

MHS Newsline

A HISTORY OF CROWN LUMBER COMPANY

by Jackson Fry

First explored by European settlers in the 18th and 19th centuries, the westside of Washington state was discovered to be a beautiful landscape, teeming with dense life and natural resources. Just off the coast of the Puget Sound lies a small town called Mukilteo. No matter the size of the settled area, it still has an extensive history. Being seated in the heart of an area abundant with useful materials, there was no shortage of industry options, with one of the major ones being lumber processing. Douglas fir trees grew bountifully, giving Mukilteo the resources it needed to begin its development and make its mark on history.

The Crown Lumber Company, although only around for 27 years, had a huge impact on the entire coastal region around Seattle and Everett. The backbone of the lumber mill were the frontier workers and Japanese immigrants located in Mukilteo. The region Mukilteo is located in was established in 1855 under the terms of the Point Elliot treaty; this guaranteed the local Natives their hunting and fishing rights along with a reservation, and transferred over 54,000 acres of land to the

United States. The first business establishments and trading posts were constructed in the 1860's, with the first school being completed in 1893. Along with these, the Mukilteo Lumber Company (later purchased by and changed to Crown Lumber Company in 1909) was founded in 1903. Because of the dense number of trees in the area, the business took off almost immediately. An influx of Japanese immigrants joined the lumber mill, and were even provided housing in what is now known as "Japanese Gulch." These immigrants were a main component of the overall success of the operation. Hard working and looking for a fresh start to a new future in America, they often arrived with their whole family and followed where the work traveled. The efforts of all the employees transformed a newly established town into a major lumber exporter; this eventually resulted in the construction of a railroad spur to easily send out the cut trees. For 27 years, Crown Lumber remained operational, but closed in 1930 due to the depression sweeping through the nation. In 1936, Paine Field was constructed nearby, but later turned into a military airbase when World

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MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



We did it! A big thank you to all the amazing volunteers who staffed the lighthouse and gift shop for the season. Many volunteers took on many shifts to cover the first season of being fully open (minus the first weeks in April) since 2019. As I reported to the City Council recently, over 10,000 visitors were seen this year, and we have three more openings remaining. It was fun to see people in person and visitors were delighted to see things open. Special tours were big this year with hundreds of school kids, youth and seniors visiting during 12 special tours. For some it was their first field trip! Thanks to Marianne Anderson and Kris Hoffman for coordinating it all. On August 23rd, a Coast Guard Change of Command ceremony was held with the Admiral and 200 others attending! This is an example of the original Coast Guard intent for the property when it was gifted to the City. Mukilteo Lighthouse Keeper's families stopped by to share memories with their kids and talk about their experiences. The Lighthouse Festival was a success with two shifts working on Saturday and games available to play on the grounds. Thanks to the Shillair family for spending their day handling the games and coloring table.

The gift shop was a great success this year thanks to the leadership of Tina Saunders and the gift shop team's work. Orders were made all season rather than only in the first quarter because it was difficult to keep items stocked! Donations were generous. The financial position is brighter thanks to this season and Al Friedrich's expertise.

Membership meetings have been held in person since March and with excellent speakers. Steve Bertrand shared the Pirate of Hat Island, a children's book he authored. Pat Friedrich presented a unique piece of

maritime history that occurred near Point Sur, California. Al Friedrich collaborated with Christopher Summitt to tell the history of the Fresnel lens, with Christopher sharing the Raft of Medusa story. This will be offered again later in the year for docents, as it serves as training. The end of season potluck was held on September 30th, the first time since 2019 and a holiday party is planned for Sunday, December 10th.

Gardening volunteers still meet weekly and plan to continue through the winter, weather permitting. They do a fabulous job! Jerry Arnold is working with Ken Owings of Public Works on a project to replace the lighthouse tower gallery walkway coating. The work could be extensive, and funding is being sought from several sources.

The archive team continues to make progress each week. It's a vital role in our organization and I'm grateful for Peter Anderson's leadership and consistent productiveness.

Two long-term Board members will leave their positions at the end of the year although they will continue to volunteer. Vice President, Tina Saunders will be missed as she has led the gift shop activities for the past three years and has been a huge support to me in my role. Her hard work, problem-solving and ideas helped with innovation during the pandemic. Director Craig Fisher will still represent MHS on the Historical Preservation Commission and present unique history at meetings. Tina and Craig will be greatly missed for their curiosity, playfulness and perspectives.

Thank you all for making 2023 a milestone year! I wish you all a delightful holiday season with much rest.

~JOANNE MULLOY,
MHS PRESIDENT

War II began. Along with it, the Crown Lumber Company property was purchased by the U.S. government and converted into a vital ammunition management and loading facility. This ranged from small arms bullets to bomb shells, and the employed workforce was estimated to be around 600 people. After the war had ended, the area around the Crown Lumber mill and Japanese Gulch was mostly preserved by the people of Mukilteo, and can be visited as a hiking route in the present day.

