

A little history

In 1880, the story goes; George Brackett was rowing along the shoreline from Seattle, looking for possible logging sites. He was blown ashore, near Edmunds Point, now Edwards Point.

Having grown up in his family's logging business, he recognized a good a timber site when he saw one, and on his return to Seattle purchased 544 acres of prime forested hillside. He quickly started a shingle mill and competition followed Brackett's lead. Soon the cityscape was dominated by shingle mills. In short order industrial, commercial and residential areas grew and evolved into the current Main Street.



View from school house - 1895



Waterfront shingle mills - 1909

Brackett became the first post master, started the petition to incorporate in 1890 and was elected its first mayor. In 1891, the Great Northern Railway came through and the early settlers along with investors grew hopeful that Edmonds would prosper. The Panic of 1893 caused business setbacks and various owners were foreclosed and properties forced to sell at a loss. Brackett and several others of the original settlers were able to repurchase some of their original properties. This core group continued to develop Edmonds' infrastructure and maintain business connections by encouraging regular passenger ferry service from Edmonds to Seattle and other locations.

George Brackett died in 1927 and is interred at Memorial Cemetery.

Over the next several decades, Edmonds drifted into being a bedroom community as Route 99 and Interstate 5 bypassed Edmonds. Retail business moved away as shopping centers and malls developed and offered greater variety and convenience. People largely passed through Edmonds to catch the ferry to the Olympic peninsula.

With the economic growth of the past ten or so years, Edmonds has dedicated itself to becoming a destination point. It has done this through residential expansion, encouraging commercial growth, and becoming a cultural center for people involved with art, music, writing, theatre and related cultural events and activities.

The Alliance of Citizens for Edmonds – ACE – is a group of concerned citizens who actively participate in the processes that are shaping this city's future, as well as looking for ways of keeping a sense of its origins. ACE, along other civic groups, works to exchange ideas and information that helps promote the growth and development of Edmonds as a destination for others to play, relax and enjoy. All the while, pursuing and strengthening the quality of the Edmonds community that George Brackett started.

Photos from: http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8542