

Fall 2013

Points N.E. Historical Society

Browns Point .. Dash Point .. N.E. Tacoma

Located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park

Mailing Address:

Suite 180, PMB #135

1000 Town Center NE

Browns Point, WA 98422

Telephone: (253) 927-2536

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Email: pointsnortheast@comcast.net

Facebook: facebook.com/PointsNortheast

The Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Tea

Honored Hostesses: The Ladies of the Dash Point Garden Club

Sunday Dec 15, 1-4 pm

Docent Tours of the 1903 Cottage and Downstairs Museum

Boathouse with surf boat replica

Original Fog bell in Bell house

Holiday Treats and beverages

Christmas music and carolers

Visit with Santa and Mrs Claus

Free Pictures with the Clauses

Gift Shop



Artwork by Margot Andersen

The Lightkeepers Cottage

**In the Browns Point Lighthouse Park
201 Tulalip street**

PNEHS message phone: 253-927-2536

Email: pointnortheast.org@comcast.net

website: www.pointsnortheast.org

Limited Parking

**Parking at Curly Slide Park available
and in cottage parking lot**

for handicap parking or drop off

Walk in through BPIC gate or Tulalip St.

Hosted by the Points NE Historical Society at no charge

Upcoming Community Events

All Events are open to everyone with free admission

Friday December 6, 3pm to 9 pm Raise the Roof: Raise Some Dough at Browns Point Pizza. 20% of proceeds go to the Browns Point Food Bank

Sunday, December 8, 5:30 pm DPSIC Tree Lighting and Food Drive: hot cider, cocoa, cookies, entertainment from Northpoint Coop Preschool and maybe a visit from Santa.

Thursday December 12, 6:30 pm at the BPIC—General Membership Meeting followed by a (7:30pm) bonfire on the beach, tree lighting and the Christmas Caroling Ship (8:00pm)

Saturday December 14, 9 am to Noon, Work Party at Julia's Gulch

Sunday December 15, 1-4 pm Lightkeepers Cottage—The Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Tea. See page 1.

Sunday December 15, 5 pm Marine View Church Jazz Live—Michael Powers

Monday December 16, 7 pm Santa visits the BPIC. Please bring canned/dry food for our food drive.

Wednesday December 18, 8:20 pm the Christmas Caroling Ship will visit Dash Point.

Sunday January 5, 5:30 pm Twelfth Night Party St Matthew Church

Our Condolences to family and the many friends of three Browns Pointers who passed away in the last few months: Sandra Holder, Gordon McConnaughey and Kathleen Dugan.

Condolences also to Amy Ecker, Lighthouse Docent and 2012 Honorary Tea Hostess on the sudden passing of her son Geoffrey.

Notice : Parking Limited at Old-Fashioned Tea

In past years, the BPIC has allowed us to park in the BPIC Parking Lot. This year, the clubhouse has been rented out for an event and we are unable to use it. If you are a member of the BPIC, you can use it. There is limited parking in the cottage parking lot at the end of Tulalip. Most of that will be used for Disabled Parking. You may use that as a drop off for passengers though. Other parking is available at the Browns Point Playfield also known as the Curly Slide Park/ tennis courts (La Hal Da Street). It is a four block walk from there. You can find some spaces to park on the roads. It's only for a few hours not for a fishing season! Walkers can find entry through the BPIC gates on Ton A Wanda . Thank you.

Our Honored Hostesses: The Ladies of the Dash Point Garden Club



Wonderful ladies who do magic with a little soil and lots of creativity

The Dash Point Garden Club

*These ladies make our cottage gardens beautiful for all to enjoy. Seen in the photo are: (Left to Right) **Kathy Juracek, Karen Hegarty, Diane Ritcher, Diane Gallagher, Margaret Lockwood, Debbie Hutchison, Suzanne Matonti, Lila Owes, Kathy Winslow and Sue Wenski.** Cottage gardeners not pictured are **Cindy Berard, Nancie Russ, Lynne Snell and Marybeth Poch.** Come to the tea and say “Thank You”.*

With green-thumbs and grass -stained knees on their jeans, the ladies of the Dash Point Garden Club toil in the Heritages Gardens. They are our honored hostesses of the 2013 Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas Tea. Trading their work gloves for a cup of tea, these ladies will be honored for their work at the cottage, Lighthouse Park and in the community. The Club is over 60 years old. The President as well as PNEHS board member is Kathy Juracek, Vice President Cindy Berard, Secretary Sue Wenski, and Treasurer Linda Bellisario.

The club is for ladies, both beginning and advanced gardeners. Along with maintaining the cottage gardens, the club goes on field trips, attends gardening events, have special speakers at monthly meetings, has workshops, visits to members' gardens and share plants and gardening advice and tips. A few years ago, PNEHS honored the group with a special exhibit and a special Garden Day. The History Center preserves the club's historic files. A few of the panels from the old exhibit will be up for viewing. The club is diverse with old timers and new transplants.

