

MHS Newsline

THE DAY THE LIGHT WENT OUT

By Al Friedrich

On a dark, cold day in late October 2021, members of the Mukilteo Historical Society noticed it was extra dark on the lighthouse grounds! To their chagrin, the beacon used by many mariners on Possession Sound and enjoyed by many local neighbors was out. Questions arose...what, why and how?



Figure A. Rotating Bulb Changer

Appreciated by mariners and neighbors since 1906, the light shone without fail except for very few times. Not since the attacks on Pearl Harbor had the lighthouse gone dark. Now, the light was off again and the rumors began.

A short time later a light appeared in the darkness. It was an LED light on a pedestal attached to the Mukilteo Lighthouse Gallery (the walkway outside the Lantern Room). The light shone for two seconds and then was off for three seconds, the official signal of the Mukilteo Light Station. Citizens remembered that in 1960 the United States Coast Guard (USCG) tried to replace the light source and the Fresnel Lens with an airport beacon. Immediately, the behavior of the good citizens became vocal, "Don't try to abandon the light and the Fresnel Lens again!"

What actually happened? Well, two sections of the light mechanism had failed. First, the rotat-

Continued on page 3...



Figure B. Plastic Cylinder Holding Circuit Board.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101
MUKILTEO, WA 98275

2022 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
Mimi Landsberg*

Gift Shop

Sue Anderson

Weddings

Sharon Sutherland

Special Tours

*Kris Hoffman
Marianne Anderson*

Membership

Tina Saunders

Newsletter

Erika Skar – Editor

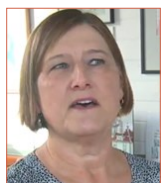
MHS Website

www.mukilteohistorical.org

Phone

Voice mail (425) 513-9602

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy New Year! The 2021 MHS accomplishments are exciting as are the Board's plans for 2022. One major success has been the community collaboration with the City of Mukilteo, the US Coast Guard (USCG), other Salish Sea lighthouse organizations, the US Navy, the Chamber of Commerce, the Lighthouse Festival, and others. Working together benefits us all. During the recent lens outage, coordination between MHS, the City of Mukilteo and the US Coast Guard resulted in a positive resolution and learning experience for all involved.

of the cupola over the lens, removed exhibits from the lighthouse so City contractors could paint the interior and invited the Navy to paint the fences, which they did. The data readers were installed again after the painting and updated to lithium batteries to reduce replacement time and cost. An inventory of the interpretive signs was completed. Mark Sutherland prepped and caulked the window sills upstairs in Quarters B and downstairs in Quarters A; shutters were installed on those windows. After the unfortunate lighthouse vandalism, glass was cleared, and stolen items were recovered. The City of

*“Our organization centers around community,
honoring the past, present and future.”*

The financial team's foundational work placed MHS in a strong position for the pandemic environment. Even though the lighthouse and gift shop were not open traditional hours, the Board worked more than ever, pivoting and creating new approaches. Many MHS traditions were evaluated to ensure they still made sense. For example, the annual mass planting was cancelled since we have many perennials already and the resources used can be spread elsewhere. The gift shop is evolving as shopping patterns change. Utilizing more Clover system capabilities provides data for planning, buying and tracking. This organic progression would not have happened without the pandemic. Just as we personally prioritize what is most important to us, the Board has done the same. 2022 continues to direct us to eliminate tasks lacking value and utilize volunteers and board members for their strengths, education, and skills.

In 2021, MHS funded the recoating

Mukilteo Public Works and Police and the USCG managed this with grace and professionalism.

The gift shop and lighthouse were opened on the Music in the Park evenings, for holiday events and the Lighthouse Festival weekend. A new tradition began, participating in the Mukilteo community garage sale after decluttering and new storage solutions were completed. Shopping appointments were scheduled all year through the website with the help of social media, giving staff space to engage customers about membership, the organization and distribute posters and bookmarks to build community goodwill. A generous donation of a boat shelf is being used to display Mukilteo-related items. A bulletin box was added to the fence for enhanced communication. The Board met virtually all year and found this more efficient and preferable with their workload. Membership cards

Continued on page 6...



Figure C. Rotating Bulls Eye Lens

ing bulb changer (Figure A) which held the halogen bulbs stopped working.

Then it was discovered the electronic flasher control also failed (Figure B). Easy enough to repair, right? Problem was, the rotating bulb changer and the electronic flasher control that operate the signal were no longer being made. The USCG immediately reached out to other lighthouses and found used parts. They bench tested the parts and installed the used changer and electronic flasher control. They flipped the switch and the light went on! There is one piece of good news we learned during the experience...the Station is still a viable and necessary aid to navigation on Possession Sound.

