

# MHS Newsline

## Who Wants to Live at the Beach at Lighthouse Park?

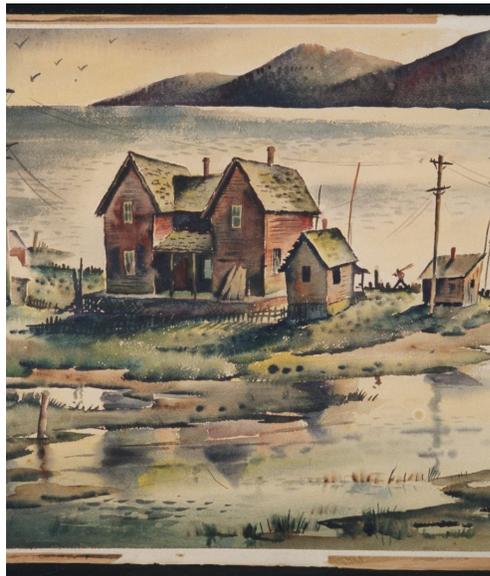
by Ann and John Collier

Yes, for years people did live in their homes on the beach at what is now Lighthouse Park. In fact, when Jacob Fowler and Morris Frost first set up their enterprise in this area, they located it there. But weather conditions and tidal surges did not make this beach a very suitable place for a trading post, or even to live.

Frost and Fowler soon learned what the Salish-speaking Indians already knew: the original inhabitants had for centuries gathered for meetings along the safer north shore where the weather was more clement.

So the two New Yorkers soon moved their buildings to a more protected area on Front Street near the location of what is now our new Ferry Terminal.

Later, other houses were built along the beach in the Lighthouse Park area. In the early 1900s there was one railroad track and no sea wall, no overpass—more trails than roads. The area from Fifth Street to the water sloped gently down to the beach area. In Opal McConnell’s book *Mukilteo Pictures and Memories*, Mrs. Bartle Kane describes the houses: “...from the Lighthouse to the railroad tracks were some homes. Three of these homes were identical and close together. The Wilson family, Hadley family and the Victor McConnell family lived there. A little further was a large brown house owned by the Patton family. Mrs. Patton was a

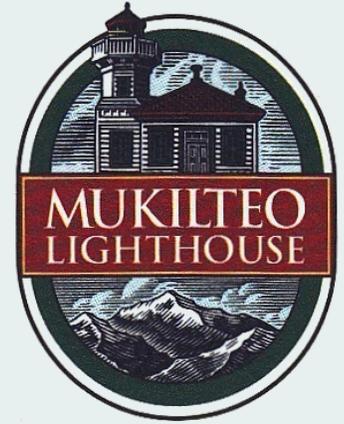


*Early houses on site of current day Lighthouse Beach (artist: Arne Jensen)*

midwife, and delivered many babies in Mukilteo before we had a doctor.”

Opal McConnell’s book also contains a description written by Edith M. Baudry, one of the Wilson children, who was born in their house in 1902, with the assistance of Edith Patton: “Our house was one of three, on the beach... between the lighthouse and the sea wall. The big storm in 1913 tore away all of the bulkheads, woodshed, boathouse and chicken house, and left the house undermined and tipped. When morning came, Dad rowed us over to the railroad, and we had to rent until the house was put back on its foundation.”

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# MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101  
MUKILTEO, WA 98275

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*Mark Sutherland*

*Sharon Sutherland*

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*Brian Thorngate*

## MHS Website

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

## Phone

*Voice mail (425) 513-9602*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Folks,

We have been very fortunate to have Al Friedrich as our treasurer for the last 9 years. His experience with multiple volun-

teer-based organizations and accounting practices has been an incredible asset. Al has been leading our high-performance finance team consisting of Mimi Landsberg (Accounting and Receiving), Inge Greeninger (Revenue Manager), Tina Saunders and Joanne Mulloy (Gift Shop Purchasing). Al and his wife Pat have moved to California to be closer to a family business and his distance from Mukilteo made it time for him to resign as our treasurer as of June 26, 2025. We want Al and Pat to know they are missed and we wish them all the best in this next phase of their retirement.

To fill this critical role, Joanne Mulloy has resigned as Vice President and been appointed by the board as the Acting Treasurer to finish Al's two-year term (complete in 2026). A special thanks to Joanne for her counsel as vice president and for her flexibility to take on this new role.

Opening day for the Lighthouse and Gift Store was April 5th and thanks to our volunteers, we have been open every weekend since then. This will continue until September 28th when we will close for the season.

