals while continuing to face challenges. One goal the Board defined for 2017 is: **Reach out to the community to increase individual memberships.** It's also one of the challenges.

MHS has respected and beloved volunteers who move away or slow down each year, creating opportunities for new members. There are many responsibilities involved in maintaining our organization, so it is vital to increase membership to fill these roles. One example of a dedicated volunteer is our gift shop buyer, Nancy Joao, who thoughtfully selects and purchases items to sell. Gift shop revenue provides support to keep the light shining and the gardens handsome.

New members have the opportunity to volunteer as much or as little as they want, in an area of interest to them. Some start out slowly and get more involved as they get more interested in the varied opportunities. Whether your interests lie in local history, working with the public at the gift shop, or understanding maritime and lighthouse history, volunteer opportunities are available. The Light Station is an interesting place on weekends, as something fun is usually happening. Seals swim near the ferry terminal, families gather, children play, couples get married, and military ceremonies are held. Photographers are commonly capturing special events or the beautiful scenery.

I joined MHS with a friend and fellow member, Lynette Goad—quite reluctantly—a few years back. As I got more involved, I was inspired by the traditions, heart, and work ethic of the members. I started as a docent, then began volunteering in the gardens, and eventually became a Board member.

To get more involved, or if you have a friend who is interested in joining our team, contact a Board member. New members may submit the form included in this newsletter. Becky Owensby manages our Saturday and Sunday volunteer shifts, when we are open from noon to 5 pm. Cindy Francis leads a volunteer team on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 4 to 7 pm, to coincide with the Farmer's Market. Training is provided for volunteers who join mid-season.

At our May general meeting, with the goal of enlisting new members, Eric Richstad provided formal invitations to join, including envelopes, neon membership applications, and stamps. These will be available at future meetings. Thank you to our members who have taken on this challenge, including those who have already recruited volunteers! The Board and members are also stepping up to staff the lighthouse. Board members are developing new promotions to increase our membership and presence in the community. Watch for our ads in newspapers, and for applications to appear in new locations and at upcoming events!

Ask a friend to join MHS. Who knows? They could become a future MHS President.

Joanne Mulloy, President ♦



MHS Calendar

Saturday, May 20, 10 am, **Annual Cleaning**, Pioneer Cemetery.

Monday, May 29, 11 am, **Memorial Day Ceremony**, Pioneer Cemetery.

Saturday, June 3, 9:30 am, **Annual Planting Day**, Light Station.

Thursday, June 8, 7 pm, **General Membership Meeting**, Rosehill. ♦

Upcoming Speakers

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming MHS presentations.

- June 8, Al Friedrich will talk about the history of lights, including Fresnel lenses.
- July 13, "Ranger Rick" Blank of Deception Pass State Park will describe local invertebrates.
- August 10 will feature the Mukilteo Pioneer of the Year. Who will it be this year?
- September 14 features Mukilteo Mayor Jennifer Gregerson, providing her annual update.
- October 12, Chad Kaiser will continue to enlighten and entertain us with his vast knowledge of lighthouses and Fresnel lenses.
- November 9 is an opportunity for MHS to reflect on our accomplishments, acknowledge our fabulous volunteers, and elect 2018 officers and directors.
- December 7 is the annual holiday party. Plan to attend to celebrate the joys of the season with your MHS family. ♦

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Margaretha Pallas in Pioneer Cemetery.

In its early years the cemetery plots were cared for by the individual families. They erected the picket fences seen in the photo above. The young lady is Margaretha Pallas, whose family lived next door to the cemetery. The Pallas family served as informal caretakers of the cemetery. Late one night, Alice Pallas Brooks recalled, she saw some men disinter a body and remove it!

‘During the Depression this lovely spot was spoiled,’ wrote Mrs. Brooks. ‘Fences were all removed and the markers knocked down. Some were broken and some are lost. My father with the aid of a friend mended and remounted them. Mr. Frost’s marker was broken into two pieces...as a result of this devastation several grave sites are completely lost.’

In 1965, the cemetery was old and neglected. Mukilteo Mayor Ronald Kane called for volunteers to clear the weeds to see what could be preserved.



Mayor Ronald Kane led the effort to clean up Pioneer Cemetery in 1965.

