



Mukilteo's Pioneer of the Year: Sharon (Bridget) Waddell Freeman

By Ann and John Collier

Sharon Waddell Freeman not only grew up in Mukilteo—she also worked for the City of Mukilteo for 24 years, which she says were “some of the best years of her life.” Sharon’s family history in Mukilteo goes back to her grandparents, Ida and Robert Cogburn, who came here from Arkansas in 1904. Accompanying them was four-year-old Orpha “Orphie” Teenor Cogburn, who would become Sharon’s mother. Grandpa Cogburn worked as a railroad detective and a fisherman, so the family settled on Second Street, close to both water and the railroad, where they raised their three children.

At 18, Orphie married Daniel Joseph McCormick, who worked at Crown Lumber. Orphie soon produced a son, but the father died in the 1918 flu epidemic before the son was born. Daniel is buried in Mukilteo’s Pioneer Cemetery.



Sharon and her mother, Orphie Waddell, ca. 1941.

Orphie then married William K. “Billy” Waddell, an older man who also worked at Crown Lumber. Orphie and Billy had five more children, including Sharon who was born in 1939. Billy was 64 when Sharon was born, so she remembers that it almost seemed like two separate families, with a sibling age range of 20 years. Her father died in 1955 when she was 16.

Sharon lived on Second Street as she grew up, attending Rosehill and then Everett High School, when she lived on Mukilteo Lane. She has many stories of the close-knit Mukilteo community and how they relied on each other. Among Sharon’s favorite memories are swimming at the beach near McConnell’s Boat House, where the Silver Cloud Inn is now. In winter, Second



Eight-year-old Sharon at the beach in Mukilteo.

Street was a great sledding area. Sharon’s older sister Dorothy (Dot) had restaurants in Clearview, Marysville, and Mt. Vernon, and Sharon often helped in the restaurants.

In 1956 when she was 17, Sharon married Jess Van Jordan, who was at the time with the Mukilteo water rescue headquarters. Jess was in the military so they raised their three children, Perry, Michael, and Michelle, in several places: Germany, France, Texas, South Carolina, and Kansas. The marriage ended in divorce in 1965 and Sharon returned with her children to Mukilteo. She lived with Orphie on the Speedway and then with her sister Dot at 901 4th Street, and she worked at Taylor’s Landing. There she sold ice cream and worms (making sure she kept the orders straight), and eventually became a bartender and waitress.

Sharon married John Leroy Freeman in 1966 and moved to Kansas, where a daughter, Juanita, was born. The family then returned to Mukilteo, 1974-78, living in a house at 4th and Loveland. During this time, Sharon worked at Heland Inc., a glass plant at Paine Field. Sharon and John lived in Texas, 1978-1983, and then moved back near family in Mukilteo.

Sharon started working for the City of Mukilteo, serving in a number of roles at the Front Desk, in Accounts, as Deputy Clerk, and as Community Development Administrator. When she retired in 2007, she reflected on how important customer service was in all those positions.



Your city government at work:
Sharon in City Hall when it was located at the old Rosehill building.

Sharon remembers the time when she was called to the counter to help a customer who was very unhappy about the length of time his building permit was taking. On the day his permit was finally issued, he jumped the counter and kissed her! She

Continued on page 4...

A Message from our President

Ahhh, July! My favorite month of the year. It's been eventful down at the lighthouse, with considerable activity. There have been spring and summer weddings, coordinated by our new wedding leader, Sharon Sutherland, assisted by new and established team members. These teams support the wedding party to help ensure privacy and to assist in helping events run smoothly. There have been numerous photo shoots, including those of the MHS Board, quinceaneras, high school proms, weddings, engagements, and cars for sale.

Special tours have been provided for school groups, family reunions, and local businesses. The lighthouse is an iconic gathering place in our community. It's gratifying to watch families and friends at the beach, picnicking, relaxing in the sun, enjoying ice cream, and learning about our history. It's rewarding to experience the summer harvest of the work and commitment that the MHS Board and members provide throughout the year.

