

MHS Newsline

MUKILTEO LIGHTHOUSE ROOF HISTORY

By Joanne Mulloy

The Mukilteo lighthouse roof was replaced recently, which was an enormous effort by the Public Works crew at the City of Mukilteo. Matt Nienhuis of Public Works obtained a grant, managed the project, and worked with the US Coast Guard and the Department of Archeology and Historical Preservation (DAHP) for Washington State to ensure the right color was selected for the roofing materials. Finding



Public Works personnel removing old concrete tiles.

details to document the history of the lighthouse roof was challenging. The lighthouse was originally built by the United States Lighthouse Service, then owned by the US Coast Guard, which transferred the light station to the City of Mukilteo in 2001. Historical records are difficult to find and there are other roofs on the property which confuse the story more. If readers have historical information

on the roof, especially prior to 2001, the Mukilteo Historical Society (MHS) would like your help.

When the City of Mukilteo took ownership of the property in 2001, an agreement, outlined in a letter from the House of Representatives, was signed. The agreement stated that the City and MHS, a non-profit organization, would work together to preserve and maintain the light station. This partnership thrived in 2020. The City of Mukilteo and MHS partnered with organizations as well as each other to secure funding for preservation projects. MHS obtained preservation grants from Lighthouse Environmental Programs (LEP), an organization funded by the purchase of lighthouse license plates. On the roof project, all three groups worked together.

The light station construction started in 1905 and most likely had a cedar shingle roof. Sometime before World War II the lighthouse had a diamond pattern concrete asbestos shingle roof, which was likely gray. In older photos the original flag-pole was much taller and constructed of cedar. Based on two different patterns in photos, there were two red tile roofs on the lighthouse. The second red tile roof

Continued on page 3...



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	2
MHS Officers & Directors	2
Gift Shop News	4
Calendar of Events.....	5
Archive Team Report.....	5
Scholarship Opportunity	5
Membership Corner	6
Cemetery Corner.....	6
Membership Application.....	7
Sponsor Honor Roll.....	8



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101
MUKILTEO, WA 98275

2021 DIRECTORS

*Peter Anderson
Eric Richstad
Craig Fisher
Mark Sutherland
Sharon Sutherland*

OFFICERS

President

Joanne Mulloy

Vice President

Tina Saunders

Secretary

Margaret Summitt

Treasurer

Al Friedrich

Advisory Board

*Ann Collier
John Collier
Becky Owensby
Mitch Owensby
Lisa Romo-Bremerthon*

Gift Shop

Sue Anderson

Weddings

Sharon Sutherland

Special Tours

*Kris Hoffman
Marianne Anderson*

Membership

Tina Saunders

Newsletter

Erika Skar – Editor

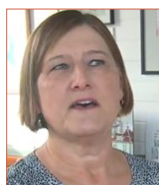
MHS Website

www.mukilteohistorical.org

Phone

Voice mail (425) 513-9602

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy New Year! I miss seeing you all, especially at the holidays. This has been a challenging time and I hope you are all well.

December and January were active months for the MHS Board, as they transitioned into a new year with determination. Last year brought challenges that required innovation and flexibility, resulting in an unexpectedly successful year. I am grateful for their leadership and expertise. Despite the 2020 season closure, the Board found opportunities for projects that could not be done easily if the lighthouse and gift shop were open. The Archive team, led by Peter Anderson, cataloged 385 more historical archive records, 466 more historical photos, 49 more object items, and 9 more library items in PastPerfect and online. Two grants were closed out, one funding materials for the lighthouse roof replacement the City of Mukilteo Public Works managed. Plantation shutters were purchased and installed on the windows of the first floor of Quarters B which opens the rooms up to natural light and views. Mark and Sharon Sutherland worked on the window trim for weeks before the install.

Other accomplishments include decluttering and organizing, repositioning the gift shop flow to move visitors in one direction and a Labor Day garden sale. Plans for a Black Friday sale transformed to holiday shopping appointments which were advertised on social media and the Beacon, including a cover story. Thanks to the vision and planning by Eric Richstad, the inaugural MHS student scholarship was awarded. Twelve Mukilteo Monthly articles were written and published by Margaret Summitt. Eleven Muk Revisited articles by different authors were published in the Beacon. MHS received a \$5000 CARES grant from the City of Mukilteo. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, some goals from 2020 were not viable and were shifted to 2021.