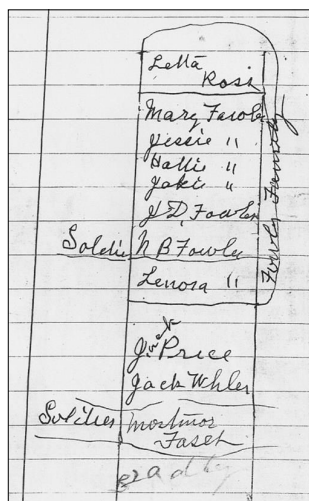
No legal action was taken until 1979, when the grave marker of Nathaniel Fowler turned up as a prank on the doorstep of a real estate office on the Bothell-Everett Highway. About that time, MHS paid for a title search and found that the property around the edges of the cemetery had been sold. In 1982 the remedial legal process was completed so that the cemetery officially belonged to the city.

The question remains: how many people are buried here, and who are they? The task of finding an answer is complicated by the fact that the earliest list we have was compiled years after the fact.



Louisa Fowler Sinclair.

Louisa Fowler Sinclair, daughter of Mukilteo founder Jacob Fowler, wrote a list of names of burials in her later years, working from a memory that sometimes failed her. The spelling and handwriting of the list is puzzling. Louisa died in 1955.



Detail of burial list.

Following the 1965 clearing, a list of 25 names was typed. Historical Society member Valerie Norwine prepared a burial list in 1983, and the first map of the cemetery was made. In 1987, Boy Scout Robert Hodepohl surveyed the cemetery as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Since then some bronze plaque markers have been added. A physical survey made in December 1999 by Kevin Fraley for the USGenWeb totaled the number of marked graves as 43. At least six others are buried here, and the total number is probably higher.

Mas Odoi of the Historical Society, who grew up in Japanese Gulch, translated the Japanese inscriptions on three of the grave markers, revealing their death dates and their homes in Japan. Similar work remains to be done on the origins of other immigrants buried here.”

Margaret Summitt is presently researching the stories of the Mukilteo cemetery pioneers. ♦

New Look for Old Favorite!

www.mukilteohistorical.org—Same place, new face. Our website has a new look!

Working with web designer Heather Larson of “Day is New Creative,” past-President Don Saul created an engaging fresh site to appeal to members and visitors alike. One notable behind-the-scenes feature is that the site is easier to maintain, thus saving us money.

You’ll find more historical articles, photos, and event announcements. Additionally, links are included to help visitors plan their trip to the Light Station.

At an upcoming meeting we will give a short tour of the new site. Meanwhile, please check it out. Send suggestions to erichstad@mukilteohistorical.org.

If you uncover (gasp) an error, please tell us about it and indicate which browser you are using. ♦



Cemetery Corner

By Margaret Summitt

Joseph McCormick's grave marker lies between those of the Davis and Fowler families, near a large holly bush that faces the bluff.

Daniel Joseph McCormick, known as Joe, registered for the WWI draft while a resident of Wenatchee, Chelan County, WA, on June 5, 1917. He claimed exemption from the draft due to being blind in one eye. He was of medium build, with brownish eyes and auburn hair. At the time of his registration he was single and unemployed. He was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 12, 1891.

Joe was married at Everett, WA, on April 29, 1918, before a Justice of the Peace, to seventeen-year-old Orpha Cogburn, daughter of Robert and Ida Cogburn.

Joe died in Mukilteo on November 9, 1918, at age 27, leaving a teenage widow. He was a victim of the influenza epidemic that struck the U. S. about that time. On his death certificate his occupation was listed as apple packer, and the informant was his father-in-law, R. S. Cogburn. The names of Joe's parents were not listed.

In the 1920 U. S. Census for Mukilteo, 19-year-old Orpha McCormick is listed as living with her parents and sister Viola and a ten-month-old son, Joseph McCormick, Jr. Orpha married William Waddell by 1930. She died in Mukilteo in 1977. ♦



The MHS general membership meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Rosehill now start at 7 pm. We look forward to seeing you! ♦

Gala Season Opening at the Light Station

The sky brightened just in time for the 2017 opening of the Mukilteo Light Station. The noontime ceremony began with a trumpet fanfare played by Aaron Coe. Welcoming remarks were then delivered by MHS Director, Margaret Summitt, dressed as Mary Fowler, wife of pioneer Jacob Fowler, one of Mukilteo's founders.



Boy Scout Troop 189 raises the flag as Aaron Coe plays trumpet on opening day at the Light Station.

