

The MUSEUM *Light*

August
2011

Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society and Museum



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Historical Society & Museum**

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The Museum Light is a publication of the Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society whose mission is to perpetuate the memory and spirit of our pioneers; to identify and preserve historical documents, relics and incidents; and to encourage historical research, today and tomorrow.

Message From Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Edmonds-South Snohomish Historical Society has approved an updating of the Mission of the Society as a part of its direction setting for the coming years. The changes reflect our optimism regarding the future we foresee and the growing support from our community. The changes are as follows:

NEW

We are dedicated to sharing the history of our community.

We will achieve this by: research, collection and preservation of historical documents, artifacts, memories and events;

and by utilizing interpretive displays and engaging in creative public education programming.

We believe that this modification of our mission will enable us to celebrate the past and emerging history of our entire community.

We intend to be proactive in reaching out to and engaging with the community.

We intend to engage in and foster historical research, not just to encourage it.

We intend to broaden the sources of history to include memories (oral histories) and events of importance.

Stay tuned and COME AND GROW WITH US.

What do you think? We welcome your comments and input. You may write to us, call us, send an email, or respond by social media to our web page. We really do want to hear from you.

CURRENT

Our mission is: to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the pioneers;

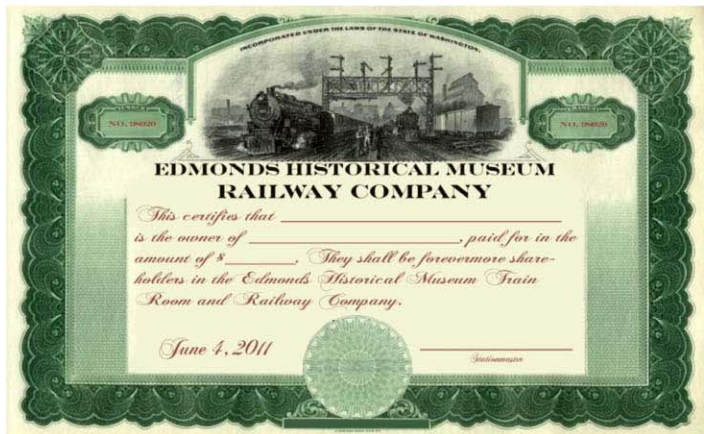
To identify and preserve historical documents, relics, and incidences; and

to encourage historical research today and tomorrow.

ESSCHS is a private, non-profit organization (501c-3) and receives no regular funding from the City or County. We welcome your support and membership!!!

Model train layout on the right track

Stock program offers opportunity to invest in Edmonds' history



Invest in the railroad - invest in the museum! As many of you already know, we have been “selling” pieces of our new railroad layout for the last few months. We welcomed hundreds of people through our doors June 4 for the Train Room Grand Opening, and many became investors that day. Many items are still available, though, for those who want to participate. See the list below and stop by the museum this week to invest in this unique opportunity:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Train depot | Railroad tunnel entrance |
| Lumberjack | Dock and boat |
| Track-builders | Rail Junction |
| Lumber truck | Log ramp |
| P&P beer truck | Trees |
| Schwartz Garage | And many more! |



All Aboard: Docent Norma Bruns and others welcomed more than 300 visitors into the new train room June 4.

Current exhibit: Cruisin' the Washington Fossil Freeway

Showing through October 2, 2011

Ammonites, trilobites, dinosaurs, oh my! Fossils are all around us. That's the message paleontologist Kirk Johnson and artist Ray Troll share in *Cruisin' the Washington Fossil Freeway*. This exhibit takes visitors on a “road trip” through Washington to learn about fossils in our midst and how they tell stories about the past. Don't miss it!

Cruisin' the Washington Fossil Freeway was organized by the Burke Museum at the University of Washington, Seattle, in collaboration with Ray Troll and Kirk Johnson. The Washington tour was generously sponsored by Wells Fargo. Exhibit development was supported by Microsoft Corporation, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and the Pendleton and Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation.