The Board retreat was held virtually, in two sessions on January 2nd and 9th, finishing only minutes before kickoff of the last Seahawks game of the season. As in previous years, the MHS mission

statement was used as a framework. The Board presented the 2021 goals to the general membership on January 14th; they are summarized here:

The Archive Team will develop online access to 150 historical archive records, 50 photo archives, 20 object items and 10 library items with plans to explore and organize historical items for future cataloguing. A gap analysis of recent Mukilteo history will be performed. An electronic Board handbook is under development. The possibility of establishing a museum will be explored.

The Exhibit Team, led by Craig Fisher, is assessing the interpretive signs around the city and on the walking tour to decide which need replacement. John and Ann Collier have contributed history and background as consultants on this project. This team will remove and later replace the exhibits in the lighthouse when the City paints the interior this year.

The Preservation team will schedule the lighthouse cupola repair and painting. A dehumidifier will be placed in the lighthouse and data readings for humidity will begin again in February to determine if the environment has improved since the roof was replaced.

Field trips to other lighthouses in the Puget Sound area are being explored.

On January 28th, the Board will meet with committee chairs to review 2021 estimates and then approve the budget. MHS Treasurer, Al Friedrich, will provide a financial report to the general membership in March. Plans for the 2021 season are on hold until COVID-19 cases decline, and restrictions are hopefully eased. Thank you for your continued encouragement through membership and gift shop support. Thanks to Tina Saunders, our Membership Chair, for finding new ways to reach out and gain new members. If you are comfortable joining our meetings via Zoom, interesting speakers are scheduled for the year ahead. Reach out to a Board member if something above interests you.

Here's to a brave new year!

~JOANNE MULLOY

Continued from the front cover...

was installed in the mid-nineties with red Monier tiles weighing ten pounds each. Remarkably, those tiles and the specific red color have no historical significance. In 1997 there was an extensive effort to remove the lead paint and asbestos from the lighthouse. The red tile roof was replaced this year with a red composite material, ensuring the lighthouse is preserved well into the future.



Roof tiles removed - revealing original wood shiplap

The roof project is an example of how organizations worked together to focus on this historical building, an icon for the Mukilteo community. The lighthouse safeguards the Fourth Order Fresnel lens, the only active lens in Washington state. In 2018, MHS applied for a grant from the LEP program to paint the interior of the lighthouse. LEP representatives did a site visit and decided they would not fund the project since humidity issues needed to be addressed first. LEP provided consultation services of Board member, Harrison Goodall, and a \$5000 grant to start the investigation. The resources were used to install data readers to check humidity readings through the winter of 2018-2019. MHS provided volunteer labor to read and compile the data. These readings were tabled once there was stable baseline data. Meetings were held with representation from all involved parties and it was agreed the remainder of

the grant and additional MHS funds should go toward a building inspection. In November 2018, the inspection was performed by RDH Building Science, Inc. A Public Works crew participated by manning the lift and providing access to building spaces. The primary recommendation was replacement of the roof.

The City of Mukilteo was busy improving the property during this time, replacing a porch, and addressing a sinkhole on the grounds. They replaced the rubber sidewalks which were a tripping hazard, replaced windows on the first floor of the lighthouse and replaced the tower glass with UV protective glass to protect the lens. MHS requested another grant from LEP to help with the roofing costs and received approval for \$10,000 to cover roofing materials. Matt Nienhuis acquired the resources to complete the project. The roof replacement was done by contractor, K-A General Construction.



Lighthouse with new Coast Guard-approved red roofing tiles, October 2020

Data will be tracked again this winter to see if the new roof and windows have improved the environment. MHS is grateful to the City of Mukilteo for their work to preserve the lighthouse. The City has done an outstanding job of continuous improvements to a building that has requirements for materials, permits and approvals beyond those of non-historical buildings. 2021 projects include a City-funded lighthouse interior painting and an MHS funded repair of the round roof above the lens. We are proud of this community collaboration to maintain the lighthouse and the loyalty to the intent of the House of Representatives almost 20 years ago. Go see the new roof and its new look!

This article was originally published in the Mukilteo Beacon.



Light Station buildings with rock sea wall and dock, ca. 1932

GIFT SHOP NEWS

This year, due to COVID-19, innovative changes needed to be made to sell our merchandise. As mentioned in the fall 2020 issue of the newsletter, we had a successful Labor Day Garden Sale. In preparation for our Annual Christmas Sale, we reorganized and rearranged merchandise and set up the two museum rooms for shopping. Unfortunately, COVID-19 numbers had risen so we were unable to host in-store shopping.

However, not to be dissuaded, the Gift Shop Support Group decided to host private sales by appointment only. This was successful and we did better than expected. Because individuals came either alone or with a small number of family or friends, they had more time to shop leisurely and were able to see items that may otherwise have been overlooked. Most of our customers responded to the ads that were run in *The Beacon*. Thank you Erika Skar for designing the eye-catching ad.