Boy Scout Troop 189, led by Scoutmaster Lyle Rice, raised the American flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Scout Troop 189 participants included Elijah McDowell, John Studley, Colin Scheil, Brandon Harkelroad, Colin Schoenstein, Connor Quinn, Noah Bradenberg, Jack Wyman, Jack Jordal, Ben Fulmer, Luke Brannan, Joel Brannan, and Luc Lannertone.



MHS President Joanne Mulloy, Mukilteo Council President Bob Champion, and board members Margaret Summitt and Al Friedrich.

Joanne Mulloy, MHS President, thanked the participants and introduced City Council President Bob Champion, who brought greetings from Mayor Jennifer Gregerson.

Dressed as a lighthouse keeper, Al Friedrich provided historical background on the lighthouse and participated in the ribbon cutting to officially open the lighthouse. The celebration was punctuated by a ringing of the triangle on the light station grounds.



Al Friedrich and Margaret Summitt.

Gift Shop News

The gift shop has only been open a month and already sales look great. Our wide assortment of mugs is selling well. We tried to reorder two new styles and managed to get only six more of each. If you want one of the new styles, better make your purchase soon.



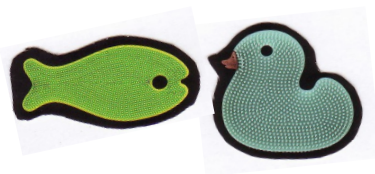
Our new stuffed animals are adorable and are being “adopted” quickly. Not sure which one is the favorite, but walruses, octopuses, and baby seals are popular.

Stuffed animals



Other new items include magnetic lighthouse-shaped flashlights; nightlights that change color; a wider variety of handmade fabric totes, bags, and potholders; as well as brightly colored Balta brushes in duck and fish shapes.

Flashlights



Balta brushes

We have new books for children and adults. Three books authored by Chuck Fowler, who spoke at our January meeting, are available, including *Patrol and Rescue Boats of Puget Sound*. We also have *Maritime Place Names*, *Island Washington Waters* by Richard Blumenthal, the speaker at April's meeting. Cookbooks are back with *Pacific Northwest Cookbook* added to our collection.

Christmas ornaments



Our expanded selection of picture frames includes three wooden styles engraved with “Mukilteo WA.” Other custom items include wooden backscratchers and doorstops. New Christmas ornaments are hung on our tree, including glass blown lighthouses, colorful glass bottles, and beach floats.

Additionally, our volunteers are learning a new register system. Thanks to everyone for making this transition and for taking on whatever is asked. We truly appreciate you.

We continue to look for an affordable windbreaker jacket and a large lighthouse flag. And if you visit another lighthouse and see lighthouse replicas for sale, please ask for information on their supplier. Or ask if they will pass our contact information on to their supplier. Suppliers can reach us at nancy@mukilteohistorical.org.

Please continue to share your concerns and suggestions for new items. You are a major source of information for your gift shop buyers and we appreciate your help.

Sue Anderson and Nancy Joao ♦



Mukilteo Historical Society Inc.
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2017

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www.mukilteohistorical.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Return this form with payment to:

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

Type of Membership:

- ☐ Individual - \$15 ☐ Senior (65+) - \$10 ☐ Senior Couple - \$20 ☐ Family - \$25
☐ Corporate - \$50 ☐ Sustaining - \$100 ☐ Benefactor - \$300 ☐ Life - \$500
☐ Donation Only—(Please provide your name and address so we may acknowledge your donation.)

Name _____ Go GREEN! Check here for electronic newsletter only. ☐

Mailing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Street address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ E-mail _____

Please indicate the volunteer activities you would like to help with:

- ☐ **Archives/Trunk Treasures**—Collect and archive documents, photos, and artifacts. Organize exhibits. Present Trunk Tales.
☐ **Garden**—Join our group of gardeners or adopt a specific garden bed at the Light Station.
☐ **Gift Shop**—Staff the gift shop. Help price, stock, and maintain inventory. Prepare drawer for next shift. Operate credit card processing terminal and cash register.
☐ **Lighthouse**—Become a lighthouse tour guide.
☐ **Maintenance**—Liaison to Board about Light Station and Pioneer Cemetery issues and plans.
☐ **Publicity**—Advertising (Beacon/Herald/etc.). MHS Newsletter, website. Membership mailing (Sunshine)/emails/phoning.
☐ **Special Tours/Weddings**—Assist with group tours and events.

For Office Use Only: ☐ Added to Membership Roster ☐ Added to Address Labels ☐ Membership Card sent

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