



Winter 2014

## *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**

**Website: [www.pointsnortheast.org](http://www.pointsnortheast.org)**

**Email: [pointsnortheast@comcast.net](mailto:pointsnortheast@comcast.net)**

**Facebook: [facebook.com/PointsNortheast](https://www.facebook.com/PointsNortheast)**

### **Author Richard Blumenthal to Speak at Annual Meeting February 13**

Washington State historical author Richard Blumenthal will speak at the Points Northeast Historical Society Annual Meeting on **Thursday, February 13 at 7 pm. The lecture will be held at St. Matthew Episcopal Church, 6800 Eastside Drive NE in Browns Point.**

Blumenthal is the editor of *The Early Exploration of Inland Washington Waters: Journals Logs from Six Expeditions, 1786—17922* and *With Vancouver in Inland Washington Waters: The Journals of 12 Crewmen, April—June 1792.*

Richard Blumenthal grew up in the Northwest and began boating on Lake Washington at age five. Eventually he became interested in local maritime history, researching journals of early explorers and transcribing the material to get a better sense of their efforts, the hardships they faced and the places they visited, Some of these journals are available in his books, mentioned above.

His latest production is *Maritime Place Names, Inland Washington Waters* which incorporates information from the first three books plus a great deal more in his study of toponymy and the origin of place names. The book is heavily illustrated with 100 aerial photographs, 40 panoramic sketches by artist George Davidson, and 30 historical charts. The charts show the early voyages of Vancouver, Wilkes and later explorers going back to the 1780's.

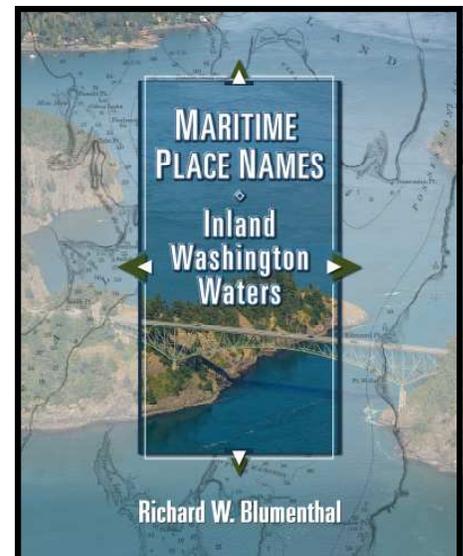
Blumenthal will tailor his remarks to our local area. There will be a very brief meeting updating the Society's year and the election of a vice-president. Refreshments will be served. Also, items from our gift shop (great Valentine gifts) will be for sale. You can purchase and renew memberships (another great Valentine gift) .

The event is open to all at no charge. Come and enjoy the program and the refreshments and meet your neighbors and friends and make new ones!



*Richard Blumenthal*

*The book is available through the author for \$29.95 plus tax and shipping.*





**Smile!**  
Fay Ainsworth and Jerry Churchill share a laugh with Santa. Fay and Jerry are recent Life Members. Fay is a PNEHS Triple Bonus as she is a Board Member, a Business Member and a Life Member!



**What's a Christmas Tea without Santa and Mrs. Claus decked out in finery and great smiles.**



Some of our honored hostesses for 2013—The Dash Point Garden Club Members pose with Santa, Mrs Claus and Janice Burgess (in corner next to Santa). Garden Club members starting on the bottom of stairs are Cindy Berard, Kathy Winslow, Linda Snell, Santa, Janice, Mary Beth Poch, Kathy Juracek, Sue Wenski and Mrs Claus.



**More New Life Members Janet and Robert Witter**



**Welcome, Mark Vanderveen and IGA See article, page 5**

**This is Part II of an abbreviated review of our history. For more information: *Two Points of View and Points Northeast Photo Album and Scrap Book* fill in much more of the whole story. Both are available in our Sales Center. Part I was in the Fall 2013 PNEHS Newsletter.**

Within the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century large parcels of land in Northeast Tacoma were purchased and platted by partnership entrepreneurs; namely, Hyada Park in Browns Point and in Dash Point 'the Dash Point View Addition, Arthur's Sound View, Dash Point Palisades and Fairview Park Tracts. Soon people were camping and building small cabins for summer vacationing. Permanent homes were the next step of building and developing these small communities. Captain Mathew McDowell, the owner of a small fleet of boats that serviced communities up and down the Sound, purchased and platted the quiet cove and adjoining land between Dash Point and Browns Point. He called it Caledonia. He built a dock where he moored his D Fleet at night for protection from the Puget Sound weather and other boats. The name of each of his boats began with the letter "D".

