

Issue 1 2009

Kirkman

HOUSE MUSEUM News

Board charts new course to ensure museum's future



Thirty years ago, during a wave of urban renewal that threatened historic structures throughout our valley, the Kirkman House was saved from destruction by the Historical Architecture Development Corporation (HAD). Though HAD considered restoring the badly damaged home to use as office space, they decided instead to convert it into a house museum that could serve the whole community as a tool for lifelong learning. In these lean economic times, as cultural institutions across the country face a different type of threat, the Kirkman House

Museum's board of directors has renewed their commitment to protecting the museum's legacy by adopting new development and business plans. These plans set specific, ambitious, long- and short-term goals for fundraising, restoration, landscaping and expanded classes, exhibits and events.

The Kirkman House is our town's only house museum, drawing children and adults from our community, region, and around the world for engaging opportunities to learn about 19th century Walla Walla. We appreciate your ongoing support, and ask for your partnership in our new (and did we mention ambitious?) plans to help preserve this unique cultural legacy for future generations.

Sweet Home Walla Walla: an historic parlor tour

Sunday April 19, 2008 12:30pm to 4:30pm

The Kirkman House Museum will celebrate its 30th year with an historic homes tour on April 19th. Over the past two decades several Walla Wallans have carefully restored their homes' historic beauty, while ensuring the structures could accommodate a modern family lifestyle. Sweet Home Walla Walla provides a glimpse into a few of these homes.

The self-guided tour includes six privately owned dwellings dating to the early 20th century. Guests on the tour will receive a tour brochure and guide containing architectural and historical information. Docents will be stationed at each home to answer questions.

Advance tickets can be purchased for \$20.00 at the museum, Gary's Paint & Decorating and Earthlight Books. \$15.00 tickets are available at the Kirkman House to museum members. Tickets will also be on sale on April 19th for \$25.00. Please check our website for updates on the tour, as well as opportunities for homeowners, volunteers and sponsors.



2009 Board of Directors

Sally Kearsley, Board President
 Linda Kastning, Past President
 Donna Gardner, Vice-President
 Susan Roberts, Treasurer
 Pam Myers, Secretary
 Wendy Cheng
 Cheryl Cockerline
 Sue Gillespie
 Carolyn Priest
 Jennifer Rickard
 Rick Tuttle

Executive Director

Kirsten R. Schober

Assistant Director

Greer Buchanan

Textile Center Volunteers

Mary Jane Fehrenbacher
 Peggy Hoyt
 Tam Lennox
 Sharon Newbrey
 Susan Swayne

Winter 2008**Museum Volunteers**

Ryan Campeau
 Bev Filla
 Ken & Judy Jurgensen
 Andrea Stout

Special thanks to...

The **George T. Welch** fund for a grant to replace the carriage house roof.

Banner Bank and Blue Mountain Sheep Producers for sponsoring the 2008 Sheep to Shawl.

Baker Boyer Bank for sponsoring the 2008 Victorian Christmas Jubilee, and **Bachtold's Christmas Trees & Kmart** for donating our holiday tree & garland.

Marc Blanc Lawn Sprinklers for a new automatic timer for the museum's sprinkler system and donated irrigation services.

KIRKMAN NEWS BRIEFS

Kirkman family circa 1890



Side porch after restoration work

KHM restores side porch with assistance from state preservation organization

The Kirkman House Museum recently received a \$1,500 grant from the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. Administered by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, this annual grant provides funding to organizations involved in historic preservation around our state. The fund was established in honor of Valerie Sivinski, a Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer who was killed in October 2000 while performing preservation-related work.

Along with a grant from the local Art & Clara Bald Trust, the funding was used to restore the Kirkman House's side porch to its original condition and appearance. The porch was part of an addition to the house done by the Kirkman family around 1890.

Board welcomes new members

The Kirkman House board of directors recently elected two new members to two year terms. Cheryl Cockerline, retired Walla Walla Public School Teacher and former owner of Bunchgrass Winery; and Carolyn Priest retired chemist and local historical preservationist were named to the board during the annual meeting in December. "These new board members are strongly connected to education and history. They are great additions to our board and I look forward to working with them," said Sally Kearsley, current board president.

The board also recognizes outgoing board members, Jill Zagelow and Sandi Burt for their outstanding two years of service.

Meet our new Assistant Director

On February 2, Greer Garske Buchanan joined the staff of the Kirkman House Museum as the Assistant Director, a position made possible through a generous grant from the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust. "We are delighted to have Greer join the staff and know she will be a tremendous asset to the museum" said Executive Director Kirsten Schober. Buchanan will focus on building a vibrant volunteer contingent to support expanding programs at the museum.

