

# MHS Newsline

## THE MERRILL AND RING

By Neil Anderson

A few years ago, I was researching some files and photographs at the Mukilteo Lighthouse. I came across an interesting photograph in the Mukilteo Historical Society photograph collection, of a logging train, powered by a steam locomotive. The train was carrying a number of loggers riding on the railcars of the train, somewhere in the forest. Attached with the photo was a



*Logging Train Mukilteo Unknown Location. Possibly Merrill & Ring. Photo courtesy of the Mukilteo Historical Society*

note indicating the photograph captured an image of a “Logging Train in Mukilteo, Location unknown”. Unfortunately, the photographer made no other notes. I studied the image, looking for possible clues that might establish the location or any other information regarding the photograph.

I was not aware of a logging railway that operated at a location in Mukilteo itself. Japanese Gulch did not appear to be a possibility since Japanese Gulch was developed with many small homes and a few businesses for workers of the Crown Lumber Company. I could not recall anything in the Nelson’s Corner area. The Speedway had a skid row type operation where logs were pulled over the roadway surface, but not by any type of rail system.

Then, about a year ago, while browsing for books at a bookstore in Bellingham, I found a book that might help in determining an answer. The book was titled, “Encyclopedia of Western Railroad History, Volume 3, Oregon-Washington”, by Donald B. Robertson. Thumbing through the pages, I perhaps stumbled onto the possible answer to my question. The Merrill and Ring Logging Company.

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# MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101  
MUKILTEO, WA 98275

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*Voice mail (425) 513-9602*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Spring is in the air! Or is it early summer? This beautiful stretch of warm, sunny weather is uplifting and has lightened my mood after a long winter.

Many people have asked me if the lighthouse is opening soon, and the answer is: not yet. The Board reviews this question monthly and any changes to the current plans will be communicated to members and the community. According to the Governor's

up are being done in both Quarters A and B. Gardening has begun with plans to plant a few different flowers soon. The United States Lighthouse Society granted our organization \$1000 to assist with COVID-19 closure expenses.

The humidity data reading effort has started again in the lighthouse with the help of Jerry Arnold. Humidity and temperature data will be collected and reviewed to determine if the roof replacement has improved the environment.

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*"I appreciate our hard working and thoughtful Board. Although we are not yet open there are many activities requiring much effort."*

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guidelines, our small house museum-like buildings cannot open until Snohomish County reaches Phase 4. There are several other considerations around opening, such as cleaning, training, and staffing. So, we will have a slow opening. On Saturday, May 1st from 12 to 3pm the lighthouse and gift shop will be open with limited numbers and one direction through the buildings. A garage sale is planned with the rest of Mukilteo on Saturday, May 15th. There are plans to open the lighthouse and gift shop on the July 4th weekend and other future dates. This will allow us to show caution as more people get vaccinated and comfortable being out. Masks and distancing are still necessary.

I appreciate our hard working and thoughtful Board. Although we are not yet open there are many activities requiring much effort. The Archive Team continue their work and are exceeding their goals. Al Friedrich and the Finance Team ensure our finances and required documentation are in order. The gift shop team has staffed shopping appointments and are revising the Clover to simplify it for volunteer cashiers. Tina Saunders is posting ads on Offer Up and Facebook to highlight gift shop merchandise for appointments. Organizing and clean-

Unfortunately, the lighthouse was vandalized in April and clean-up is still being worked. The City of Mukilteo Public Works did an outstanding job of boarding up the broken windows and cleaning up the broken glass. The windows are now replaced. The Police Department recovered the stolen property, and it was a great example of the City of Mukilteo, the US Coast Guard and MHS working together.

Due to limited staffing at Rosehill, general meetings will continue via Zoom for the remainder of the year. Plans are in place for the traditional Memorial Day ceremony on May 31st at 11am. Volunteer help is needed to clean the cemetery on May 22nd at 10am. This event goes quickly with enough help.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement through this unusual time. I look forward to seeing many of you again at any of the events listed above. Join our general membership meeting through Zoom, as there are good speakers planned through the end of the year.

Enjoy the birds, frogs, and flowers of spring!

~JOANNE MULLOY

*Continued from the front cover...*

According to the detailed information in the book, Merrill and Ring operated a logging railroad in the Merrill and Ring Gulch, located southwest of Everett. There are dual references in the book of the company operating a logging rail line in Everett and Mukilteo. The line consisted of 12 miles of track at the Mukilteo/Everett operation. Merrill and Ring operated several steam-powered locomotives and an assortment of log-hauling rail cars. The book noted that Merrill and Ring had operations at two locations in Western Washington. One operation in Psyht, on the Olympic Peninsula, and the other line at Mukilteo. From 1902 to 1916, it was known as the Merrill and Ring Lumber Co. From 1916 to 1944, it was known as Merrill and Ring Logging Company.