In order to accommodate these small service boats on the Sound every community built their own dock. This made loading and unloading cargo and passengers easier and safer. Through the years Dash Point has had four docks; the first in 1907 which disintegrated, the second in 1912 which also disintegrated and finally the third dock in 1917 that was built on steel enforced concrete pilings. The latter lasted 80 years when it was replaced in 1997 as a fishing pier. There was another dock called Fairwood built between Dash Point and today's Dash Point State Park. Little is known about this dock or what its major purpose was. Something to research.

By 1914 Dash Point had enough permanent residents to require a school that was located in a house close to the beach at the bottom of today's Markham Ave. Browns Point built a small building for their school on Tok A Lou. Each community also had a grocery/mercantile store and each also incorporated their own improvement club; Dash Point in 1907 and Browns Point in 1919.

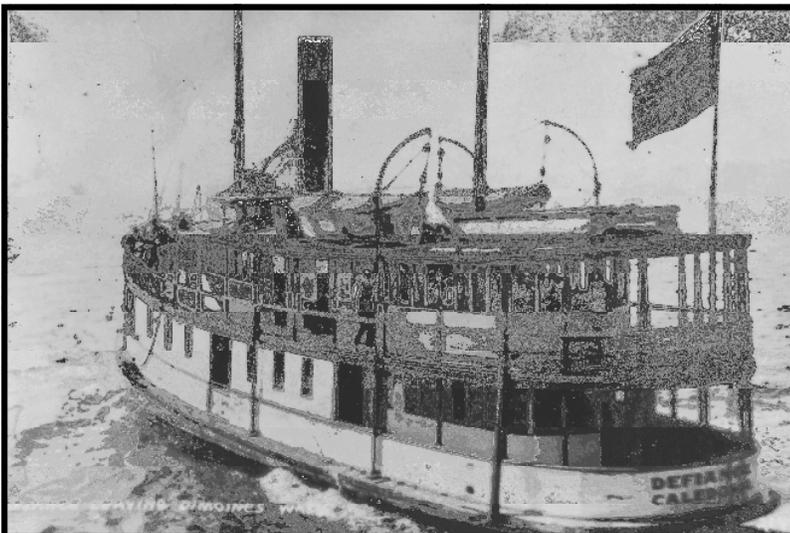
The development of the rest of Northeast Tacoma began when Fred Phohl in 1914 purchased and platted a large piece of property on the south side overlooking Commencement Bay which he called Crescent Heights. Large ½ acre lots were sold to families. Soon a school was built in 1919.

In these early years of development several men contributed much to each community. In Dash Point James Churchill, one of the Dash Point developers was also the realtor and the first store owner. His store burned down in 1920. In 1910 another store had opened by Ernest Day (today the Lobster Shop building). Others contributing were Harry Johnston, Lloyd Eberhart, R.P. Milne and Claude Austin to name a few.

In Browns Point the light keeper Oscar Brown and his wife Annie, who were the first white residents coming to Northeast Tacoma in 1903, served as the light keepers for 36 years. They became active and prominent in the community. Jerry Meeker, a Puyallup tribe member and one of the owners of Hyada Park development named all the streets with Indian names. He was well educated and accepted in both the Puyallup tribe and the white man's world. As a realtor and full time resident of Browns Point he became a highly respected community leader. His "end of the

summer season clam bakes" were enjoyed by all and evolved into today's Salmon Bakes. He was often called the "Father of Browns Point."