The May 26th Memorial Day ceremony at Pioneer Cemetery went very well with two representatives of Everett Post 2100 VFW performing the flag ceremony, the Mukilteo Brass Band performing an excellent series of melodies, historical commentary from Margaret Summitt and commemorative comments from Mayor Joe Marine. If you are looking for a way to acknowledge sacrifices made by the men and women in our armed forces, our own ceremony at Pioneer Cemetery is an excellent choice.

On May 30th during the Friday Gardening activity a few of us were treated to

an orca sighting about 35 feet from the fence by the fog horn! The whale surfaced twice for air, then continued to move north and delayed the ferry. Just one of the fringe benefits of being there for gardening on Fridays. And the gardens are looking GREAT!

A future activity for the gardening team is to replace the old lilacs next to the condos and clean up that area. If you would like to be involved, come on down and check out the activity on Fridays at 10AM (weather permitting).

Other upcoming events include:

- ♦ Movies in the Park, July 23 and August 6 and August 20th
- ♦ Lighthouse Festival September 5, 6 and 7th

We will be open extended hours for the Lighthouse Festival.

JERRY ARNOLD,  
MHS PRESIDENT

## *Did you know?*

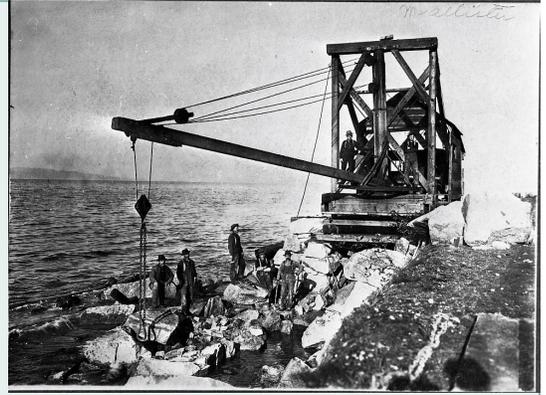
*Mukilteo Lumber Company  
existed from 1903 to 1909  
when purchased by Crown  
Lumber Company*

*Photo of display at Diamond  
Knot Brewery*



Edith continues in Mukilteo Pictures and Memories, “One morning, I went out to see what the tide had washed up during the night. I found a long box with a glass cover on it. Inside was a dead man with his feet tied together. His arms were tied down and he had a bullet hole in his head! The sheriff came and tried to lift the box up on the boat deck. He couldn’t lift it so the box was pulled away by a tow rope like a skiff.”

Edith remembered when the seawall was built. “The flat cars would dump the huge granite boulders with a crane and the crew of men on the extra gang laid them in place. Gondola cars came after with sand, gravel and rocks to fill in the bed between the wall and first track, then the crew laid the ties and rails.”



*Construction of the Mukilteo Seawall*



*Painting by Everett Artist Arne Jensen, 1929*

Edith also said that “...the Indians used

to come ashore from their big high-prowed canoes. They camped on the beach, fished, dug clams and ate rose hips and hazel nuts. Mukilteo was a paradise back when I was little. Deer used to come down to the beach to lick salt from the rocks. The woods were full of all kinds of birds, like quail and grouse, and there were many big grey squirrels. The gulches were full of wild bleeding hearts, maidenhair ferns, trilliums and creeks ran through the middle, so much beauty—all gone for progress and new buildings.”

Opal McConnell’s Mukilteo Pictures and Memories also contains an article written by Margy Anderson Roberts: “I was six weeks old when we moved to our little house on the beach... A bulkhead was on the beach side of our yard. It was built to hold back the water. It compared to today’s patios. We often sat there and watched

the boats in the bay. It was beautiful. At one time, wild rose bushes, gooseberry bushes and other native shrubbery grew on the flat. The salt water destroyed them when the second railroad track was laid. Sometimes the tide would go so low, it seemed that one could walk to the island...Sometimes the water on a high tide would come through the dike and our houses were little islands. We were marooned at these times...”

In the early 1900s when Victor McConnell and his wife Florence came to Mukilteo, they lived for a short time in one of the beach houses, before relocating to Front Street. And Mrs. Wetstein, who owned one of the first automobiles in Mukilteo, also lived in one of the houses where Lighthouse Park is today. And so the historical rhythm of attraction and rejection continues: we all still seek the spectacular views only to be rebuffed occasionally by the natural elements. Perhaps our original inhabitants were on to something. The Indians met frequently during the summer months in Mukilteo, a name derived from a Lushootseed word which over time came to mean a “good camping ground.” When the Indians looked at the water they appreciated more than its beauty, for it was also as a bountiful source of food and a major means of transportation. But their quarters in Mukilteo were not permanent. They actually lived during the winters in longhouses in what is now Everett which were easier to defend and safer from storms.