*Merrill & Ring piling remnants of log dump dock 1940's looking east to Everett*

I now had a suspicion that the location of this image could very well be a logging train working in the Merrill and Ring Gulch. Merrill and Ring Gulch is located between Everett and Mukilteo. It is the gulch west of present-day Harborview Park and east of Powder Mill Gulch. The gulch is now inside the Everett city limits but in the early 1900's, this area would have been associated with Mukilteo. My mother grew up just west of the Merrill and Ring Gulch, attended the Rosehill School and considered herself to be from Mukilteo rather than Everett.

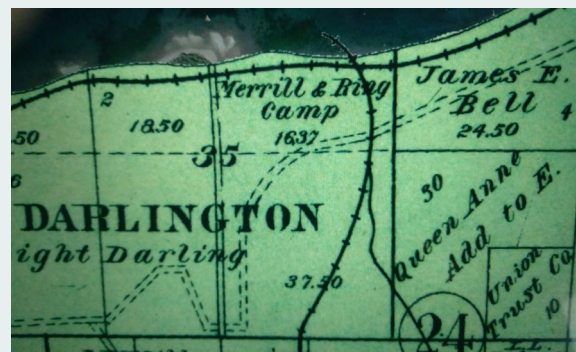
Where the northern end of the gulch meets the shoreline of Port Gardner Bay, a row of old rotting pilings still exists just offshore, most visible on low tides. My mother recalled swimming out to these pilings as a young girl with her friends. She told us the decaying pilings were once part of a dock used as a log dump for logging activities in the early 1900's.

A trip to the Everett Public Library revealed a 1910 map, clearly showing a rail line in the gulch, beginning at the shoreline and heading south to the upland areas south of Everett. Other maps show the

line passing just west of Silver Lake and into the area known as Emarder, a stop on the old Everett-Seattle Interurban line, near present day 4th Ave West and Interstate 5.

As a final check, as I do with any Mukilteo related question, I referred to the book, "Mukilteo-Pictures and Memories", by Opal McConnell for any leads. Sure enough, in the chapter containing the memories of Mrs. Bartle Kane, Mrs. Kane vividly recalled the days when a logging camp was operated by the Merrill and Ring Logging Company in the gulch along with a logging railway. She notes the camp was in the gulch below property which would later become the property and home of Dr. Edwin Chase. She recalled the tracks of the Merrill and Ring crossing over the Great Northern Railway mainline on an overhead trestle to get to the dock where the logs were eventually dumped into Port Gardner Bay. She also noted that a great forest fire occurred in the gulch around 1915. The fire burned near the camp and the Great Northern tracks and spread up into the gulch, heading south towards the property now owned by Boeing.

How long the Merrill and Ring logging line operated in the gulch, I do not know. Perhaps lasting up until the first World War? So, absent any new information regarding other logging lines operating in Mukilteo or Everett, I speculate that the image most likely is a Merrill and Ring logging train hauling a cargo of loggers ready to work in the nearby forests a time long ago. Perhaps in this image, we see the beginning of a work day and the train has left the logging camp and heading up the grade where soon the men will load the train with fallen trees. Later, the train will return to the Merrill and Ring Camp with a load of logs and the men will head to the chow hall and then to their bunks. The train will dump the logs into Port Gardner Bay and the engineers will ready the locomotive for the next day in the woods. Like a fly on the wall, if only the men in the photograph could talk.



*Merrill & Ring track location*



## GIFT SHOP NEWS



We made it through the long, rainy winter and are looking forward to the good weather and showing off the changes in the gift shop. The photo to the left are the beautiful flowers by the fence in front of the garage. A big thank you to the MHS landscape volunteers.

Through the winter we continued to schedule appointments for shoppers with ads on Nextdoor and Offerup. Each posting featured different items such as sweatshirts, jackets, and tapestry throws. Often-times shoppers would come in specifically to purchase one of the posted items and would leave with a bag or two full of goodies in a green, red, or blue lighthouse fabric shopping bag. Several items that have been in stock for a while finally found their “forever homes” (e.g. 2 burlap pillows and two jumping glass fish). A number of shoppers

said that even though they live in the area this was the first time they had been to the gift shop. They enjoyed the one-on-one shopping and our volunteers enjoyed being able to chat with and getting to know our neighbors with the wonderful stories they tell.