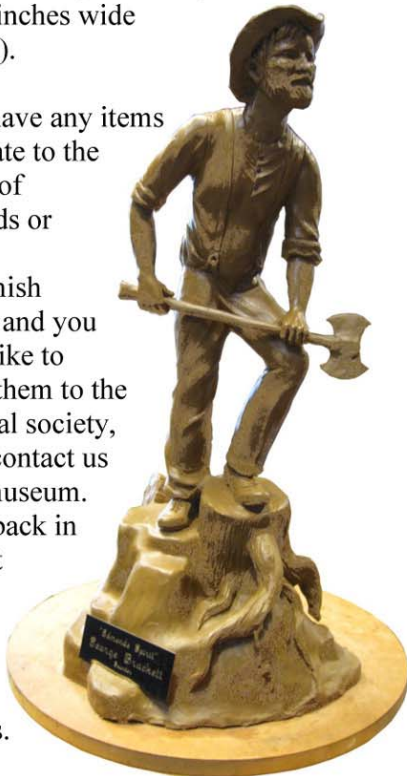
Collections

New addition to our collection

As an organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Edmonds and South Snohomish County, it's always exciting when we get new items donated to our collection. The Edmonds Historical Museum was recently given a sculpture of George Brackett standing on a stump with an ax.

The sculpture, "Edmonds Spirit," was created by Diane Steinke and donated by her son Michael Steinke. It is made of brown clay, and measures 22 inches tall (from base) and 11 inches wide (at base).

If you have any items that relate to the history of Edmonds or South Snohomish County and you would like to donate them to the historical society, please contact us at the museum. Check back in the next issue to see more of our artifacts.



The Life of Edmonds' George



If you have lived in Edmonds any time at all you have some knowledge of George Brackett and his discovery and development Edmonds but, what do you know of the Brackett family and George before that happened?

Family researchers on Ancestry.com have traced the origin of the name to Wales and found evidence of a Brackett family in Sudbury, Suffolk, England as far back as 1540. By the 1600's they have located descendants in New Hampshire, the 1700's in Maine, and the 1800's in Canada, and the late 1800's to the United States. George's story picks up in Canada.

We find a record of the marriage of Daniel Brackett and Mary Conell, George's parents, on August 21, 1827. The ceremony took place in New Brunswick, Canada.

According to George Brackett the marriage resulted in twenty children. It is interesting to note that Mary was the mother of at least 12. The 1861 Census of Canada indicates all the children listed were born in Canada. James, was born July 28, 1828, followed by Daniel, Solomon, Thomas, George, born May 22, 1841, Abraham, Josiah, William, Jane, Mary, Eliza, and the youngest child, Ellen, was 7 and probably born in 1854.

Daniel Brackett, the father, according to the 1861 Census was a farmer but, even with the advantage of crops and livestock I would

think maintaining such a large family and perhaps making a little money was an effort so everyone had to participate in order to sustain the family. Responsibilities at home may have limited the children's education and necessitated leaving school at an early age. There are documents with George's signature - rather than an x - indicating he could write, and considering the amount of business he was involved in one can assume he could read.

Typically the family became smaller as the girls married and the boys started their own families or set out to find new horizons. The 1871 Census of Canada indicates James left and was working in the lumber industry. The exact age George left home is unknown, but it was sometime between age 16 and 19. He first worked in the forests of Canada with his brother James. George then followed his brother-in-law, George McFarlane, to Wisconsin to continue working as a logger.

The lure of gold inspired George to leave Wisconsin around 1869 and head for San Francisco. Imagine his disappointment when he discovered the reality of the gold opportunities: no gold nuggets on the ground just waiting to be picked up. After two weeks he boarded a lumber ship and headed north to Seattle to meet his brother James.

James and George took logging jobs in Pierce County, Port Madison, along the White River. The year 1871 found George located in Samish (sic), Whatcom County. A year later James and George moved on and established a logging camp at what is now Ballard. In July of 1872 he bought his brother out for \$750 in gold, and ran the business by himself for three years. During

Research

By Kat



Research Corner

By Kathe Hall

Edmonds' George Brackett: 1841-1900

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this period of time he traveled to La Conner to take up a preemptive claim on 160 acres which he kept for three years and then traded for a house and lot on Third Street in Seattle. He then purchased a team of oxen and equipment for his logging business. George purchased 80 forested acres from the Walla Walla Railroad for \$350 and an additional 160 acres from a Mr. Hicks for \$1,080. He built a small landing, which became known as Brackett's Landing. This was the first Brackett's Landing and it was located in the area now known as Bothell.