Other members not involved with the Cottage Gardens are **Dottie Acey, Linda Bellisario, Anne Buhler, Janice Burgess, Linda Butcher, Dolores Colacurio, Mary Jo Creso, Cyrena Faller, Patti Hurlbut, Pam Ladley, Margaret Lockwood, Julie Lord, and Diane Ritcher.**

Thank you, again, ladies for your service!

A History Primer

Mavis Stears, our Curator has been preparing an abbreviated version of Northeast Tacoma history for our new web site due to be unveiled in the very near future. We are presenting it in installment form in this and upcoming newsletters.

A History of Northeast Tacoma Including Browns Point and Dash Point

Northeast Tacoma which includes Dash Point (on the North side) and Browns Point (on the West side) is located across Commencement Bay from downtown Tacoma. The Southern part of Northeast Tacoma stretches along the bluffs which overlook the northern sides of Commencement Bay and the Puyallup River.

The area of this history goes back many centuries. Indigenous people whose descendents now make up the Puyallup Indian Tribe along with other groups of Northwest natives, visited the shores of Dash Point and Browns Point especially in the summer time.

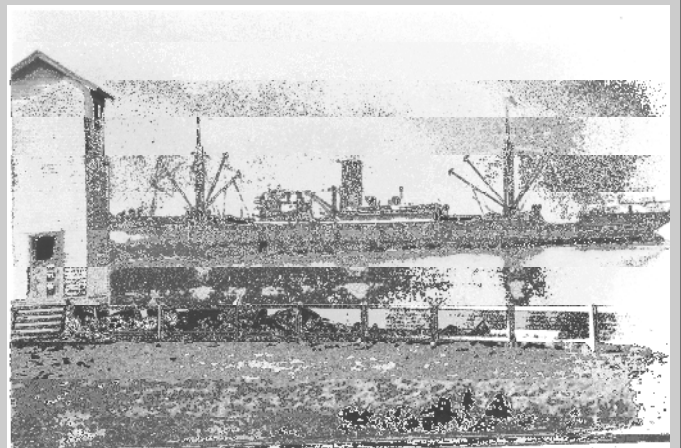
Besides being a vacation in a beautiful spot, it was also a good place for gathering and obtaining food for the winter. Salmon and shellfish were abundant and easy to obtain. While men carried on the collecting of seafood and the hunting of forest animals, women dug for edible roots and picked berries for drying,

English and United States explorer named many of the geographic locations along Puget Sound. George Vancouver sent by King George III of England first explored the Sound in 1792. He named Puget Sound and Gig Harbor among other places. He re-named Mt. Rainier which native peoples simply called "The Mountain" or Mt. Tahoma. Charles Wilkes explored for the United States in 1841 and gave our Browns Point the name Point Harris. By 1877, both Dash Point and Point Brown (replacing the name Pt. Harris) were named on official maps. In 1903, Point Brown was officially renamed Browns Point (no apostrophe) by order of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and Labor.

During the mid 1800s as a result of the arrival of pioneers from the east and middle west migrating into the area, the Medicine Creek Treaty was signed, followed with more negotiating with the native tribes. The result was the creation of the Puyallup Indian Reservation. By 1886, individual Indians received patent deeds to specific pieces of their own private property within the Reservation. There were 13 natives who received plots of land in the western parts of Northeast Tacoma including Big Head Bob, Charley Satiacum and Joe Douette, George Tichinahon, George Bird, Criss Laughlet, John Cook, Joseph Peasup, William Tocahun, Jim Sitwell, George Johnson, Sampson Zahuheus and Sam Squatahan.

Beginning in the mid to late 1800s, cargo ships exporting lumber, canned fish, and other products out of Commencement Bay resulted in tremendous growth of the small settlement of Tacoma. The waters of Puget Sound became the main means of transportation due to the lack of roads through dense forests on the mainland. Large steam ships carried cargo and passengers in and out of Tacoma, small boats carrying 30 to 60 people served small beach communities up and down the Sound, and pleasure boats and fishing boats added to this panorama of boats and ships called the "Mosquito Fleet", a universal name for this kind of maritime activity. In 1887, due to the increased maritime traffic, a kerosene lantern was installed on a post on Point Brown warning maritime traffic to make the turn around the point into Commencement Bay. Even with the lantern light some serious accidents and near misses during foggy weather became a big problem. By 1901, the property where the lantern had been installed was purchased by the United States government from the heirs of Joe Douette, the native who received the property in a patent deed signed by President Grover Cleveland in 1886. The plan to build a lighthouse with a fog bell on Point Brown had begun. Finally in 1903 the first lighthouse was built. Oscar Brown and his wife, Annie arrived on May 26, 1903.

He lit the lantern that evening for the first time and at that moment the name of the point changed to Browns Point. It is noted that by coincidence that its first keeper was named Brown.



End of Installment One



In pursuit of the wily “pinks” at Dash Point Fishing Pier, but it will always be our Dock.



