

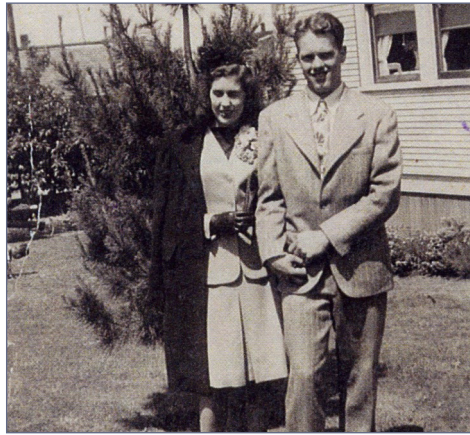
MHS Newsline

THE WAY WE WERE IN MUKILTEO

by Taylor Stockton

Because of my mother's family, my heritage is special and unusual. Both sets of her grandparents made their homes in Mukilteo, and one of my great-great-grandfathers brought his young family here shortly after the turn of the century. Therefore my roots in Mukilteo extend back five generations. I represent the third generation to be born in the Mukilteo area. I have grown up with a strong sense of place and a love for this community. My grandparents (*Bruce and Tude Zahler Richter*) have shared stories with me my whole life. This paper will be about the history of my family in Mukilteo and the stories of the past that make me partly who I am today.

The first part of my family to come to Mukilteo arrived in 1905. My great-great-grandparents, Otto and Katherine Zahler, came from Perham, Minnesota, with my great-grandfather, who was ten at the time. They settled in Mukilteo, and my great great-grandfather owned a block of Fifth Street at one time. Later Otto moved to Snohomish and started Central Feed store. My great-grandfather Joe and his older brother, Otto, stayed in Mukilteo and worked for Crown Lumber Company. When Otto was seventeen, he



Sylvia (Tude) Zahler and Bruce Richter, 1944

was badly injured at the mill and lost all the fingers but the thumb from his right hand. Crown Lumber hired him to run the company store. Later he purchased and ran the grocery store located at Second Street and Park Avenue. My great-grandfather Joe worked for him. My grandmother remembers what a good storekeeper he was. She says he could wrap and tie packages like they used to do really quickly, even with only one good hand.

My Zahler great-grandparents met when my great-grandmother Peggy was a young school teacher at the first Rosehill School. She had attended Bellingham Normal School, which is now Western Washington University, to get her certification.

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MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Spring is in the air filling the lighthouse grounds with many blooming daffodils. And a few tulips that haven't been eaten by the rabbits. Gardening is underway. What a busy year! Now that the proposal has been withdrawn to move Quarters A archives off the lighthouse grounds, plans are being worked to open the lighthouse and gift shop for the 2023 season. After three years of limited openings, and State restrictions lifted, it's time to be open more. Working with new members and engaging new volunteers has been fun. Some tasks are being done differently than in the past with limited time to bring it all together. There's been an outpouring of publicity and support for MHS lately, which is welcome.

The lighthouse and gift shop will open on Saturday, April 29th from 1 to 4pm, then at the same time for all Saturdays and Sundays through September 30th. A schedule is being created with new teams and training will be held on opening day.

The Exhibit Team moved exhibits back into the lighthouse, with rails installed to hold photos thanks to Bob and Marianne Anderson. Kris Hoffman and Marianne chose the photos and Peter Anderson provided them. These photos are up for special tours full time and docent use on the weekends. Jerry Arnold and Neil Anderson removed a display cabinet and hung the lighthouse flags. A display cabinet with a lens theme was moved to the lighthouse from Quarters B. Cleaning and details will be completed prior to opening day.

Tina Saunders led a cleaning day to prepare the gift shop for customers, including dusting, window cleaning and updating all displays. Tina ordered many fun, new items from primarily local vendors, which saves shipping costs and many vendors have become active members.

Mark and Sharon Sutherland and Dona and Clay Fretz refreshed the bathroom next to the Interpretive Center, creating a pleasant environment for brides. Thanks to Peter Anderson for helping find the new artwork.

MHS's first in person meeting since 2020 was held on March 9th at Rosehill. Volunteer roles were reviewed, and people signed up. On April 13th, Neil Anderson presented on Snohomish County lumber mills and culture, which brought back many memories.