Lighthouse volunteers are seeing record numbers of visitors from all over the world. It's a challenging role to look out for the safety and experiences of our visitors and also keep the lighthouse and lens safe. The number of people in the tower at one time is limited for safety and to adhere to U.S. Coast Guard requirements. Gift shop volunteers have been successful in selling a good deal of merchandise while also resolving issues as they arise. The archive team continues to work diligently on cataloguing artifacts and photographs, while putting a structure in place so photos can be ordered via the MHS website. The website has also been updated with security and direct email links for specific teams.

The MHS Board is increasing our presence in the community through Beacon ads and articles. Alex Bonner and Peter Anderson ordered and installed new large banners at Rosehill Community Center and along the Speedway. Have you seen them? Membership is growing, which means more volunteers to staff our projects, activities, events, and future seasons. Membership packets were compiled and sent to all new members.

Our new environmental humidity abatement team is placing data readers in the lighthouse to measure the humidity and make improvements to prepare for interior painting in 2019. The gardens are popping with color thanks to a successful mass planting and the hard work of volunteers who are persistent about weeding the flower beds.

Each MHS Board member brings unique strengths to this organization. Their ingenuity leads to new ideas which they are quick to implement. Considerable work is done behind the scenes. It's fun to be a part of this dedication to MHS and I'm honored to work with such engaged and upright people.

There were also goodbyes this season. Sheila McGillivray, our longtime volunteer, passed away in May. We will miss her work ethic and impishness. Jeran Hurst, longtime City of Mukilteo employee, has moved on to a new job and will no longer be supporting us. He made many improvements over the years, taking special care with repairs and maintenance to the lighthouse. He will be missed and I wish him success in his new adventure.

Here's to savoring the remainder of the summer!

Joanne Mulloy, President ♦

Calling All Volunteers!

Thank you for your service on behalf of the Mukilteo Historical Society! Join us at 5:30 pm on Sunday, September 30, at Rosehill for our annual Volunteer Potluck to mark the end of our lighthouse season. Bring a dish to share.



MHS Calendar

Thursday, August 9, 7 pm,
General Membership Meeting,
Rosehill. Meet the Pioneer of the Year.

Saturday, September 8, 10:30 am,
Lighthouse Festival Parade, Harbour Pointe.

Saturday, September 8, 3 pm,
Pioneer and Citizen of the Year reception, Light Station.

Thursday, September 13, 7 pm,
General Membership Meeting,
Rosehill. Mayor Gregerson gives her annual update.

Sunday, September 30, 5:30 pm,
End of Season Volunteer Potluck, Rosehill. ♦



In Memoriam: Sheila McGillivray

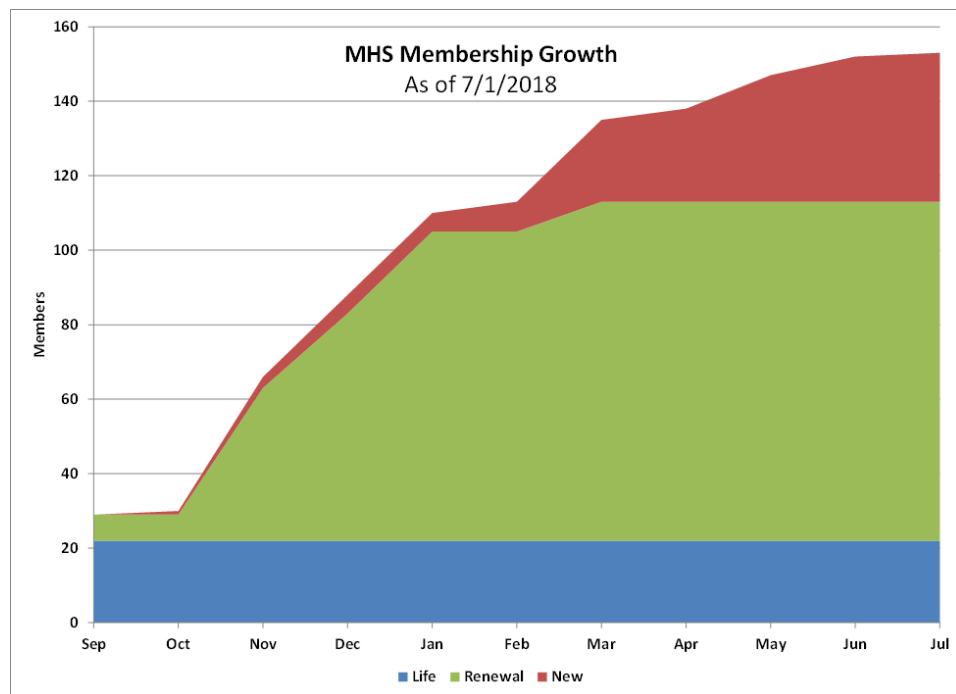
MHS mourns the death of longtime member Sheila McGillivray, who died May 31, 2018. Sheila volunteered for many positions in MHS, working in the gift shop for many years, as well as serving as Sunshine Chairman. She was an enthusiastic MHS storyteller, role-playing as Alice McGill, a teacher at Rosehill in the 1920s. Sheila served as the official greeter for mass plantings at the lighthouse.