The long display case was moved 90° and now sits in the middle of the gift shop – front to back -- to accommodate the required flow of traffic. Apparel is on one side and plush stuffed animals on the other side. Our new Christmas tree stands proudly in the front window with sparkling white lights.



The two museum rooms were set up to display other merchandise. Back stock was stored in each room so it would be easy and efficient to restock items that sold. The photo below is of the front room.

Joanne Mulloy and Sue Anderson continued to clean out and organize the basement, a project long overdue. There is still more work to do but we are making progress. We now have room on the shelves for easy access of backstock merchandise.

We don't know what the 2021 season will look like in terms of opening the lighthouse and gift shop. We will only order a limited amount of stock that needs replenishing (e.g. the new pullover hoodie sweatshirts, hats, ferry Christmas ornaments etc.). We still have our Mukilteo lighthouse masks in stock.



The gift shop now has signs on the doors with contact information to schedule shopping appointments. Please pass the word to family and friends. To schedule an appointment, visit: **ShopLocal@mukilteohistorical.org**.

Many thanks to the Gift Shop Support Group: Mary, Joanne, Ramona, Inge, Al, Pat and Tina. Your vision and hard work made all this possible. Thanks to Sherry for her hard work to set up a spreadsheet of merchandise. This will help when inventory time rolls around again.

~SUE ANDERSON

ARCHIVE TEAM REPORT

The A-Team achieved a major milestone in December when we uploaded 466 more historical photos to make over 3,000 accessible to the public via our online website. Specifically, the website now has 3,223 historical photos, 403 archive items, 485 object items and 20 library items that can be searched and viewed. These totals all reflect significant increases from last year and exceed the goals for the year that we established in January 2020.

Copies of photos can be ordered from the website, which can be accessed either through links from the MHS website or directly at <https://mukilteohistorical.pastperfectonline.com/>. The process of cataloging the new online items was completed by a dedicated team consisting of Peter Anderson, Bill Dickson, Tina Dickson, Craig Fisher, Pat Friedrich, Dan Germano, and John Murray. Ann Collier provided additional support for special projects.

The archive materials cataloged and stored in Quarters A continue to be a resource for authors and others researching topics of historical interest. In 2020, they were used by MHS members to write 11 articles for the "Muk Revisited" column of the *Mukilteo Beacon* and 12 articles for the *Mukilteo Monthly*. We also responded to requests from the public for 39 historical photos.

Archive Team goals for 2021 include cataloging and adding online access to more historical items, exploring and organizing other items in Quarters A for future cataloging, creating a process for collecting "middle term" archival items, and identifying questions and issues that should be investigated for creating a museum.

~PETER ANDERSON



February

Thursday, **February 11**
7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

Saturday, **February 20**
10am Gardening Meeting

Thursday, **February 25**
6:30pm Board Meeting via ZOOM

March

Thursday, **March 11**
7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

Thursday, **March 25**
6:30pm Board Meeting via ZOOM

April

Thursday, **April 8**
7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

Thursday, **April 29**
6:30pm Board Meeting via ZOOM

Win \$1,500 MHS Scholarship Prize

The deadline for the Mukilteo Historical Society's essay contest will be here in just a couple of months. The last day to submit an essay about someone, something, or some event in Mukilteo's past is March 31st. Like last year, this one year \$1,500 college or trade school scholarship will be awarded to the student who submits a winning essay about some aspect of Mukilteo history. The award will be applied to tuition expense in the winner's name to the school selected by the winner.

The winner must be a high school graduating student or equivalent who either lives in or is the child or grandchild of someone living in the Mukilteo School District. Home-schooled students may submit essays provided they will be eligible to enroll in a post-secondary school in the fall of the contest year. Complete contest rules and how to submit an entry can be found by clicking Scholarships on the main menu of the Society's website www.mukilteohistorical.org. If you know a qualified student, be sure to remind them of this opportunity!

For more information, please contact: erichstad@mukilteohistorical.org

CEMETERY CORNER

Jack Price and other “name only” burials in the Mukilteo Pioneer Cemetery are people that I am making a special effort to look for. I believe I may have discovered who Jack Price was, and this effort will help unlock the identities of others. More details will be forthcoming in the Mukilteo Minute I’m presenting this coming May.

Price’s grave marker is to the right of Captain Nathaniel Fowler’s, the first known burial. Louisa Fowler Sinclair’s burial list tells us only that Jack Price was a bachelor. Price’s name turned up the first time I searched 1870s newspapers related to an incident in which he was rescued from high water while carrying the mail from Mukilteo to Priest Point in 1872. Only recently did I find he replied in a letter to the editor to clarify the details of the incident. The reply was under the name “Jack D. Press.”