In Preservation, Ken Owings of Public Works (City of Mukilteo) has received a grant for painting and improvements to both Quarters A and B to begin in the fall. Jerry Arnold and I are working on a Lighthouse Environmental Programs (LEP) grant to continue working improvements in the lighthouse, using the 2018 inspection as a guide.

Thank you all for supporting MHS as it has evolved over the past three years. It's been an interesting exercise and has taught me a lot. I look forward to learning more in the months ahead as we meet new volunteers, find a new rhythm and show off the light station to the community and public.

Onward!

~JOANNE MULLOY,
MHS PRESIDENT

Her first contract for teaching in Mukilteo shows she made eighty dollars a month.

My Grandpa Richter's family left Wynona, Minnesota, in 1909. My great-grandfather Richter traveled west first, and he brought his oldest daughter with him. After he found work, he sent for the rest of his family. He worked as a carpenter all over Mukilteo. My great-grandmother Richter stayed at home, raising their large family. Because she spoke German, she was able to translate letters from Germany for their neighbors.

Both my grandparents were born in Mukilteo. They were delivered in their homes by Doctor Chandler, who delivered all the Mukilteo babies. They knew each other their whole lives. My grandmother lived in the house my great-grandfather Zahler built on Fifth Street near the Speedway. My grandpa Richter's family lived in the house that was on the corner of Fourth and Loveland.

My grandparents have said that Mukilteo was a great place to grow up, even though people were broke because of The Great Depression. Your neighbors were just like family, and everybody knew everyone else. As a kid, if you wanted to go someplace, you had to walk or ride your bike. No one could afford gas at twenty-five cents a gallon. People mostly lived on seafood or charged groceries at my great-great uncle's store. Lots of people cut wood as a job to make money during the Depression.

Mukilteo looked a lot different when my grandparents were growing up. Instead of the Speedway, there was a long, winding road in and out of town. The part that still exists today is known as the Goat Trail. The other road out of town was "The Old Road" that starts at Fowler's Pear Tree. The major industry for years was Crown Lumber Company. The lighthouse was there, and people rented boats at McConnell's and Losvar's boathouses. Many fishermen and shrimp boaters fished in Port Gardener Bay. The Presbyterian, Nazarene, and Saint John's Catholic churches were the three earliest churches in town. As a young boy, my Great-grandpa Joe was part of the first communion given at Saint John's. All kids attended the only school in town from first to ninth grade. I grew up knowing "Rah Rah for Rosehill," and my mom went there from first through sixth grade. She then attended Olympic View Junior High.

One of my grandmother Tude's earliest memories of my Grandpa Bruce was seeing him sail his boat in the salt water lake that use to cover what is now Lighthouse Park. Because my grandpa was the youngest in his family, he could do anything he wanted. He met the fishing boats, and he tried to bring the fishermen home to meet his older sisters. Both my grandparents swam all summer long. They remember big neighborhood beach parties at the beach where the oil tanks were later built. My grandmother remembers listening to scary radio shows with her friends and then being terrified walking home with her brother, who loved to scare her more.

My grandmother and grandfather started their romance when my grandmother was fifteen years old, and this continued all through their years at Everett High School, which was the closest high school in the area. Because World War II was being fought during this time, high school kids got away with all kinds of mayhem. Once my grandmother and some of her friends skipped school for the day and went over and enrolled in the high school in Snohomish. After he graduated from high school, my grandfather tried to go to war but was rejected. Many summers of jumping off the ferry tower into the Sound had burst his eardrum, which made him ineligible for service.

Continued on page 5...



Peggy and Joe Zahler, 1920

Taylor Stockton was in eighth grade in 1998 when he wrote this essay as a project for his history class at Olympic View Middle School. We are glad we have a copy of the essay in the MHS archives to share.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

The moment we've all been waiting for has finally arrived! After a long hiatus, we are thrilled to announce that the Mukilteo Historical Society (MHS) gift shop will be opening for the season on Saturday, April 29 from 1-4pm. Our volunteers have been working tirelessly to ensure that the gift shop is ready to welcome both new and returning visitors, and we can't wait to share our latest offerings with you.

