



# NEWSLETTER

*The mission of the Mercer Island Historical Society is to collect, preserve, research, record, and make available the heritage of Mercer Island.*

Newsletter Editor: Pam Smith, [webmaster@mihistory.org](mailto:webmaster@mihistory.org)

Fall 2002 Newsletter

## PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

Our main purpose as a Historical Society is to preserve our records and make them available for others to easily access. With help from two grants that the historical society has received from the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission we have been able to further this mission.

The first grant for \$1000 is a Sustaining Support Program Grant to help support outreach programs we already have including but not limited to our newsletter and our website.

The second grant for \$5000 is for organization and preservation of our archives. We are using this money to receive professional help in preserving our photographs, articles, artifacts, and books so that they can be easily accessed, and so future generations can also enjoy them.

Our newest board member Jeff Hummel suggested we hire Marianne Gulliford, a third generation islander, as a consultant to help us with this task. Marianne is a graduate of Western Washington University's Anthropology Department. While at

Western, she studied Archaeology and worked as an intern at the Whatcom County Museum of History and Art.

This archive project consists of identifying all the documents, photos and artifacts, and the conversion of appropriate information to digital format to be accessible via the Mercer Island Historical Society's web page. The historical society is also purchasing software which will allow easy publication of this digital media to the web.

Our Archive Committee would like more help with this project. If you are able to help, please contact Ruth Fricke at 206-232-7422.



Marianne Gulliford, consultant

## Contact Us

Email: [info@mihistory.org](mailto:info@mihistory.org)

Web: [www.mihistory.org](http://www.mihistory.org)

Phone: 206-236-3274

## Announcement

Remember our next meeting is Monday September 16 at the Roanoke at 1:00! Bring a friend and a favorite story to share!

## Test your knowledge of MI History

Question: **Who was Mercer Island named after:**

- Thomas Mercer
- Asa Mercer
- Alla Mercer
- Aaron Mercer

Question: **Did any of the Mercer family live on Mercer Island?**

See the back of this newsletter for answers.

## Upcoming Meetings—Mark your Calendars!

**September 16, 2002—The Roanoke Inn @ 1:00 pm:**  
Please join the camaraderie of your fellow members, visit, and reminisce about old times on the Island. Have fun recalling events of the past. It should be an enjoyable time.

**October 21, 2002—Community Center @ 1:00 pm:**  
Aubrey Davis, past mayor and city councilman, will talk about our "Overwhelmed Transportation System".

**November 18, 2002—Community Center @ 1:00 pm:**  
Don Gulliford will speak about his experiences growing up in East Seattle in the 1940s. Don is a life-long resident of Mercer Island, and the son of the late Dennis and Doris Gulliford. His talk will consist of colorful anecdotes and interesting descriptions about the people and events of this phase of Mercer Island history.

***The Community Center is located at: 8236 SE 24th ST, Mercer Island  
The Roanoke Inn is located at: 1825 72nd SE, Mercer Island***



Mercer Island Historical Society  
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Mercer Island, WA 98040

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

Let us know your email address by sending it to  
[info@mihistory.org](mailto:info@mihistory.org)

## The Historical Society Committee's

We are looking for volunteers to help on these committee's.  
Please contact our office at 206-236-3274 or Phil Flash at 206-232-6187.

- **Archive Committee** - Preserves archives, photos and videos for permanent storage.
- **Filing Committee** - Files and organizes new acquisitions.
- **Finance Committee** - Works with the treasurer to develop a financial plan.
- **Fund Raising Committee** - Markets and sells Historical Society information such as the Mercer Island Heritage book.
- **Grant Committee** - Researches and writes grants for our historical projects.
- **Historical Marker Committee** - Research historic places on Mercer Island, solicit funds to pay for historic markers, then place markers on selected historical sites.
- **Hospitality Committee** - Provides refreshments and desserts for our monthly meetings.
- **Program Committee** - Plans and schedules programs for the monthly meetings.
- **Promotions Committee** - Ensures notification is made to members and the community of society events and programs. Sub-committee's include our newsletter, Mercer Island Reporter Liaison, and our phone tree.
- **Web Site Committee** - Develops content and publishes updates for the web site.

*The Mercer Island Historical Society is a volunteer organization.*

## Membership Reminder!

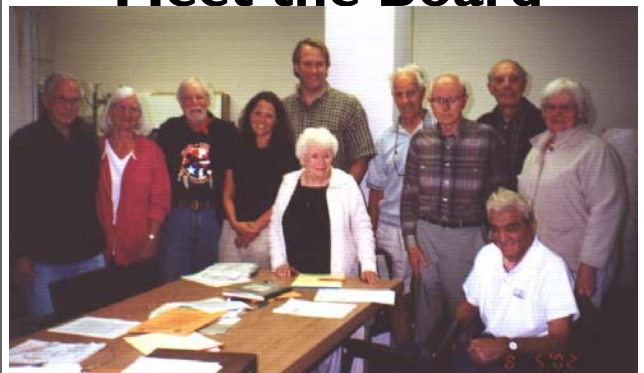
To keep our costs down, we do not send out bills for dues. We depend on our members to pay them at a meeting or mail them to Mercer Island Historical Society, PO Box 111, Mercer Island, WA 98040—Single: \$10 or Family: \$15

The dues pay for newsletters, mailings and office expenses. The Mercer Island Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. **Please pay your dues by September 1, 2002.** We need your support!

**Answer:** On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1854, Thomas Mercer hosted a great picnic on his lake property. At that time the group voted to name the island after him. They also named Lake Washington, Lake Union, and predicted a canal would connect Shilshole Bay (also named that day) with Lake Washington. 63 years later, the canal was opened.

**Answer:** Yes. Dorothy Russell Graham, grand-daughter of Aaron Mercer, lived on Mercer Island.

## Meet the Board



The Board of Directors pictured from the left (back row): Joe Joseph, Kisi Goode, Phil Flash, Marianne Gulliford (consultant), Jeff Hummel, Sam Lake, Dave Harris, Walt Rodgers, Ruth Fricke, (front row) Delores Erchinger, Ed Maloof. Not pictured: Bud Liebes and Pam Smith.