*Mavis Stears, curator*



***On the Left: One of the "D" fleet boats was the Defiance which Captain Matthew McDowell operated out of Caledonia. Other names of his boats were: Dove, Dauntless, Dart, Daily, Darling and Dawn.***



*“Our gal Friday  
Pam More Halsan”*

## Meet Our New Board Member, Pam More Halsan

Pam grew up at Browns Point “right around the corner from the fire hall.” Both her parents– Glen and Bev (Doeing) More are old Browns Pointers too, attending the first Browns Point School. Pam comes to us with a lifelong commitment to volunteering, starting when she was a teen at St .Matthew Church. Pam has been part of three other historical societies, has served on numerous Boards of Directors and has a special dedication to Boy Scouting and Rotary International. Pam expressed deep appreciation at the accomplishment of PNEHS and the expertise of its Board Members. She’s already an active docent at the Cottage, enjoys promoting the gift shop, helped with the 110th anniversary celebration of the lighthouse and the Christmas Tea. Pam has also volunteered to help with publicity and the newsletter. Pam , the mother of four boys and grandmother of seven , says “I have a lot to learn and I’m looking forward to the challenge. After all, it’s family memories and my childhood we’re preserving!”

## Welcome New Life Members

Recently joined Life Members are **Annette Ramsour** of Renton in honor of **Dave Sommerville, Robert and Janet Witter** (Browns Point) and **Fay Ainsworth and Jerry Churchill** (Browns Point).

We now have 41 Life Members including Margot and Norm Andersen, Jill and Dan Barkley, Janice Burgess, Peter and Ann Darling, Dennis Flannigan, Neil and Karen Hanson, Jim and Pat Harnish, Bradley and Dede Hull, Bob and Marilyn Johnson, Kathy and Randall Juracek, Diane Malone, Roger McLennan, Midi Mees, Jerry Monahan, Marie Monahan, Kathleen Monahan, Douglas and Ellen Peterson, Robert and Mary Robinson, Gary and Nancie Russ, Mavis and Larry Stears, Lynnett Stevenson, Laverne and Ronald Stone, Beverlee Storkman, Karen Sullivan, Linda and Jay Van Nest and Thomas Waite. We now have over \$21,000 in the Endowment Fund due to the Life Member fees

## New Website, Videos, Brochures Promote Cottage Rental and PNEHS History Programs

Thanks to a \$6300 grant from Pierce County Lodging Tax funds, Points Northeast has developed several marketing tools to promote both the Lightkeepers Cottage as a vacation rental and visits to local heritage facilities as well as information about history programs.

**Pointsnortheast.org**, the new website, reflects the new over-all branding look which will be part of all marketing materials. It will be easier to manage the site now, and provide up-to-date information on local events, historical resources, and will include photo galleries.

**Vacation Rental By Owner, VRBO.com/500782**, linked to the website, will provide information about the Cottage Lightkeepers Program for vacation rentals and allow people to view the reservation calendar, make a reservation and pay for it on line. Revised brochures promoting the Cottage Rental and also a Visitors Guide to Lighthouse Park are being printed. The newsletter format will reflect the branding look and be available both in print and online making communication with our e-mail list much easier and more efficient.

Our **Facebook.com/pointsnortheast** has over 1200 friends, please “LIKE” us because this gives us more exposure to your “friends.”

In cooperation with other lighthouse societies, we have helped to produce new videos, websites and brochures promoting Washington lighthouse stays and visits and encouraging the sale of lighthouse vanity license plates.

See:

US Lighthouse promotional video-Browns Point Lighthouse <http://animoto.com/play/thxD76pxZFi3HiXVY5wJCg>

US Lighthouse promotional video-Five Washington Lighthouse <http://animoto.com/play/2Rmvl07jQf5SCPo5gvUTg>

US Lighthouse Society promoting lighthouse rentals <http://www.stayatawashingtonlighthouse.org>

Washington Lighthouse License Plate program: “Keep the Light Shining” <http://washingtonlighthouses.org>

## New Lighthouse IGA Store to Serve the Community

There will soon be another “lighthouse” in Browns Point, the Lighthouse IGA, a new grocery store opening at the Browns Point Shopping Center around March 15. This is planned as a 15,000 square-foot full service grocery store with fresh produce, bakery, deli, liquor, smoked meats and a butcher cutting meat to order.