The light first shone on the evening of March 1, 1906. The Seattle Times wrote, "The light is

considered without exception the most up-to-date and thoroughly equipped station on the Sound." The original light was a small kerosene lantern placed inside a 4th Order Rotating Fresnel Lens similar to the lens in Figure C. This rotating lens and clock work mechanism are on display at the Seattle Coast Guard Museum.

Electricity reached the Station in 1927. The revolving lens was replaced by the current 4th Order Fixed Lens (manufactured in Paris, France in 1852) and the light source was transitioned from kerosene to electric bulbs (see Figure D).

In July 1979, the USCG automated the Lighthouse light signal. Today, we are the only active USCG light inside a Fresnel Lens in Washington State. A distinction we intend to keep!



Figure D. Fixed Fresnel Lens

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SUBMIT AN ESSAY AND WIN THE \$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. Just as 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 COVID-19 situation really diminished the number of our 2021 entries and this year may be the same. So, this is a great chance for anyone submitting an entry!

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. There are also a few suggested topics to help your student get started. If you know a qualified student, be sure to remind him or her of this opportunity!

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

CEMETERY CORNER

The Pallas family contributed much to the Mukilteo community but perhaps most of all they deserve remembrance for taking the lead in preserving the Pioneer Cemetery. At one time the cemetery had no caretaker; it was the Pallas family who were its informal caretakers and who preserved some of its monuments and traditions. They lived around the corner on Fifth Street and their house is still there.

Every Memorial Day or Decoration Day, as it was then called, the Pallas and Evans families of Fifth Street brought their neighbors together at the cemetery. Alice Pallas Brooks recalled the weeding of the cemetery and the bringing of flowers from family gardens, usually the soldier flowers and snowballs, which were in bloom in that season, placing them in water cans in and around the burial mounds. They did not decorate the Japanese graves as these were decorated by the Japanese community with cookies and oranges. Captain Evans, their neighbor, who was a Civil War veteran, wore his blue uniform with gold braid and placed a flag on each soldier's grave. Mrs. Brooks does not mention a formal ceremony in the cemetery, only that the community looked with pride on what they had done.

The Pallas children knew where the unmarked graves were and made sure they all received attention on Decoration Day.

During the Depression, the cemetery was neglected and some monuments broken. Mr. Pallas and a friend mended and remounted some broken markers, including the broken monument for Morris Frost. The picket and wrought iron fences surrounding some of the graves disappeared. It was these items that gave the cemetery its "old time aura" that Alice Brooks missed after it was restored. "Memorial Day Memories," by Alice Pallas Brooks, p. 98 in Opal McConnell, Mukilteo Pictures and Memories.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

2022

February 2022

Thursday, **February 10**
7pm General Meeting

Thursday, **February 24**
6:30pm Board Meeting

March 2022

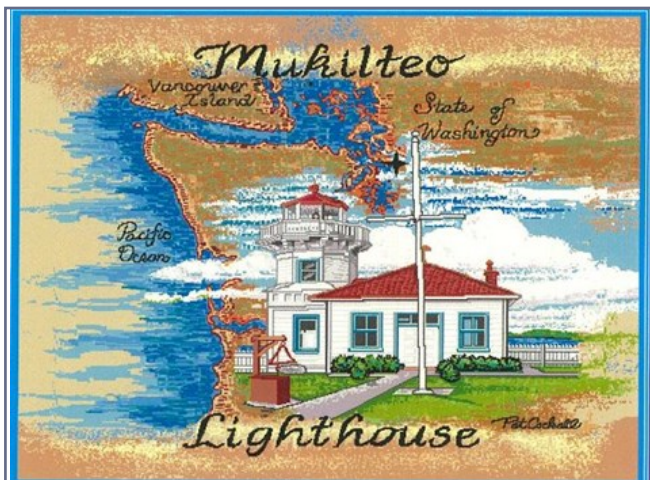
Thursday, **March 10**
7pm General Meeting

Thursday, **March 31**
6:30pm Board Meeting

April 2022

Thursday, **April 14**
7pm General Meeting

Thursday, **April 21**
6:30pm Board Meeting



GIFT SHOP NEWS

As 2021 came to an end it was a pleasure to say we had a successful year in spite of the pandemic. During the year the gift shop was open on a limited basis, mostly for people who made appointments to shop. Our gift shop team enjoyed being able to spend more time chatting with small groups of visitors. A big thank you to Tina Saunders who created a dedicated email address for those wishing to set up a private appointment to shop at the gift shop (see below).

Two of our most successful weekends were The Annual Lighthouse Festival and the weekend after Thanksgiving (Black Friday and Friends and Family Saturday). For the First Annual Friends and Family Saturday we invited MHS volunteers for an opportunity to shop and to bring a friend. Others who were in the Lighthouse Park area also came in when they saw we were open. Because shopping patterns were different this past year, and due to appointments, we saw increased sales in apparel and lower sales in toys, books, and stuffed animals. We offered “specials” such as selling some things as a “twofer” and lowering prices when more than one of a particular item was purchased. The front museum room was set up for sale items.