This year, we are especially excited to showcase our new purchases, which include fresh designs and color options that will leave you wanting more. From women's baseball t-shirts to lightweight unisex hoodies and a unisex zipper jersey hoodie, our apparel is sure to impress. And, if you think the photos below look good, just wait until you see them in person!



For the kids (and kids at heart), we've got an exciting array of new toys and books that are sure to provide hours of entertainment. Our new finger puppets come in designs such as a shark, otter, hummingbird, turtle, and red octopus, as well as a

shark hand puppet. We also have a range of bath and beach toys, including a ferry with separate cars, airplanes with spinning propellers, and a tug boat that can pour water out of the front. Plus, don't forget our plushie animals in a variety of sizes, and the new Lego Washington Ferry Kit that we're proud to offer from a local vendor.

In addition to our new items, we continue to support local vendors and artisans by offering unique products exclusive to the MHS gift shop. You can find a wooden MHS lighthouse keychain, hand-made jewelry, ornaments, and new images on coasters, among other treasures. As always, our goal is to educate visitors about Mukilteo's rich maritime history while providing a fun and memorable experience for all.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have supported us during the pandemic, and to our incredible gift shop team for their unwavering dedication. For those who cannot visit the lighthouse and gift shop during our regular season and the limited hours, an appointment for a private visit can be made by emailing us at giftshop@mukilteohistorical.org. And, if you're interested in volunteering as a docent or in the gift shop, please don't hesitate to reach out.

So mark your calendars and join us for the opening of the MHS gift shop on April 29! We can't wait to see you there.

~SUE ANDERSON & TINA SAUNDERS

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

MHS has 160 current and lifetime members. Several of our 2022 members have yet to renew their MHS memberships for 2023. An email request will be issued this month. A member form is on the final page of this newsletter. Please contact Sharon Sutherland at mhsmembership1906@gmail.com if you have any questions about your membership status. The mailing address for forms and payments is shown on the last page of this newsletter.

~SHARON SUTHERLAND

Welcome!

- ♦ Peg Decker
- ♦ Mary Anne Montoya
- ♦ Arnie Hammerman
- ♦ Cristi Papen
- ♦ Cyndie Henderson
- ♦ Dave Pennington
- ♦ Tina Hogan
- ♦ Cindy Pennington

...continued from page 3

My grandparents were married on May 19, 1945. They built a house on Lamar Drive and lived there until I was 2½ years old. It was in that house that my mom grew up. They moved to a new house that they had built in Old Town on Whittington on July 1, 1988. Even though they were retired, they were both very busy. My grandpa served as a Mukilteo city councilman for years. Grandma coordinated the Operation School Bell program for the Mukilteo School District.

Like my grandparents, my mom (*Jamie Richter Stockton*) has many Mukilteo memories. She loved swimming at Edgewater, walking on the railroad tracks with friends, and sledding down Lamar Drive in the winter. She remembers Mukilteo before Boeing and driving out the Mukilteo Speedway to get fresh eggs from the people who had a small farm where Patty's Egg-nest is today.

My own parents (*Robert and Jamie Stockton*) met when my dad was a first year art teacher at Mariner High School. My mom arrived that fall to do her student teaching. They got married in 1974 and bought a piece of property a half mile down the hill from Olympic View Middle School. This is where my older brother and I lived. The funny thing is, we have grown up doing many of the things my mom and grandparents did when they were kids. I wasn't lucky enough to meet my great-grandparents, but my family said they would have loved me. MY grandparents, however, have played a huge part in my growing up years. Because of my family, I have a strong connection to where I lived. I am proud of being a member of a family who has lived in Mukilteo for generations.



Bruce and Tude Richter, Pioneers of the Year, 2004

Events Calendar



May 2023

Thursday, May 11

7pm General Membership Meeting
at Rosehill

Saturday, May 20

10am Cemetery Cleanup

Thursday, May 25

6:30pm Board Meeting

Monday, May 29

11am Memorial Day Ceremony

June 2023

Thursday, June 8

7pm General Membership Meeting
at Rosehill

Thursday, June 29

6:30pm Board Meeting

July 2023

Thursday, July 13

7pm General Membership Meeting
at Rosehill

Thursday, July 27

6:30pm Board Meeting

Remember!!!