Searching for him under both names, Press and Price, told me the rest of the story. He enlisted in the U. S. Army from Virginia at the conclusion of the Mexican War in 1848 and was posted to Fort Steilacoom. He also served in the Washington Territorial Militia in the 1855 Indian War, then homesteaded in Pierce County. From there he moved to Cadyville (present town of Snohomish) and worked as a shingle maker in 1870. He never married. He died of lung problems about a year after he was rescued; the incident may have weakened his health. His death at Mukilteo in 1873 was reported in the same newspaper.

His death occurred two months after that of Nathaniel Fowler and, because Price is buried beside Fowler, I believe that Price was the second person buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. This deduction leads me to a theory about other “name only” burials. Fowler and Price are part of a row of graves with dates from the 1870s. Between Price and Mortimer Fasset (also an 1870s burial) is the grave of Jack Wheeler. Jack Wheeler and Jim Riley (no grave marker) were laborers in Cadyville in the 1870 Census, in close proximity. With this clue, I am coming closer to identifying the “name only” identities of Wheeler and Riley as well.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The year has started out strong with 124 of you renewing your memberships. A big THANK YOU for those that have already sent in your renewal. For those who have not, please do so as soon as possible. With your help, we already have 15 new members added to our 2021 membership roster. We now have members across 9 states and 22 cities. Looking forward to seeing our organization expand!

~TINA SAUNDERS



- ♦ Richard Kilwien
- ♦ Ann Almli
- ♦ John Saunders
- ♦ Christine Beasley
- ♦ Pat Saunders
- ♦ Dona Fretz
- ♦ Doug Wisman
- ♦ Clay Hess
- ♦ Patti Wisman
- ♦ Karen Kilwien
- ♦ Cheryl Wright

MEMBER GAME

This game will require you to get outside for a walk - masked up of course 😊. With the weather getting nicer, it is time to get out and take the **Mukilteo Walking Tour**. Brochures can be found at the lighthouse front gate and during the tour you can find answers to the following questions:

- ♦ Where was the Losvar family home?
- ♦ Where was the tidal lagoon?
- ♦ What does the metal cube in the lighthouse circle represent?
- ♦ When was the sea wall built?
- ♦ When was the first keeper house occupied?
- ♦ How did Whidbey Island get its name?
- ♦ Who was Morris Frost?
- ♦ Who carved the driftwood sculpture and what does it represent?
- ♦ Where was one of Mukilteo's two observation towers built during World War II?



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:

☐ \$15 - INDIVIDUAL

☐ \$10 - SENIOR (65 OR OVER)

☐ \$20 - SENIOR COUPLE

☐ \$25 - FAMILY

☐ \$500 – LIFE

☐ DONATION ONLY –provide name and address so we may acknowledge your donation

Corporate Applications are available at mukilteohistorical.org or by emailing memberships@mukilteohistorical.org

Applicant #1 Data*:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

Applicant #2 Data*: *Please use a second application form for more than two applicants in family memberships.*

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

☐ Help us GO GREEN! Check this box to opt-in for paperless-only newsletters

For each applicant, please check the volunteer areas of interest (if any):	#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		
Special Tours – Assist with docent tours, field trips & visiting groups.		
Technology – Website, internet, social media		
Weddings – Welcome guests & provide tours for wedding guests.		

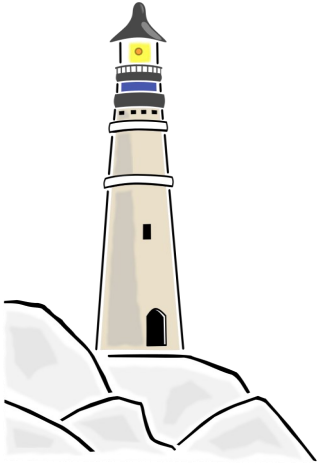
How did you hear about the Mukilteo Historical Society?

☐ Lighthouse Visit ☐ Newspaper ☐ Website ☐ Friend ☐ Other _____

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

2021 Lighthouse 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.



SUSTAINING SPONSORS*

Stollwerck Plumbing, LLC



*Basic Sponsors make an annual contribution of at least \$50; Sustaining Sponsors \$100; Benefactors \$300.

Mukilteo Historical Society

304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101
Mukilteo, WA 98275

Phone: (425) 513-9602
www.mukilteohistorical.org

E-mail: info@mukilteohistorical.org

