Points N.E. Historical Society
Browns Point ., Dash Point ., N.E. Tacoma
Located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park

Mailing Address:                             Telephone:  (253) 927-2536
6716 Eastside Drive NE                      Email: pointsnortheast@comcast.net
#1-135                                       Website: www.pointsnortheast.org
Browns Point, WA 98422                      Facebook: facebook.com/PointsNortheast

Fall 2018

Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas Tea

Sunday December 9, 2018
1 - 4 PM

The Light Keeper’s Cottage
201 Tulalip Street
Browns Point, Washington 98422
at the Browns Point Lighthouse Park

Holiday Refreshments         Free Admission

Points Northeast Historical Society  •  www.pointsnortheast.org
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
You can help support these projects by renewing your membership and recruiting new members. We sincerely thank you for your support.
See membership application on page 7

We’ve Got A lot Going On!

Kathy Martin paints the numbers on oil house

Busy Bees swarm the Generator House

Dave Noll works out

Meeker Bazara volunteers
Pischels pose with Oscar

Pat Patterson, VA service officer advises Dick Collins at the Veterans’ Breakfast

Linda Van Nest and Gene Grulich view Lighthouse plans

Summer Visitors

Bill Peterson views the Veterans’ Gallery

Tom Smith and his shadow painting the Generator Building

Workers taking measurements for replacing lantern
Many homes in the Browns Point/Dash Point area can boast of having cabinets made by Clair Cline of Browns Point. Cline was a carpenter and cabinet maker. He and his wife Anne raised four children on Le Lou Wa: Roger, Nancy, Francy and Virginia. Their living room was full of string instruments that the family played. On the wall in a display case was a very special one, indeed.

In 1944, Cline bailed out of the B-24 bomber that he was flying over Germany. He landed in Occupied Holland and was taken to a prison camp for captured Allied airmen.

Conditions were dismal and boredom was rampant. Cline wrote letters home to his wife and made models of B-24s. When he could not carve another model, he remembered the violin he had growing up in Minnesota and decided to make one.

He used slats from the beds and a pen knife that he obtained by trading cigarettes with the camp guards. A piece of broken glass came in handy for carving. He and other men scraped glue from chairs and tables.

In three months, the body was finished. He sanded the wood with pumice and polished it with paraffin oil. A guard came up with catgut for strings. One day, he was handed a bow.

He drew the bow across and his heart leaped as a pure resonant sound echoed through the air. His fellow prisoners clapped, sang and danced as he played “Red Wing”, “Home on the Range” and “Red River Valley”.

_Cline said his most memorable moment was Christmas Eve. As his companions brooded about home and families, he began playing “Silent Night”. A voice chimed in, then others. Amid the others, he heard a different language. “Stille Nacht .....” An elderly white-haired guard stood in the shadows, his eyes wet with tears._

The following May, Cline was liberated and returned home. At the war’s end, his violin was part of a POW Life exhibition that toured the country. It was viewed by over four million Americans. The violin was played at many venues.

In 1996, Cline was invited to contribute the violin to the World War ll Museum aboard the aircraft carrier Intrepid in New York. He was told that the Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic would play it at the Museum’s opening. The Concertmaster called him afterwards and said that “he had expected a jalopy of a violin”. “Instead it was something looking very good and sounding quite wonderful. It was an amazing achievement”.

Cline made about a dozen more violins, three basses and two violas as a hobby. His son Roger and a grandson and granddaughter all play for national symphonies.

He passed away in 2010 survived by his wife, four children and six grandchildren. His wife Anne recently passed away.

_Editor’s Note:_
_You can view a movie about this historical event by going to the YouTube channel, and searching ‘Instrument of War.’ Produced by BYU, it’s a great story with experienced actors. It was originally released at Christmas last year._

_Son Roger Cline stopped by the PNEHS History Center for a chat this summer as the family was in Browns Point for private service for their mother._
The U.S. government purchased 7.21 Acres for a lighthouse in 1900. There were existing shacks (small buildings south of where the cottage sits). These two bits of knowledge are not in the log books, but do serve as an introduction to the log books. Following are some of the necessities of comfortable living we take for granted today which Oscar and Annie finally got after many years of living here. Oscar’s log books include much more than you see here. I have picked out only the items that document the other buildings and amenities as they were added throughout the years.

Mavis Stears, curator

**Important Dates for Browns Point Light Station**

taken from Oscar Brown’s log books

**1903:**
Oct 26: Oscar and Annie arrive at Browns Point
Nov 2: “Heather” brings Brown’s furniture
Nov 8: piano was brought in from the beach
Early months: repaired buildings on site etc.