Sheila enjoyed her Scottish heritage, winning many awards for her Scottish dancing, teaching Scottish dancing to others, and serving as a judge at Scottish dance competitions. MHS misses Sheila and her enthusiastic support of the organization. ♦

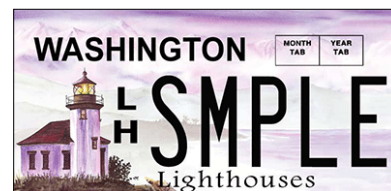
Thank You!

Membership Corner

MHS is growing! Since our last *MHS Newsline*, our membership has increased from 136 to 153. The chart below illustrates this growth. We always welcome new members to join our fun group and help us preserve the history of our community. A membership application is included in this newsletter.

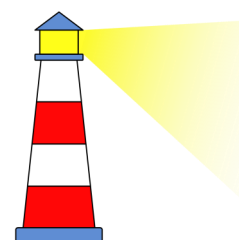


Keep Washington Shining!



You can help save 12 Washington lighthouses. When you purchase a Washington Lighthouse license plate, a portion of the fees helps fund restoration projects at 12 non-profit lighthouses, including the Mukilteo lighthouse.

For details, go to:
<http://washingtonlighthouses.org/>



2018 SPONSOR HONOR ROLL

The Mukilteo Historical Society (Keepers of the Mukilteo Light Station) thanks the following corporate sponsors who help support its mission to preserve and exhibit items of historic value that pertain to the City of Mukilteo and its environs.

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Cemetery Corner

By Margaret Summitt

Everybody in Mukilteo knows the Losvar Condominiums are next door to the ferry dock. Some people might know there's a Losvar buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. This is her story.

She was born in Norway with the name Walborg Smedberg. Names are important in our quest, and Walborg is not, to us, a familiar name for a girl. Saint Walburga, or Walpurga, was, however, one of the most popular saints in medieval Europe, and she is still invoked as protection against witches.

Walborg was the second eldest. The father was Johann Carl Smeberg or Smedberg. The mother was Laura Thorvaldsen—the surname being misspelled egregiously in Walborg's American marriage record. The seven children bore the surname Carlsdatter (for the girls) or Carlsson (for the boys) or Smedberg. Why is the pattern not consistent? I would need an expert in Norwegian genealogy to sort out surnames based on the father's name, military service, and place of residence.

Walborg came to the U. S. sometime between 1891 and 1895. She did not come directly to the U.S. from Norway. At age 29 she was a domestic servant for a family in Surrey, England, where the wife of the head of household was a Norwegian. Walborg Smedberg was 33 when she married Paul Losvar in 1895 in Lake Linden, Michigan.

