Seattle’s Mercer Girls:  
The Queen Anne Connection

From 1908 to 1926 a woman with an interesting past lived on Queen Anne hill at 100 Highland Drive. Her name was Elizabeth (Peebles) Macintosh. Why was she special? Elizabeth, you see, came to Seattle in 1866 with a group of young ladies known as the “Mercer Girls”.

These were not Hollywood actresses in “Here Come the Brides”, these were real people. Since 1993, Society member Peri Muhich has been getting to know the Mercer Girls through their individual stories.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2001, Peri will give us a glimpse into the life of Mrs. MacKintosh, one of Seattle’s pioneer women, and a Mercer Girl.

Join your friends and neighbors at our next public meeting  
Wed., Jan. 17th, 7:30 pm  
McClure Middle School Library  
First West and West Crockett

Peri Muhich moved to the Seattle area in 1987 from Alaska. Already a family genealogist and history buff, she immediately became interested in Seattle’s fascinating past. She first learned of the Mercer Girls while attending a class at the University of Washington. Wanting to know more about this group of women she combed the libraries of the area, only to be disappointed with her findings. In 1993 she began her quest to document the personal histories of these pioneer women.

The meeting is free and open to the public. It begins at 7:30 pm at McClure Middle School Library at 1915 1st Ave. W. on Queen Anne. For more information, contact John Hennes at 206-284-2266.

how to contact us:  
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The QAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by Federal law.

The Archives of the Society are located in Bayview Manor, 11 W. Aloha, Seattle, WA 98119

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Newsletter Editor, John Hennes, can be reached via email at: jhennes@nwnexus.com

Membership Notice

This mailing is going only to those who have renewed their dues for the 2000-2001 membership year. We thank our members for their vital support. If you would like to become a member or to renew an expired membership, you can use the coupon on p. 3.

For more information, contact our Membership Chair, Nadine

Calendar of

Program: Peri Muhich describes the life of one of the Mercer Girls. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free.
(See story, page 1.)

Program: Charles Payton on the role of local groups like the QAHS in the Seattle Sesquicentennial in 2001. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free.

Sat. April 21, 2001.
Walking Tour: Northeast QA Boulevard. Time 10:00 am.
(See story, page 1)

Program: Paul Dorpat will give one of his popular talks on photos of local scenes he has unearthed. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free.

Walking Tour: Our annual tour of historic Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Time 10:00 am.

It Happened ...in January

1/23/1853 —David Denny marries Louisa Boren.
1/26/1856 —Indians attack—Ross mill burned. Known as the “Battle of Seattle”.
1/20/1890 —First class at the new Queen Anne School (now West Queen Anne).
1/22/1906 —Passenger ship S.S. Valencia runs aground off Vancouver Island. The 117 dead are memorialized at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

Send your suggestions for future lists.

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Our Mission Statement

The Queen Anne Historical Society was formed to record and preserve, in permanent form, the history of the settling of the Queen Anne community and to develop within the community an appreciation and concern for its history and its historical sites.
New High School for Queen Anne

After 20 years, a new high school will once again serve the Queen Anne and Magnolia communities. Named “The Center School”, the new, small Seattle public high school will be located in the Center House (old armory) at Seattle Center. It opens fall of 2001 with a beginning enrollment of 150 students in the 9th and 10th grades and will have an emphasis on the arts.

Queen Anne High School closed in 1981. Grizzly grads should note, this is not a new Queen Anne High School. It is a small, arts-focused school available to students from Queen Anne and Magnolia, but open citywide.

The school began with massive discontent from local parents whose children could not get in any of their first three choices for high school, partly due to the fact that there is no school within the required distance from local homes. School assignment in Seattle is very complicated, but proximity is one of the criteria.

The Magnolia Queen Anne Public High School Task Force (MQAPHS) began pushing last year for a local school. The MQAPHS can be reached at www.orsites.com/wa/mqaphs.

The School District finally responded with the new school, strongly advocated by the Seattle Center management because of its natural tie-in with the arts organizations there. A new principal, Judy Peterson, has been chosen, with excellent credentials in both arts and schools. The school will grow to a four-year school with 300-500 students.

Meanwhile assignment policy is still an issue. Much of Magnolia will still be outside the proximity radius for The Center School. A local group, Parents Involved In Community Schools (PIICS), has a lawsuit against the district challenging their assignment process. They can be reached at www.piics.org.

HELP WANTED: Would you like to contribute to our community’s heritage preservation, and meet some nice people while you do it. Volunteer some of your spare time to the Historical Society. Search for certain historical records about Queen Anne; listen to and catalog some oral history tapes; help our archivist learn how to use the Mac computer; become one of our tour guide team; write stories for the Cobblestone or the QA News.

To volunteer, contact one of the officers on page 2, or give me a call at 285-0958.
January, 2001

In This Issue of the Queen Anne Cobblestone

The Jan. 17th Program Looks at Mercer Girls on Queen Anne

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Another local landmark bites the dust...literally. The March 26, 2000 implosion of the Kingdome made room for the new football stadium rapidly growing on the Seattle skyline. It also changed, again, the Seattle scene viewed from Queen Anne’s south slope. The view of downtown is ever changing.

THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER by Kim Turner

See the article on p.3 about the new high school to open at the Seattle Center next fall. This is the first major activity to reinstate a high school in the Queen Anne area. Your President, as a graduate of Queen Anne High School, thinks this is a positive step to rebuild that part of the community which has suffered greatly as a result of the closure of its high school in 1981. We will keep watching developments and hope for a positive result.

And a Happy New Millennium to all of you. We have great plans for 2001—walking tours, public meetings, and will try to keep you informed on what is next. See you at the Jan. 17th meeting at McClure.

Kim R. Turner, President, 2000-2001

Interested in becoming more involved with the Queen Anne Historical Society? Join the Board of Trustees! Call John Hennes at (206) 284-2266 for more details about how you can share in making and keeping Queen Anne’s history.