The process of logging was strenuous, time consuming, and dangerous. Trees were cut by hand, which could easily result in injury or death due to the lack of precision that is available with power tools today. Fallen trees would then be fastened to hauling animals, such as oxen, and pulled along skid trails to a loading zone. These skid trails were generally made up of peeled logs and greased to lessen the strain on the oxen. Once they arrived at the loading zone, the logs were dropped off in water to be floated to the sawmill. The method of transportation was later changed to a donkey engine; this steam powered machine could attach anchors ahead of it and drag the lumber along. These machines could carry larger loads than the animals could, allowing for faster and more efficient material transportation. Full size steam trains were later introduced as the logging operations moved too far inland for the donkey engines and oxen to efficiently travel. Over at the sawmills, Mukilteo boasted an impressive product output rate; in one ten hour work day, over 200,000 feet of wooden boards could be produced. Depending on the size of the cargo ship, one export bundle could send out anywhere between 400,000 and 5 million feet of board. Even though the danger was very present in this field of work, the employees still did impressive work to boost the development of this coastal region of Washington.

The lumber industry was one of the most prominent components of the growth of Mukilteo. The mills alone employed close to 300 people, meaning the entire logging operation in the area provided jobs for over 500 people. With so many people in one area, Mukilteo became almost entirely self-sufficient; the lumber mills provided materials for local buildings, and the local buildings provided food, shelter, and entertainment for the workers and other families. With the rainy climate, food could also be grown locally in abundance. But no matter how quickly the town was growing, the lumber mills closing in 1930 hit the economy hard, and many of the employees left in search of work. Those that remained had to fight to keep their once again small town alive. Years later, Mukilteo has regrown into a thriving establishment, and is now home to the largest Boeing factory in the world at Paine Field. Although they are no longer present, the property that the lumber mills were once built on is now occupied by a ferry dock. I still hold many fond memories of ferry rides, touring Paine Field, and hiking near Japanese Gulch with my grandparents. Not only is Mukilteo a major subject of the vast history of Washington state, but is still held close to the hearts of those that grew up there such as I did.

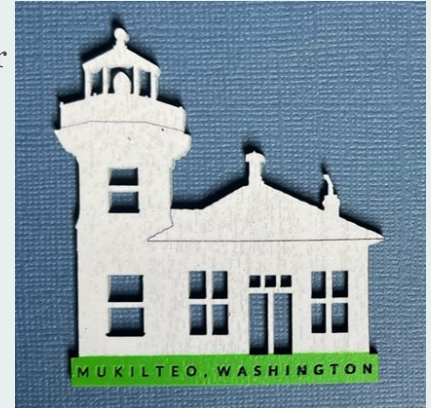
To this day, Mukilteo still grows as a city, but it will never forget its history.



Editor's Note: Both Jackson Fry and the previously printed winner were submitted by grandchildren of MHS members. Neither attended a Mukilteo School District high school.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

For the first time since before the pandemic, the gift shop and lighthouse were open every weekend from April 29th through September 30th. The team tried out a new shift schedule, opening from 1-4pm, and in the process, we saw a record year in sales. Was it easy... no. Joanne Mulloy served as interim scheduler and worked very hard to ensure every weekend was staffed. If you know of anyone interested in joining our organization or you are reading this and are curious about working in the gift shop next year, be sure to reach out. I think if you asked anyone working this summer, they will all talk about how much fun it was meeting new people who came through the door and showing off all the local products featuring our lighthouse, the Salish Sea, Mukilteo and the surrounding area. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this past season such a success. We could not have done it without everyone's energy and positivity!



This year we continued focusing on buying local which allows us to purchase small batches to try out new merchandise. If things sell well, we can easily and quickly order more. We now are featuring 23+ local vendor products! A white board was added in the back area allowing team members to communicate as things ran low or new items were requested by visitors and when new items or restocks could be expected. This allowed everyone on the team to remain 'in the know'.

We have three more scheduled openings:

- ♦ **October 28th 1pm-4pm Friends & Family Sale** - all members will get an extra 10% off sale items
- ♦ **November 24th-25th from 1pm-4pm for Black Friday and Small Business Saturday**

We are working with a couple local vendors to have new offerings for the two openings in November – if not before!

Holiday Cards – Joe Dreimiller (Mukilteo, WA), owner of Earthwindows.com, is creating a couple of cards featuring our lovely Lighthouse all lit up for the holidays.

Ornaments – Luke Englert (Everett, WA), owner of Englert Designs, is working on laser-cut wood ornaments of a lighthouse and a ferry. He also creates clocks that might be in future offerings within the shop.

As usual our stock is running low as we make room for new items so we can start fresh in 2024! However, we did reorder t-shirts with the embroidered lighthouse on the front left side. New colors include navy, deep ocean, coral heather and celadon. We have also restocked the embroidered logo hats (green, charcoal and denim). These will make great Christmas gifts!