Paul may have advertised for a second wife. When his first wife, Hanna, died about 1890, he was left with three young children. As Walborg traveled with her mother, she likely would have considered options. The MHS archives has a photo of the pair "about to leave Norway for Mukilteo" but there were stops in between. In the photo, Walborg has her hair done up, while her mother has her head covered in a black shawl.

I don't know what became of mother Laura after she left Norway. I don't find her in Michigan. Part of the problem is doubtless due to Norwegian naming patterns. Did Laura go by Smedberg or Thorvaldsen?

Losvar, for example, was a surname that Paul adopted at Ellis Island; his birth surname being Larson. Losvar was the name of his home village in Norway. Walborg and family left Michigan in August 1895 to join him in Mukilteo. Over the years the Losvar family developed the Losvar boat business, at the boat house where the namesake condominiums are now located.



Walborg Smedberg (right) with her mother Laura Thorvaldsen.

Continued from page 1...



Sharon, second from right, with the siblings of 2014 Mukilteo Pioneer of the Year, Celia Cleator Nicholson, who is the tallest in the photo.

says the name will remain in her memory only—today, of course, he might well be put in jail!

Sharon and John Freeman have been married 52 years and have lived in their house in Everett 33 years. She loves to bake and is widely known for her excellent cookies.

Sharon will be guest of honor at the MHS meeting at Rosehill on Thursday, August 9 at 7:00 pm. Come to hear her memories of growing up in Mukilteo, as well as her return to serve the city for 24 more years.

She will ride in the Lighthouse Festival parade on Saturday, September 8, at 10:30 am. Plan now to join the contingent of MHS members, as well as Sharon's family members, as we represent MHS in the parade. There will be a reception that afternoon at 3:00 pm on the Lighthouse grounds, honoring Sharon as Pioneer of the Year, as well as the 2018 Citizen of the Year, Dr. Nhi Pham.

A Memorable Day

By Peter Anderson



Rhododendrons in bloom at Pioneer Cemetery.



MHS President Joanne Mulloy and Margaret Summitt, dressed as Mary Fowler.

On May 28, 2018, about 100 guests gathered in Pioneer Cemetery under clear skies to celebrate the national Memorial Day. The large rhododendron was in full bloom, and the cemetery grounds were immaculate, as MHS volunteers had come the previous week to pick up debris and wash all the gravestones. Other volunteers placed flowers, white crosses, and flags at selected gravesites, and brought chairs from the lighthouse just before the ceremony.

The celebration began at 10:30 am with musical selections performed by MPC Brass. MHS President Joanne Mulloy welcomed the guests and introduced master of ceremonies Margaret Summitt, who was dressed as Mary Fowler, wife of one of Mukilteo's founders, Jacob Fowler. Summitt, who serves as MHS secretary, described the general layout of the historic cemetery, and related stories of some of the soldiers buried here. She noted that MHS had recently received the Malstrom Award for a book "Mukilteo Pioneer Cemetery: Honoring our History," which serves as a guide to the history and the stories of old Mukilteo as told through the lives of the families buried here. The paper handout for the program included a haiku written by Mas Odoi:



MPC Brass performed a variety of musical selections.

*Thanks to kind strangers
who sanctify the grave of
a long lost brother*

Guest speaker Mayor Jennifer Gregerson talked about how Memorial Day represents an opportunity to reflect on the lives of others who have served our nation and community. Many have sacrificed their time and their lives for our country. She added, "Our nation chooses this day to mark the sacrifices of service that our veterans have made." Gregerson also noted how her own grandfathers, on both sides of her family, had served in the military during World War II.

Members of VFW Post 2100, Donald Holmes, Ron Fronheiser, and Donald Wischman, served as color guards. They raised the American flag, saluted, and the guests stood while the MPC Brass played the national anthem. Many guests lingered after the ceremony to explore the cemetery grounds and enjoy the beautiful view from the bluff over the water. It was truly a memorable day!



Mayor Gregerson presents the Memorial Day address.



VFW Post 2100 members raise the flag at Pioneer Cemetery.