The hope, according to Mark Vanderveen, managing partner of the ownership group which also owns the rest of the Center, is that local residents will plan on shopping for the majority of their weekly groceries at the new store.

The prices will be competitive and even more attractive will be the emphasis on customer service—think of the model of Mark at Ace Hardware—where clerks may call you by name. “If you want something, we’ll order it, we will be committed to serving you,” Vanderveen emphasized.

The owners invested over a million dollars to bring groceries back to the space in the Center which has historically housed a grocery store—since 1946 when the Center (called Crestview) was founded.

“We want to be part of the community,” he said, “so we will support local events and organizations; in return we hope that local residents will come and support us—not just for an occasional pick up of convenience, but for their entire weekly shopping list.”

The addition of this Lighthouse IGA Grocery will help to attract business to the whole area—maybe like the antithesis of a lighthouse with it’s beacon warning passersby to avoid the area, but instead attracting more customers.

## PNEHS Remembers

Condolences to member Judge Robert Bryan and his family on the passing of his wife **Cathy Bryan**. The Bryans shall be remembered fondly for donating items for the cottage and for our archives.

We also offer condolences to Jerry Barrett and his family on the passing of his wife **Jackie Barrett**. Among other activities, Jackie served on the Board of the Dash Point Social and Improvement Club and was on the Dash Point Scholarship Committee for 25 years. She was a secretary at the Dash Point and Browns Point Schools for many years. She and Jerry are Members of PNEHS.

## Bond Project Planning for Lighthouse Park Project to Begin Soon

Metro Parks Tacoma still has money allotted from a 2005 Bond Issue to provide upgrades in the Browns Point Lighthouse Park. Soon a steering committee will be organized to gather input from the community. Contact [jimharnish@comcast.net](mailto:jimharnish@comcast.net) for information.

Other local bond-funded projects already completed include: Alderwood Park, Browns Point Playfield (“Curly Slide Park”), Browns Point Athletic Complex, and Dash Point Park. <http://metroparkstacoma.org/bond—projects>.

The Lighthouse Park project is one of the last to be completed, mainly because it is complicated by the involvement of multiple agencies—the U.S. Coast Guard, Shoreline Management, Pierce County, Depart-

## Points NE Historical Society Accomplishments for 2013

- Hosted day-long events with St Matthew Church for 110th Birthday of Browns Point
- Displayed Browns Point History exhibit at Norpoint Center
- Developed temporary museum exhibit focusing on Dash Point history
- Hosted author Alexandra Harmon (*Indians in the Making*) at annual meeting
- Sponsored book discussion and follow-up lecture on Puyallup Tribal history
- Hosted field trips for 350+ students from five schools
- Helped publish and distribute to 80 students a history of Browns Point School
- Produced a six page article on history of the our Lighthouse Station for Lighthouse Digest
- Published “Young Peoples Handbook” for visitors
- Restored back porch (grant from License Plate funds) and refinished front porch
- Painted south side of cottage with help from Metro Parks Tacoma
- Completed restoration of Boat House floor (with material from Metro Parks)
- Received state approval to place historic estate office in lighthouse park
- Garden Club created rose garden, expanded boathouse gardens and the pruned willow.
- Organized 50 volunteers (students from FW Public Academy) for variety of projects
- Acquired tourist tax grant of \$6000 for marketing projects (web, brochures, etc)
- Produced marketing rack cards and promotional video with US Lighthouse Society
- Hosted lunch for Metro Parks staff, BPIC and USCG representatives
- Held PNEHS retreat to review and plan goals for future
- Increased Endowment Fund to over \$20,000
- Registered over 400 members again documented over 4000 volunteer hours
- Replaced leaking roof and insulation in history center-Wright Roofing/MPT

*Editor’s Note: Wow! Maybe we should put our feet up and have a cup of coffee; but only one! We’ve got a lot planned for 2014! A big thank you to our members, volunteers, docents, community partners, Metro Parks, our Board and especially Jim Harnish, our President who glues us all together!*



### Lights, Camera, Action

Seen on the grounds of the Lighthouse Park recently was a college film class shooting an original movie to be included in the Student portfolios. The crew of 12, from the **International Academy of design & Technology in Tukwila** was led by instructor **James Winter** and student director **Robin Risser**.