In April of 1876, he moved his equipment to the Edmonds area and purchased 140 acres for \$560 from Fowler & Frost, a real estate team from Mukilteo. He later added 50 more

acres. George married Etta Jones on June 20, 1877. The 1879 Territorial Census of Washington places George Brackett, Etta, and George S. living in Seattle. The 1880 Washington Territorial Census places the family on Hat Island, Centerville, Snohomish County, with an addition to the family, Mary E. The 1900 Federal Census shows the Brackett Family residing in Edmonds.

George Brackett, trail blazer, logger, pioneer, a founder of Edmonds, rose from the ranks. He realized the dreams of his life and lived to see the forest cut into timber, land cleared, streets built, houses erected, and business blocks constructed.



George and Etta Brackett and their four children in front of their Edmonds home.

Volunteer Opportunities



Market volunteers needed

Our Summer Market Committee is looking for one or two couples to take over the operation of the White Elephant booth for the museum.

Duties include setting up each Saturday during the 13 Summer Markets. Donated items are sorted and priced at a storage shed and loaded into the truck each week to be unloaded, displayed and sold on the plaza area.

This is a good way to meet and visit with lots of people coming to the market and get others involved with set up and selling these treasures - a fun way to spend your Saturday!

If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, please contact the museum at (425) 774-0900 or Margaret at (425) 776-7201.



Don't forget - if you have stories or photos to share about Fourth Avenue for the Downtown Cultural Heritage Tour project, contact the Arts Office at 425-771-0228 or the museum at 425-774-0900.

The City Arts Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Edmonds Historical Museum, Edmonds Center for the Art, Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation and EdCC Conference Center are partnering on this project and we need your help in gathering our collective story for this part of downtown Edmonds.

Museum Docents

As always, we welcome new museum docents. What is a docent, you ask? A docent is a museum guide who welcomes visitors, tells them about the museum and answers any questions they might have. It's a great way to get involved and interact with your community.

Our docents are an integral part of our museum; without them we wouldn't be able to open our doors! We ask for a minimum of a three-hour commitment each month (one shift per month), but we guarantee you'll enjoy every minute of it!

For more details, please contact Caitlin at (425) 774-0900, or email us at edmondsmuseum118@gmail.com.

Public Kiosks

The museum recently received a Snohomish County Heritage Preservation Grant to purchase and implement two public kiosks at the museum. This will require a lot of time on our part and we'd love some volunteers to help with the process.

Needed:

- Computer-savvy people able to help build searchable databases of photos, library materials
- Donation of wood/lumber to build two kiosk stands
- Donation of time/equipment to film short informational video about the museum

Our next exhibit



Fwd: Historical Society eNewsletter now available

Help us do our part for the environment and have your newsletter emailed to you instead. You can also find archived newsletters in PDF format on our web site.

Just send an email to edmondsmuseum118@gmail.com with the word, NEWSLETTER" in the subject line and we'll add you to the list. It's that easy!



We would like to acknowledge the following donations and membership levels:

Donations received from:

Bob Campbell	John Osberg
Anne Hendricks	Windermere Real Estate

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Bob Aldrich	Dorothy P. Gross
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Robert and Claire Brine	Arthur and Suzanne Lowell
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	The Wooden Spoon

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Museum Open Hours:
Wednesday through Sunday,
1pm to 4pm

Market Saturday hours
(through Oct. 1)
10am to 2pm

SOURCES:

Edmonds Museum

History of Snohomish County, V. II, p.682

Family file: Brackett - assorted newspaper articles, research from Bothell Historical Museum

The Edmonds Tribune-Review

Obituary - 30 December 1927

Note: last paragraph is paraphrased from his obituary.

Ancestry.com

Marriage record for Daniel Brackett & Mary Conell

1861 Census Canada: Daniel Brackett, head

1871 Census Canada: Daniel Brackett, head

1871 Washington State Territorial Census - Whatcom, County, George Brackett

1880 Washington State Census - Centerville, Hat Island, Snohomish County; Ten Mile Beach Community

1885 Washington State Territorial Census - Snohomish County, George Brackett

1889 Washington State Territorial Census - Snohomish County, George Brackett

1900 Washington State Census - Edmonds