At the end of 2021, we sold out of the Washington State tapestry throws. This year we were able to find and order Mukilteo throws (see photo to the left). If you are seeing the picture in color on your computer, please know that it looks better in person. A few years ago, we were told this style was no longer being made and were pleasantly surprised to learn that we can get them again. In the future we will also reorder the popular Washington State tapestry throw that includes all the lighthouses. Unfortunately, our vendor no longer carries the Mukilteo Lighthouse tapestry pillow so we are looking into other options.

Our goal for 2022 is to continue to support local artisans and carry made-in-U.S.A. products. We accept reservations for private shopping by email. If interested in scheduling a private shopping time, please email shoplocal@mukilteohistorical.org.

Many thanks again to our hardworking team: Inge, Joanne, Mary, Ramona, Sandy, and Tina. Each person brings a unique vision and talent to the team. We enjoy brainstorming together.

~SUE ANDERSON

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

We are a little behind on membership renewals with only 93 so far. If you haven't already, please get your membership renewal in as soon as possible. Your tax-deductible membership fee helps support the MHS organization. In addition, you must be a member in good standing to volunteer with the organization – so be sure you are current before the season kicks off!

~TINA SAUNDERS

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ♦ Deborah Adams | ♦ Shannon Berry | ♦ Diane Mohr | ♦ Steven Ramirez |
| ♦ Barb Anderson | ♦ Liza Hanses | ♦ Kenneth Monteith | ♦ Aryn Shillair |
| ♦ Bob Anderson | ♦ Kristi Houle | ♦ Jennifer Phipps | ♦ Tim Shillair |
| ♦ James Anderson | ♦ Mike Houle | ♦ Sarah Powell | ♦ Ellen Wadsworth |
| ♦ Sarah Anderson | ♦ Russ Lichty | ♦ Spencer Powell | ♦ Jill Young |
| ♦ Michelle Bernath | ♦ Sherri Lichty | ♦ Norina Ramirez | |

ARCHIVE TEAM REPORT

In 2021, the A-Team completed the cataloging of 1,035 additional historical items that have now been added to our online access capability. The additional items included a mix of 362 photos, 645 archive items (newspaper clippings, documents, etc.), 20 physical objects and 8 library items. Be sure to check out the website <https://mukilteohistorical.pastperfectonline.com> which now provides searchable access to over 5,000 historical items in our collection.

Do you have photos or other items that might pertain to Mukilteo's history? We are fortunate that people in the past thought it was important to save and give MHS items that now give us a window into "how things were". Today's people, places or events will become tomorrow's history, so think of how future generations would appreciate items that will help them understand and research our times. Feel free to contact a member of the Archive Team to discuss items that you may want to add to our collection.

Many thanks to all the members of the A-Team who contributed to a successful 2021: Peter Anderson, Ann Collier, Bill and Tina Dickson, Craig Fisher, Pat Friedrich, John Murray and Sherry Steele!

~PETER ANDERSON

...continued from page 2

were discontinued and replaced with an exclusive die cut sticker for members instead. A recovery manual was authored and a virtual handbook developed for the Board. A software system was chosen to use for staffing openings and events. Our organization has been productive, even during these unusual times.

The MHS Board met on Saturday, January 8th to review major goals for 2022. More detailed goals and budget will be reviewed by the Board later this month. A sub-team will draft a plan to develop efficiencies on scheduling volunteers and deciding when we will be open and whether to meet in person. The exhibit team plans to resolve issues in the Interpretive Center with the existing exhibit and replace or revise lighthouse exhibits once painting is complete. The Navy has agreed to complete the interior painting. Preservation will include maintenance and research with no major projects planned. Window sanding and caulking upstairs in Quarters A will be done and shutters installed to complete the shutter installation project. Gift shop processes will continue to evolve as the team is trained in inventory. Other teams will be expanded to create succession planning, cross training and increased collaboration. Our organization centers around community, honoring the past, present and future. The Board will be reaching out to members to gauge interest and determine the best way to utilize each volunteer's individual skills, interest and expertise. Some tasks are small commitments which have a large impact on the success of the organization. Others are more complex. Potential tasks include writing manuals, brute strength, community outreach, updating spreadsheets or staffing the lighthouse or gift shop. Thank you for being part of this organization. Here's to further fun in the new year!

~JOANNE MULLOY, MHS PRESIDENT



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Keepers of the Mukilteo Light Station

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please review the membership categories below carefully. As a member you will receive an exclusive member decal, 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 ☐ Exclusive Membership Decal Sent

2022 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

Crystal Accounting

CPVR LLC



Crystal Clear Accounting



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