**1904:**
Oct: Cleaned water tank  (*this is probably the tank on stilts in the back yard for rain water*)

**1905:**
Feb: Boathouse built
Mar: track rails for boat set
Apr: Mrs. Brown (mother) came to live
May: put out boat track
Sept: worked on boat cart

**1907:**
Jan: Oil house framed
June: made boat cradle
Aug: razed old Oil house  (*this was one of the original buildings on the property*)

**1908:**
Feb: cistern?
June: painted water tank  (*this is probably the tank on stilts in the back yard for rain water*)

**1911:**
Jan: furnace repairs  
( so we know their heat came from a furnace and probably kitchen stove also.)
June: water tank? Worked on water pump at spring.

(we have known from other sources that he tapped a spring on his arrival to the Point).

**1913:**
Sept: painted Oil house
Oct: painted barn and shed  (shacks on site when he came)
Jan: water in cellar, highest tide in 10 years
1914:
July: Forest fire near Caledonia
Sept: repaired kitchen pump *(So we know they had water in the kitchen. Bathroom—we don’t know)*
Nov: dug well

1915:
May: New Road: *(probably only at Browns Point) --not Eastside drive*
Aug: made cover for well, began pumping from new well

1917:
Jan: pipes frozen, packed water pipes
Nov: work begun on power house *(this probably is the bell house?), dig for septic tank, plumbing in cellar
Dec: work begun – plumbing and drains *(this was probably when the bathroom was plumbed)*
Digging trenches and plumbing, concrete sidewalks to Boathouse and Well house

1918:
Mar: work on water pipes
July: side walk to tower
Aug: leveled ground where old earthen closet stood?

1922:
Feb: Got #’d mail boxes
Sept. Power Co. set poles
Oct.19’ Lights on in dwelling, trench to Lighthouse
Dec 1: 1922 changed light to electricity
Dec 8: 1922 bell gear completed and operational with electricity

1923:
Jan 6: Slide on new road blocks traffic (Marine View Drive), water in cellar (basement)
Welcome to our new business member!

Saint Matthew Episcopal Church
6800 Eastside Drive NE
Browns Point, WA 98422
PH: 253 927 9808
www.neighborhoodparish.org
Office email:
office@stmatthew.comcastbiz.net
Fr. Kendall Haynes
fatherkendall@gmail.com
Sunday services:
8 am and 10 am
A Church for all People

The Browns Point Diner
in the Browns Point Shopping Center
Shane and Tanja Leek
Open 7 days a week
Get Stranded in the Sandbar!
253 952-3743
Dine-in or Take Out
View our historic PNEHS photos display

Your Ad Could Be Here!
Join PNEHS as a Business Member
And Get Exposure!
Contact our Membership Chair
253 370 4683

The Browns Point Diner in the Browns Point Shopping Center Shane and Tanja Leek Open 7 days a week Get Stranded in the Sandbar! 253 952-3743 Dine-in or Take Out View our historic PNEHS photos display
PNEHS  Board of Directors 2018 –2019

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Jim Harnish 253 9276019

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Cottage Scheduler Julie Perkins 253 927 2536
Assistant Curator Pam Halsan 253 219 3439
PNEHS Message Phone 253 927 2536

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

Points Northeast Historical Society
Browns Point, Dash Point and NE Tacoma
Membership and Volunteer Opportunities

Memberships

New ______ Renewal ______

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Points Northeast Historical Society appreciates your support in helping to preserve, promote and celebrate the history of Browns Point, Dash Point and Northeast Tacoma.

Please return this form to:

Points Northeast Historical Society
6716 Eastside Drive #1-135
Browns Point WA 98422

253-927-2536 www.pointsnortheast.org
Email: pointsnortheast@comcast.net

Name(s) _______________________
Address ______________________
City ________State____Zip ______
Phone ( ) ____________________
E-mail ______________________
Points Northeast Historical Society  
6716 Eastside Drive NE #1-135  
Browns Point, WA 98422  

The BPIC Parking lot will be available for parking during our Christmas Tea!

THE PARK IS NOW OPEN!  
After a very dusty and construction-filled summer, the Park opened in early Fall. It still needs signs and benches and tables but its open for recreation! If you haven’t been down yet, be sure to visit. We have great ADA sidewalks and a paved parking lot. It sure is pretty! Sat. afternoon tours had to be cancelled but we were able to open during the Salmon Bake and had the most visitors ever—a whopping 1200!

PNEHS ANNUAL MEETING  
February 19, 2019  
7 pm  
St Matthew Church  
Browns Point  

Elections and Special Speaker  
Our Special Speaker will be Nick K. Adams. He is an author, storyteller/historian.  

Save the Date on your new 2019 calendar!