Our inventory is relatively large so we have not done much shopping this year. We only purchased women’s baseball style t-shirts (vintage gray and vintage burgundy), baseball caps (denim and grey), and our popular hoodie sweatshirts with kangaroo pockets (green and heather blue). Once you put on this cozy sweatshirt you won’t want to take it off. Unlike most sweatshirts, this one stays soft after several launderings.



On Saturday May 1 we will have a garden sale from 12:00-3:00pm. Fortunately, because we are now in Phase 3 of reopening, there is flexibility in allowing guests into the gift shop. A few tables will be set up outside and shoppers will be allowed inside, a few at a time. People will enter through the front door (water side) and exit from the back door (road side).

This year, for the first time, we will participate in the town’s Yard Sale on May 15 and will be set up at the gift shop. It is exciting to be able to put items that have been in the basement for many years. Be sure to come and support MHS.

~SUE ANDERSON

## In Memoriam

MHS is saddened to hear that one of our members, **Ann Brice**, passed away in March of ovarian cancer. Ann will be remembered as one who truly sought to follow the biblical advice about “practicing hospitality” for she was always willing to help others. She excelled especially in helping plan parties and enjoyed providing the coffee for our meetings when we could meet in person. She was very involved in our community, serving on the first Police Advisory Board, active in Mukilteo Seniors, a leader at Northshore Christian Church, and as an employee of the Mukilteo School District. She will be missed.

An MHS member from years ago, **Bob Crooks**, passed away recently. Bob loved giving lighthouse tours, and he especially enjoyed being stationed in the tower. He was also among our hardest workers when chores needed doing, especially on clean up days at the lighthouse. Bob and his wife Harriet moved to Auburn a few years ago. Our condolences go out to Harriet, who did some outstanding scrapbooking of MHS activities while with MHS.

## ARCHIVE TEAM REPORT



Does anyone recognize this? It appears to be a small (less than 0.5" x 0.25") gold lapel pin that may have some meaningful symbology. In its center, there is gold crown icon encircling a large "Z". Could this represent Crown Lumber or Crown Zellerbach? Or could it represent some kind of club or fraternal organization? On its edge, there is a gold number "5" on a blue background. Could this denote a 5-year service anniversary?

The Archive Team sometimes finds curiosities such as this among donated items, and they are fun to explore further. We found this among items donated by the family of the late Beverly ("Bevo") Dudder Ellis. Please let us know if you can help us identify this object.

So far this year, the A-Team has cataloged 239 more archive items, 89 more photos, 8 more objects and 2 more library items. We also responded to several online requests for historical photos. One of the requests came from a Washington State Ferries executive who is planning an interpretive board or banner for the new terminal showing before and after images of the Mukilteo waterfront. Another request came from the Ishigaki Memorial Museum in Wakayama, Japan. The museum wanted several of our images depicting the life of Eitaro Ishigaki, who worked for a short time in Mukilteo's lumber industry and later became an art painter in New York before returning to Japan in 1951.

Our MHS A-Team is blessed to have the continuing dedication of volunteer members working to preserve our local history. Current team members include Peter Anderson, Ann Collier, Tina & Bill Dickson, Marilyn Droz, Craig Fisher, and John Murray.

~PETER ANDERSON



## May



**Saturday, May 1**  
12-3pm May Day Sale

**Thursday, May 13**  
7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

**Saturday, May 15**  
Garage Sale

**Saturday, May 22**  
10am Pioneer Cemetery Cleaning

**Thursday, May 27**  
6:30pm Board Meeting via ZOOM

**Monday, May 31**  
10:30am (music) & 11am Program

## June

**Thursday, June 10**  
7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

**Thursday, June 24**  
6:30pm Board Meeting via ZOOM

## July

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

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

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

A warm welcome to our newest members!

Hello & welcome

- ◆ John Anderson
- ◆ Steve K Bertrand
- ◆ Jean M Gregory
- ◆ Debbie Kaplam
- ◆ Peter Kinahan
- ◆ Julie Anderson Moore
- ◆ Ron Newman
- ◆ Karen Topham
- ◆ Danielle Wilson
- ◆ Stephen Wilson

## CEMETERY CORNER

Peter Gravelle (1830-1908) is buried with his wife Mary and fellow Mukilteo Robert Winborn in the Pioneer Cemetery. The monument to the three is one of the larger ones; I must assume that Gravelle had wanted such a monument, if not for himself, then for Robert Winborn, who died in 1898 without the means to pay for one. Peter was the last of the trio to die. Thus, it's curious that Gravelle should express an attitude towards his legacy that favors apple trees over cemetery monuments.