TREASURER'S REPORT

This Treasurer's Report for the Mukilteo Historical Society, Incorporated (MHS) summarizes the Financial Reports for Fiscal Year 2022.

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

1. Total Assets – \$119,461.91
 - a. Current Assets – \$102,169.03
 - i. Cash – \$85,105.20
 - ii. Gift Shop Inventory & Other Current Assets – \$17,063.83
 - b. Fixed Assets – \$17,292.88
 - i. Equipment – \$4,317.13
 - ii. Furniture & Fixtures – \$566.89
 - iii. Property Improvements – \$12,408.86
2. Total Liabilities & Net Assets – \$119,461.91
 - a. Current Liabilities (Sales Tax Payable) – 466.73
 - b. Net Assets (Equity) – \$118,995.18

Current Assets totaling \$102,169.03 coupled with very low Current Liabilities, \$466.73, yields an excellent economic position for the MHS. At the Annual Board Retreat and Committee meetings in January 2022, the Board approved the 2022 Equipment, Maintenance and Reserve Plan. The plan for 2022 included: Archive equipment, New Shutters and Screens for Quarters A, and Gift Shop furniture. Fixed Assets totaling, \$17,292.88 is consistent with the MHS Capitalization Policy and includes capital expenses in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Statement of Activities (Income Statement)

1. Gross Profit – \$22,765.65
 - a. This number includes Total Income, \$35,769.57, less Cost of Goods Sold (Gift Shop) – \$13,003.92
2. Total Expenses - \$15,315.00
 - a. Of the Total Expenses:
 - i. Facility Use Permit expenses totaled – \$5,571.08.
 - ii. Interpretation & Promotion totaled – \$5,421.75.
3. Net Operating Income – \$7,450.65
4. Other Income and Expenses – (\$10,487.19)
 - a. Interest Income - \$21.54
 - b. Archive Equipment, \$2,599.00
 - c. Information Systems, \$3,088.55
 - d. New Furniture and Fixtures - \$4,821.18
5. Net Income – (\$3,036.54)



Thanks to the Gift Shop and Archive volunteers, the MHS was able to end Fiscal Year 2022 with net operating income of \$7,450.65. The Archive Equipment and Information Systems was budgeted using Grant Revenue totaling \$4,322.62 and funds in Equipment, Maintenance and Reserves.

~ALFRED R. FRIEDRICH, TREASURER
Certified Nonprofit Accounting Professional

CEMETERY CORNER

Newspaper archives can often provide clues to help solve historical mysteries, such as the location of unmarked graves. In a brief notice published in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in 1891, it was reported that "The remains of Jessie Brooks, aged 4 years and 6 months, who died in Mukilteo on January 25th, were buried yesterday." Unfortunately, the notice did not specify the location of the burial, leaving researchers to wonder whether Jessie was buried in Mukilteo or in Seattle. Despite an exhaustive search, no online death record was found to shed light on the matter.

Further research into the Brooks family led to the conclusion that it was unlikely that Jessie Brooks was buried in the Pioneer Cemetery next door. This is because Edward Aubrey Brooks, who served as Mukilteo's second lighthouse keeper, did not get married until 1894. Furthermore, his son William E. Brooks did not marry Alice Pallas until 1932, ruling out the possibility that Jessie was related to the Brooks family.

A search for sources on the Brooks family led to a clipping about Alice Pallas Brooks from 1992. According to Mary Lou Morrow, the Pallas family were informal caretakers of the Mukilteo Pioneer Cemetery as they lived next door. Some of the Japanese workers from Crown Lumber are buried there, and some of their tombstones are missing, according to Mary Lou. "The Japanese carried their dead on their shoulders and in coffins from the end of Japanese Gulch, along the railroad tracks, and up through the Pallas property for interment." (Robert M Humphrey, "Alice Pallas Brooks, a 'Living Legend Teacher'," Mukilteo Magazine, June 1992, page 8.)

~MARGARET SUMMITT



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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:

- o \$15 - INDIVIDUAL o \$10 - SENIOR (65 OR OVER) o \$20 - SENIOR COUPLE o \$25 - FAMILY
o \$500 – LIFE o 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?

o Lighthouse Visit o Newspaper o Website o Friend o Other _____

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

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Mukilteo Historical Society

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