*Early Houses on Lighthouse Beach Point*

# MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AT PIONEER CEMETERY (MAY 26, 2025)



*Margaret Summit shares stories of early Mukilteo veterans of military service*

*Below representatives of VFW Post 2100 raise the American flag in Memory of Veterans of all Military branches*



“Let their courage inspire us to be better neighbors, better citizens, and a better community.”

Mukilteo Mayor, Joe Marine

*Photo Courtesy of: David Pan, Mukilteo Beacon*



# A Season of Smiles and Stories at the Gift Shop

By Tina Saunders



What a wonderful way to kick off the season! It's been such a joy to see so many new faces—both behind the counter and walking through our doors. The energy is absolutely infectious. I'm constantly reminded how lucky we are to be part of such a vibrant, supportive community. Whether it's our dedicated volunteers or our enthusiastic visitors, everyone brings something special to the shop.

One of the best parts of working here is the people. Not only do we get to meet visitors from all over, but we also build friendships with fellow volunteers. There's something truly special about working side by side with others who share a passion for our mission.

Just yesterday, a gentleman came into the shop to buy a magnet and get his lighthouse passport stamped. I commented on how full his book was, and he smiled and said he'd already filled a couple others. He was from Ohio and was spending the long weekend visiting lighthouses across Washington. His mother had been a lighthouse lover, and during a time when she was bedridden in the hospital, he began collecting magnets from each lighthouse he visited to place on her hospital bed. Though she has since passed, he continues the tradition in her memory. Now, as a field hockey coach at a local college, he proudly displays the magnets in his office—a daily reminder of their shared love and the memories they created.

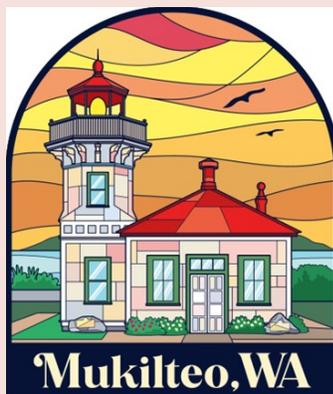
Stories like his remind us that it's not about how much we sell on any given day—it's about the connections we make and the memories we help preserve.

We'd love to hear more of these meaningful moments. If you have a story to share, please email it to [shoplocal@mukilteohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:shoplocal@mukilteohistoricalsociety.org). We may feature it in a future newsletter or elsewhere. It feels like a good time to share what's good in the world.

## Expanded Product Offerings

On the product side, we've noticed a trend toward smaller, easy-to-carry items. So, we're focusing our re-orders on popular favorites like magnets and stickers. And we're thrilled to announce something new: MHS now has two brand-new images, created by local vendor Monroe Magnets! These beautiful designs will be featured on magnets, stickers, coasters, and an exciting new item—suncatchers!

Quantities are limited as we test out these new products, so be sure to stop by soon and see what's new. Whether you're shopping, volunteering, or just saying hello, we can't wait to see you.





# 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 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 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

<b>For each applicant, please check the volunteer areas of interest (if any):</b>	<b>#1</b>	<b>#2</b>
<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  Exclusive Membership Decal Sent