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Keepers of the Mukilteo Light Station

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please review the membership categories below carefully. As a member you will receive a membership card, quarterly newsletter and a 10% discount in the gift shop. Your donation is tax deductible.

Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. Return this form and your payment to:

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL - \$15
 ☐ SENIOR (65 OR OVER) - \$10
 ☐ SENIOR COUPLE - \$20
 ☐ FAMILY - \$25
☐ CORPORATE - \$50
 ☐ SUSTAINING - \$100
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APPLICANT #1 DATA*:

Name: _____

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APPLICANT #2 DATA*:

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Applicant*

Please check the volunteer opportunities each applicant would like to help with:	#1	#2
Archives/Trunk Treasures – Collect & archive all documents, photos and artifacts relating to the history of Mukilteo. Organize exhibits. Present Trunk tales throughout the community.		
Garden – Join our group of gardeners or adopt a specific garden bed at the light station.		
Gift Shop – Help to price, stock and maintain inventory. Operate credit card processing terminal and cash register.		
Lighthouse – Become a lighthouse tour guide.		
Maintenance – Liaison to Board about Light Station/Pioneer Cemetery issues and plans.		
Publicity – Advertising (Beacon/Herald/etc.). MHS Newsletter, Membership mailing (Sunshine)/emails/phoning, MHS website.		
Special Tours – Assist with docent tours, field trips & visiting groups.		
Weddings – Welcome guests & provide tours for wedding guests.		

**Please use a second application form for more than two applicants in family memberships.*

For office use only: Date Received _____ ☐ Added to Membership Roster ☐ Membership Card Sent

Gift Shop News

We are more than halfway through the season. That went fast! Gift shop sales were off to a slow start due to inclement weather, but now that the weather is warm and the sky is bright with sunshine and fluffy clouds, business is booming.

Note that the majority of our merchandise is purchased in January. Our goal is to estimate what will be needed for the season so we do not have a lot of leftover items. Due to our short season, we generally do not reorder or take special orders. Some exceptions are our popular customized items such as the long-sleeved hoodie t-shirts and dish towels that have our lighthouse on them. Fortunately, the suppliers for these items deliver reorders quickly. If a visitor requests that we carry a certain item, please leave a note by the register for the buyers to consider. We appreciate this feedback!

Be sure to use the merchandise maps that are posted on the front of the cabinets to help you find back stock of items. At this time the maps may not indicate which items are completely sold out, but your buyers will update the maps on their next visit. We don't want to miss a sale when a display item is sold and more stock is still available!



Lighthouse Gift Shop

Thank you to Eric Richstad and Al Friedrich for working so tirelessly on the cash register system. Our previous Mini Clover would sometimes go off line, causing problems. We now have a small card reader that is easier to use.

Thank you also to Becky and Mitch Owensby, who designed the rustic wooden frame with chicken-type wire that is attached to our glass decorations display. This frame successfully keeps visitors from accidentally bumping into the glass display.

If a visitor expresses interest in volunteering, be sure to tell them about our volunteer program. Applications are in the front hall opposite the stairs and in the basket next to the sea shells that we give to children.

Our volunteers are a special and wonderful group of people. You are our backbone. Volunteers are often our best customers! Yay! If you set aside an item to purchase at a later date, be sure to put your name on it so we don't unintentionally restock it.

The MHS is our treasure and we are so proud to be part of it. THANK YOU all!

Your gift shop buyers,

Sue Anderson and Nancy Joao ♦



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

2018

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Eric Richstad

Officers

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Joanne Mulloy

1st Vice President

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Margaret Summitt

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Gift Shop

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Sharon Sutherland

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Membership

Peter Anderson

Newsletter

Mary Dulin – Editor

MHS Website

www.mukilteohistorical.org

Phone

Voice mail (425) 513-9602

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			MHS Meeting 7 pm			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Light- house Festival events
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				MHS Meeting 7 pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
Volun- teer Potluck 5:30 pm						

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304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101
Mukilteo, WA 98275