The group also intends to produce an informational video that PNEHS can use as a marketing tool on the new web-site.

The short film “**The Ham-Handed Heist**” follows the misadventures of two bumbling wannabe hoods who are conned into a burglary by a double crossing femme fatale!

Get the popcorn out! It’s Showtime!

### Save the Dates

PNEHS Annual Program

February 13 7 pm

St Matthew Church Annual Meeting

February 13 7 pm

Live Jazz at Marine View Presby. Church

Feb 9, March 9, and April 13, 5pm

Northpoint Preschool Coop Auction

“Viva Las Vegas” Hotel Murano

March 8, 5pm

PNEHS Docent Training—Lightkeepers cottage

Sat April 5 , 1pm

Mon April 7 6:30 pm

Hyada Park Guild of The Mary Bridge Brigade

Wine Tasting and Auction @BPIC Clubhouse

April 26 at 5 pm

Browns Point Salmon Bake

PNEHS Museums open both days

August 2 and 3

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Vice President Linda Van Nest	253 927 4250
Secretary Kathleen Monahan	253 927 2425
Treas/Mbrsp Chair Norm Andersen	253 370 4683
Curator Mavis Stears	253 927 5385

Museum Coordinator Linda Van Nest	253 927 4250
Garden Club Liaison Kathy Juracek	253 952 8874
BPIC Liaison Fay Ainsworth	253 927 4000
Sales Pat Harnish	253 927 6019
Cottage Greeter Nancy Pawlicki	253 222 7121
Maintenance Chair Bob Pobinson	253 927 9528
Docent Coordinator Janice Burgess	253 235 5712

**Board Members**

Margot Andersen	253 588 8559
Mary Chavez	253 927 8826
Neil Hanson	253 952 3271
Pam Ladley	253 952 2895
Art Ladley ( Grants)	253 052 2895
Pam More Halsan	253 219 3439

**Other Contacts**

Dash Point School Jill Barkley	253 927 3329
Cottage Scheduler Julie Perkins	253 927 2536
PNEHS Message Phone	253 927 2536

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

*Welcome to our new Business member,  
realtor **Gini Anderson**. You can join  
Gini and our other Business members  
on this page for a year for only \$100.*



**Saint Matthew Episcopal  
Church**

6800 Eastside Drive NE  
Browns Point , WA 98422'

PH: 253 927 9808

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

Rev. Kendall Haynes

[fatherkendall@gmail.com](mailto:fatherkendall@gmail.com)

Sunday services:

8 am and 10 am

**A Church for All People**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**The Browns Point Diner  
and Sandbar**  
in the Browns Point  
Shopping Center

*Shane and Tanja Leek*  
Open 7 days a week  
253 952-3743  
Dine In-Take Out

**ALFRED'S CAFÉ**

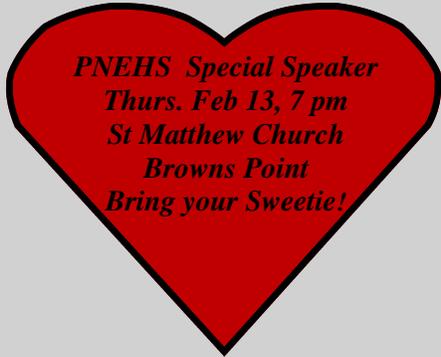
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Brett and Linda Armstrong

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*Donations*

*Thank you to Eric Henriksson, Jeff and Sandra Morgan, Diane Deason, Mary and Frank Blacker and Jan and Carole Pauw for recent donations.*

*Thank you to Howard Holder for his Memorial in honor of his wife, long time member and community volunteer, Sandra. We appreciate it!*

**Ballot for 2014 Annual Meeting Election**

**Please mail your ballot by February 13  
to Point Historical Society at  
Suite 180 PMB #135**

**1000 Town Center NE  
Browns Point, WA 98422**

**or**

**Bring to Annual Meeting: Thursday February 13, 7 pm**

**I cast my vote for:**

**Vice President: Linda Van Nest**

**2 year term**

**yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**