## CEMETERY CORNER

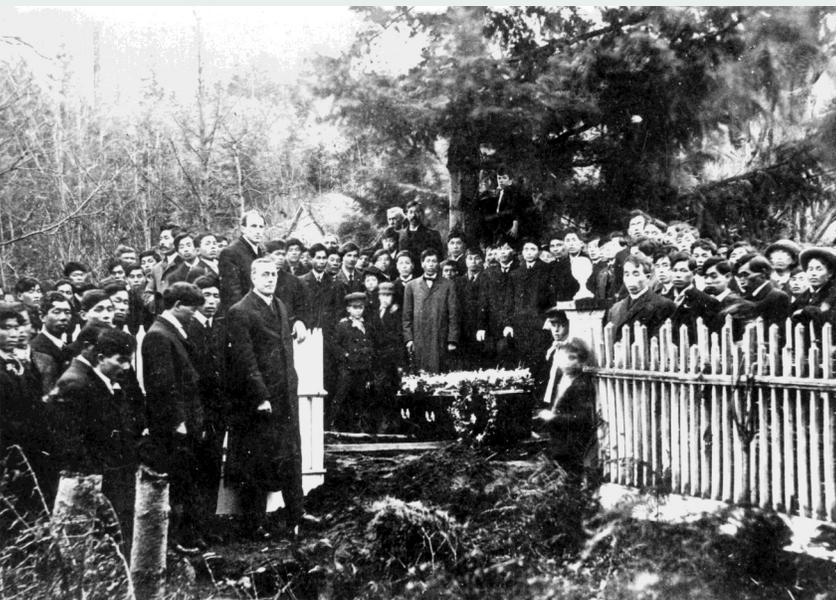
By Margaret Summit

An undated photo in the MHS collection shows a large gathering of Japanese for a burial. The photo intrigues me because evidently the burial was not made in the Pioneer Cemetery, although the MHS catalog places it there. The slope of the terrain indicates a different location. Whereas the Pioneer Cemetery is level ground atop a bluff, this is a steep slope, as is evident from the elevation of the mourners in the photo. Peaked roofs of structures can also be seen on the slope above.

It is significant that the photo was donated to MHS by the Dudder family. These Dudders (one of two related Dudder families in Mukilteo) lived at the top of the steep ridge overlooking Japanese Gulch, at the end of Third Street, a block from where Hawthorne Hall is today. James Walter Dudder was the father of Beverly "Bevo" Dudder Ellis. The Dudder family was involved with the Japanese community in Mukilteo.

People sometimes ask me why so few from the Japanese community were buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. Considering the distance from Japanese Gulch to the Pioneer Cemetery, there may have been another burial site. From time to time archaeological surveys have recovered artifacts, but I have not heard that any human remains have been recovered from Japanese Gulch. It may be that the burials were made further up than where the surveys were made or the Boeing railroad spur was put through.

Or, the cemetery was closer to the Dudder house but on the slope that was never excavated.



## Events Calendar

### August 2025

- ◆ **Thursday, Aug. 14**  
**7pm General Membership Meeting**  
at Rosehill
- ◆ **Wednesday, Aug. 6 and 20**  
**Begin @ Dusk Movies in the Park**
  - ◆ **Thursday, Aug. 28**  
**6:30pm Board Meeting via Zoom**

### September 2025

- ◆ **Sep. 5-7**  
**Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival**
  - ◆ **Thursday, Sep. 11**  
**7pm General Membership Meeting**  
at Rosehill
  - ◆ **Thursday, Sep. 25**  
**6:30pm Board Meeting via Zoom**

### October 2025

- ◆ **Thursday, Oct. 9**  
**7pm General Membership Meeting**  
at Rosehill
- ◆ **Thursday, Oct. 30**  
**6:30pm Board Meeting via Zoom**



# Volunteer Appreciation

## Friday Morning Gardening Group / Cemetery Cleanup

By Brian Thorngate

The primary maintenance of the Lighthouse Grounds is managed by the City of Mukilteo, however the Mukilteo Historical Society is responsible for the planting and maintaining of garden beds. During the Spring and Summer you will often see a group of volunteers weeding and planting in the Lighthouse area. We appreciate our members who share their time and love of gardening with one another. Best of all, our gardening group is open to all as there are always projects to be done and sometimes you get to excavate historical roots. Well done guys!



In May the MHS broke out their trowels, rakes and brushes to clean up the Pioneer Cemetery in ad-

*Excavation Crew: Frederick Huston and Joe Dreimiller*

advance of Memorial Day Ceremony. Thanks to all of our weeders, cleaners, and mulch spreaders. The grounds and grave markers truly honor our Mukilteo community.



## NEW MEMBERS

The Mukilteo Historical Society is thrilled to welcome the following new members for 2025:

**Gina Van Wechel, Pam Peterson, Diana Larson, Jayne de la O, Lauren Soper, Wendy Soper, Charlene Dent, and Stacy Fuller / Zachary Marciano Family**

We look forward to spending time with each of you.

## 2025 SPONSOR HONOR ROLL

The **Mukilteo Historical Society** thanks the following 2025 corporate sponsors who helped support its mission to preserve and exhibit items of historic value that pertain to the City of Mukilteo and its environs.

\*Basic Sponsors : \$50;  
Sustaining Sponsors :\$100;  
Benefactor Sponsors: \$300

### BENEFACTOR SPONSORS\*



### SUSTAINING SPONSORS\*



**Mukilteo Historical Society**  
304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101  
Mukilteo, WA 98275

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