Gravelle came from French Canada, and along the way to the Pacific Northwest he distributed apple seeds from the head of navigation on the Missouri River to the end of navigation on the Columbia River. He not only brought seeds to new areas of North America, but he planted them in his own orchard near Lighthouse Park and nursed the seedlings until they were strong enough; then he planted numerous trees in very unlikely spots. Someone asked him why he continued to plant apple trees that would not come to bearing until after he was gone, even if he lived to be 100. He leveled his hands as becomes a Frenchman and replied, "I see many graveyards, stone monuments tipped over, nobody know, stone no tell, stone no use, nobody care. Apple trees make shade in summer, apples in fall, flowers in spring. Maybe some day your kids climb my apple tree, everybody happy!"

It's ironic that his gravestone DOES survive, but not so any apple trees (that we know of) he may have planted in Mukilteo. The only fruit tree in the Pioneer Cemetery is the Fowler Pear cutting in the southeast corner. It's quite possible he changed his mind about the kind of legacy that would last. Jacob Fowler, by Gravelle's standard, is fortunate in having both a fruit tree and a monument to remember him by.

~MARGARET SUMMITT



Thank you to the Mukilteo Historical Society for letting our staff use the Mukilteo lighthouse for our marine mammal monitors to use during in-water work for our new terminal and demolition of old terminal. Our contractor recently completed all marine work at the old terminal.



*A recent shout out from the Washington State Ferries on their Twitter and Facebook feeds.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2020

This Treasurer's Report for the Mukilteo Historical Society (MHS) represents the Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2020.

### Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

1. Current Assets – \$116,912.66
  - a. Cash – \$87,751.76
  - b. Other Assets – \$19,104.65 (includes Gift Shop Inventory)
2. Current Liabilities & Net Assets – \$116,912.66
  - a. Sales Tax and Unearned Bank Credit, \$321.05
  - b. Net Assets – \$116,591.61

Current Assets totaling \$116,912.66 coupled with very low Current Liabilities, \$321.05, yields an excellent economic position for the MHS. At the Annual Board Retreat and Committee meetings in January 2020, the Board approved a multi-year Equipment, Maintenance and Reserve Plan. The Plan included funds in a general reserve for operations commonly known as a "rainy day fund". Little did we know that the funds would be used in 2020 to cover Gift Shop Inventory expenses for merchandise prior to COVID restrictions in late March 2020.

### Statement of Activities (Income Statement)

1. Net Income - \$21,575.91
  - a. This number includes Total Revenue, \$25,881.20, less Gift Shop Merchandise purchases, \$4,305.29
  - b. Examples include: Grant Funding, \$10,500.00; Gift Shop Sales, \$8,182.44; and Member Dues, \$3,750.00
2. Total Expenses - \$22,204.06
  - a. Examples include: Grant expenses, \$10,000.00; Interpretation & Promotion, \$5,227.22; and Bank Services, \$1,062.18
  - b. Facility Use Permit expenses totaled \$8,638.37 which was offset by a CARES Business Grant totaling \$5,000.00
3. Net Operating Income – (\$628.15)
4. Other Income and Expenses – (\$7,842.34)
  - a. Interest Income - \$1,407.70
  - b. New Furniture & Fixtures for Quarters B, \$5,342.68 and Archive Equipment expenses, \$3,907.36
5. Net Income – (\$8,470.49)

Thanks to the City of Mukilteo CARES Grant and the Gift Shop volunteers, the MHS was able to end Fiscal Year 2020 with an operating loss of only \$628.15.

~ALFRED R. FRIEDRICH, TREASURER





# 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://mukilteohistorical.org) or by emailing [memberships@mukilteohistorical.org](mailto: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
<b>Archives/Trunk Treasures</b> – Collect & archive all documents, photos and artifacts relating to the history of Mukilteo. Organize exhibits. Present Trunk tales throughout the community		
<b>Garden</b> – Join our group of gardeners or adopt a specific garden bed at the light station		
<b>Gift Shop</b> – Help to price, stock and maintain inventory. Operate credit card processing terminal and cash register.		
<b>Lighthouse</b> – Become a lighthouse tour guide.		
<b>Maintenance</b> – Liaison to Board about Light Station/Pioneer Cemetery issues and plans.		
<b>Publicity</b> – Advertising (Beacon/Herald/etc.). MHS Newsletter, Membership mailing (Sunshine)/emails/phoning		
<b>Special Tours</b> – Assist with docent tours, field trips & visiting groups.		
<b>Technology</b> – Website, internet, social media		
<b>Weddings</b> – 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.



## BENEFACTOR SPONSORS\*

Jericho Bridge Church

Sno-Isle Libraries



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

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