~TINA SAUNDERS

CEMETERY CORNER

I have a wish list for the Pioneer Cemetery.

The marker needing immediate attention is that of Joseph Radley. It needs to be reset. When the cemetery was restored in 2000-2001 the upright gravestone was broken at the base. A new foundation was dug and the stone was slotted into it and cemented with a relatively weak cement/lime-based mortar. Water and root damage have caused the mortar to separate from the bottom of the stone. The stone is now loosely resting in the remaining mortar, which is crumbling away. It looks as if all it needs is to reseal the stone to the foundation. This is a job for the City, with perhaps some expert assistance.

I would like to see the bronze marker for "Soldier McCalsu" replaced with a marker reading "Soldier McCallister," his correct name.

There are several graves in the Pioneer Cemetery which are unmarked.

- ♦ Ralph Schlotman
- ♦ Alma Schlotman (there is a photo of her funeral on the sign by the street, but she has no marker)
- ♦ Philula Bradley (associated with Mortimer Fassett). I would place her marker next to Mortimer's.
- ♦ Mary Lemley (child)
- ♦ Kaijo Tamai (infant girl)
- ♦ Yoshio Myamoto (infant boy died 1913)
- ♦ Baby Boy Nicholson (stillborn 1910)

It is not known where these were buried; however, we can follow the precedent that was set in the 2000s restoration, when markers were placed in the cemetery with the disclaimer that we don't know exactly where the graves are. If it were my decision, I would put the Schlotmans near the street beside the Sinclairs, the Japanese infants near the other Japanese graves, and maybe the Nicholson infant near Baby Boy Brodniak.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

Events Calendar



November 2023

Thursday, November 9
7pm General Membership Meeting
at Rosehill

Friday, November 24
1-4pm Lighthouse/Gift Shop Opening

Saturday, November 25
1-4pm Lighthouse/Gift Shop Opening

December 2023

Sunday, December 10
4-6 pm MHS Holiday Party

January 2024

Thursday, January 11
7pm General Membership Meeting
at Rosehill

Thursday, January 25
6:30pm Board Meeting
with Budget/Chairs



NEW MHS WEBSITE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND PAYMENT PORTAL!

Greetings Members. It's that time of year when MHS requests that you renew your membership for 2024. Thank you for your tremendous support for 2023. Your membership helps support many MHS activities: newsletters, gift shop inventory, archives, special tours, repairs, maintenance, Lighthouse Festival activities, gardening including other projects.

The renewal campaign begins now through December 31, 2023. The MHS website has a new "Membership" page, which is now live at <https://mukilteohistorical.org/membership/>. At members' request, the page includes membership information as well as the registration form and payment platform. You can continue to pay by check and mail an updated membership form to: Mukilteo Historical Society at 304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101, Mukilteo, WA 98275. You can download and print the form from the membership link above. Members can also renew at the gift shop with card, check or cash during the next three openings: Oct 28, Nov 24 and Nov 25.

To renew your MHS membership on line, visit: <https://mukilteohistorical.org/membership/>

- Complete the registration
- Update volunteer areas of interest
- Submit
- Scroll to "Pay Membership Dues" and follow the prompts
- Select Payment amount: \$15 Individual; \$10 Senior; 20 Senior Couple; \$25 Family; \$500 Lifetime
- Complete your name and email address for payment confirmation purposes.
- Select PayPal, "Donate Now."

There are a few things to share about the MHS website platform, "Word Press" and PayPal:

- The site is 100% secure
- It's a free platform for non-profits and payments are processed as "Donations."
- This free platform limits electronic payments using PayPal as a processor; however, a PayPal account is not required. We are unable to utilize Venmo, Zelle or credit cards.
- As in the past, members have the option to "Send a Check," and will be directed to mail a check with the downloaded registration form to MHS.
- Members paying online will receive an email confirmation. PayPal processes the payment and the MHS treasurer will receive the renewal/payment notification from PayPal. Updated membership information will be directed to the MHS membership chair person, not PayPal. Again, PayPal only processes the payment.

We hope you try out the electronic payment process! Many thanks to member Kim Feeley who volunteered precious spare time to program this membership online payment option.

REMEMBER THE \$1,500 ESSAY CONTEST PRIZE FROM YOUR MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society's annual one year \$1,500 prize will again be awarded to the student who submits a winning essay about some aspect of Mukilteo history. The award each year is applied to tuition expense in the winner's name to the school selected by the winner. The essay contest is open to 12th year students. Details can be found at the Society's web site by clicking on "Essay Contest" at www.mukilteohistorical.org

Remember, there's no restriction on an essay topic except that it must relate to some person, place, event, or other aspect of Mukilteo's past. Two examples would be the effects of the Point Elliott Treaty and recollections of the building of Kamiak High School. So, remind those children or grandchildren (no matter which school districts they live in) that there's some money out there to be won.



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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