“ Keep the Light Shining” Birthday Cake for the 110th birthday of the Browns Point Lighthouse and the change of a new name from Point Brown to Browns Point.



Bob Robinson working on new floor, replicating the original floor of the Boat-house built in 1905



Linda Van Nest and Norm Andersen (hiding) at the Meeker Bazaar selling our lighthouse merchandise for stocking stuffers



Students from the Federal Way Academy, directed by teacher Brian Dumas, have a work party at Lighthouse Park on one of the most miserable weather days of the year in September.



Donated old water pump installed next to the old pump house which we now call the Bell House

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Shane and Tanja Leek



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PNEHS Board of Directors 2013

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Museum Coordinator Linda Van Nest	(253) 927-4250
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BPIC Liaison Fay Ainsworth	(253) 927-4000
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Pam More-Halsan	(253) 219 3439

Other Contacts:

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<i>Cottage Scheduler</i> Julie Perkins	(253) 927-2536
<u>PNEHS Answering Phone</u>	(253) 927-2536

*This newsletter is published by Points Northeast Historical Society
Editor: Kathleen Monahan*

Join or Renew with PNEHS Today

Membership is open to all.
Individual \$15 Family \$25
Senior \$10 Sponsor \$50
Benefactor \$75 Patron \$100
Life Member \$500/ \$350 (Senior)
Business \$100 (*free display ad included*)

Send to Membership Chair
PNEHS
1000 Town Center NE STE 180 PMB 135
Browns Point, WA 98422
pointsnortheast@comcast.net 253 927 2536

*Correction : The website for St Matthew Church is
now www.neighborhoodparish.org.
The Rector is Father Kendall Haynes
fatherkendall@gmail.com*

Dash Point School Grant Update

On December 2, 1996, the Old Dash Point School Building was placed on the Washington State Historic Registry. In 2006, the Northpoint Cooperative Preschool was granted a Heritage Capital Projects Grant for \$15,000; thanks to the PNEHS having written the grant. The money was spent toward helping to restore all the windows. In 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in agreement with the PNEHS to continue to house a museum in the school, and to help with future grant writing. That year the school building was placed on the Pierce County Historical Registry. In 2012, a grant was received from Pierce County for \$5,000 to defray costs incurred for electrical wiring and lighting upgrade throughout the school. In 2013, another Washington State Heritage Capital Project Grant was approved to reimburse for the balance of the electrical project, as well as toward future kitchen restoration. The amount of \$25,000 (less taxes) will account for \$8,000 toward the upgrade of the kitchen facility, not enough to complete the needed project, but a good start. The intent is to have a clean environment and workspace for children to learn kitchen skills, while providing a functional space for parents and community uses. The Northpoint Cooperative Preschool has received many big company donations throughout the years and have supplemented building needs at their annual auctions. The agreement with the PNEHS has proven to be a good partnership. It has been a pleasure to work with these young parents and children in our community. I encourage continued support for their activities on behalf of the many children served.

Jill Barkley

Dash Point Museum Coordinator

For those interested in touring the museum and old school, please contact Jill Barkley to make arrangements.

Board News

Welcome to our new Board of Directors Member, Pam More-Halsan. Pam is a Browns Point native who lives in Gig Harbor. She has served as a Lightkeepers Docent.

Get Well wishes to Board Member James Storey who is recovering from an illness.

Get well Wishes also to our Curator Mavis Stears on her recent surgery.

Congratulations to Museum Coordinator Linda Van Nest who will run for VP at our Annual Meeting.

Memorials Received:

**From Glen More in memory of Don Gleason
From Rebecca Olson in memory of Gene Olson**

**Special Donors included with their membership renewals include:
Bill and Betty Huff, Marjorie Grimm, Lynn and Kathleen Sommers and Joe Stiegler**

Thank you.

**Points Northeast Historical
Society
Suite 180 PMB 135
100 Town Center NE
Browns Point, WA 98422**

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HIST. SOCIETY



*Bring your list with you.
We're listening. Sunday Dec 15, 1-4 pm*

**Make an early New Year's Resolution! Volunteer for the Points NE Historical Society.
Don't miss out on the fun and the PIE!**

Save the date for the Annual Meeting and Special Speaker

Thursday, February 13, 2014 is the date for PNEHS's Annual Meeting. The highlight of every Annual Meeting is the special speaker. This year we will welcome author Richard Blumenthal, who is the author of several books in which he has transcribed journals of our early explorers such as Vancouver and Wilkes. The PNEHS Library has copies of his works which are located in the History Center and are available for check out.. His latest book, *Maritime Place Names, Inland Washington Waters* incorporates information from the first three books plus a great deal more in his study of toponymy and the origin of our place names. Blumenthal will tailor his remarks to our local area.

**The meeting is at 7 pm
at St Matthew's Episcopal Church in Browns Point.**

Come and enjoy the program and enjoy refreshments and meet your friends and neighbors and make new ones.