A Walla Walla native, Buchanan spent two years at American University in Washington, DC, then transferred to the University of Washington in Seattle where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Art History. She spent the past two years working for a prominent art gallery in Seattle's historic Pioneer Square.

Buchanan credits her connection with art, culture and history to her parents' influence and guidance; both have dedicated immeasurable efforts to enhancing the Walla Walla community. With the Kirkman House Museum as an ideal venue, Buchanan hopes to highlight the impact of Victorian traditions on our daily lives, help preserve Walla Walla's dynamic heritage and foster progressive cultural awareness.



Laura Mulcahy's story

One of the more satisfying aspects of working at the Kirkman House has been the opportunity to watch as people connect with their individual heritage. Two years ago Laura Mulcahy contacted the Kirkman House in an attempt to find out more about the Kirkman side of her family. Her grandmother had lost her parents as a child and then lost contact with her mother's side as she grew to adulthood. Laura's journey to reconnect has been a fascinating and rewarding one for the museum. We hope you enjoy her story as we have.

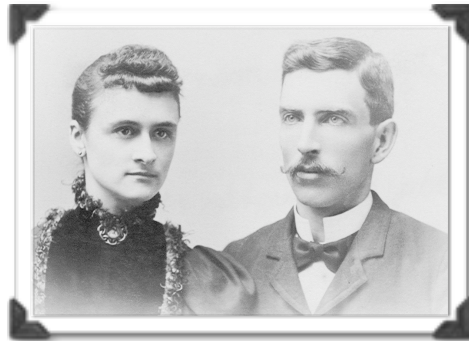
~ Kirsten

As a tree has many branches, so does the family tree of William and Isabelle Kirkman

With the help of the Kirkman House Museum and Kirsten, I was able to search the branch of my great great grandfather, John Kirkman and his wife Anne. John is one of the brothers of William Kirkman.

My intent was to find a photograph of my great grandmother and my great grandfather, who were killed in the 1910 Wellington Avalanche. Their names were Ada Kirkman Lemman and her husband Edgar Lemman. Ada was the daughter of John & Anne Kirkman. The search of this photo has led me on a wonderful journey.

My husband and I had the pleasure of meeting Betty (nee Kirkman) Jacobs and her family and Jim (Kirkman) and Elsie Reynolds. What wonderful family members! Besides meeting a new family, the most exciting thing was about to happen.



Looking through old photos with Jim, we came across a photo of a man and woman, where, on the back of the photo were the names, "Mr. & Mrs. Lemman". Oh my gosh, there they were, my great grandma Ada and great grandpa Edgar. After years of searching, I finally got to see them with my own eyes. Adding to this, as we continued looking through the box of pictures we came across another photo



of my great Aunt Maud, the sister of Ada, who had married Dr. Barnett. My good fortune did not stop there; while visiting Fort Walla Walla I purchased a book about the early years of Walla Walla. Days later, while reading this book, I found a photograph of John Kirkman, my great great grandfather; he had been a city councilman in 1903 for Walla Walla.

With warm memories we return home, happy with our thoughts of meeting new family members and finally seeing the John Kirkman branch of my family tree.

~ Laura Mulcahy

2009 Schedule

Exhibits

Permanent Exhibit

The Kirkman House Museum offers year-round interpretive tours of William & Isabella Kirkman's home, focusing on the elements that influenced home life in late 19th century Walla Walla.

Programs

Sweet Home Walla Walla

April 19

A tour of 6 historic home exploring the evolution of domestic architecture over 130 years and the role of the American home in both containing and shaping social interaction.

Hands on History Summer Program

June - August

Providing elementary school age children with the opportunity to explore Kirkman House collections and Victorian era activities throughout the summer vacation.

Wild Walla Walla Spin Ins

April-November

Join the Textile Center and Wild Walla Walla Women on the first Sunday of the month for an afternoon of spinning. Great for novices and skilled spinners alike.

Events

Sheep to Shawl

October 3

The museum's fall festival focusing on our local sheep industry and textiles artists. The day is filled with shearing, spinning and weaving demonstrations.

Victorian Christmas Jubilee

December 5

The Kirkman House Museum annual holiday open house. Come enjoy Christmas cheer before the Macy's Parade of Lights.

Get on the Kirkman House enews list!

Get updates on museum activities by subscribing to our monthly enewsletter. Go to the KHM homepage at www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org and enter your email on the Join Our Email List link.

Visit the museum website (www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org) for a link to more information on the Wellington Avalanche.

Historic Architecture Development, Inc.
DBA Kirkman House Museum
214 N. Colville
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Non-Profit
US Postage

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WALLA WALLA WA 99362
PERMIT NO. 197

The Kirkman House Museum is committed to preserving our past and providing a setting for understanding our local history. There are many ways you can help; your support is what makes great things happen at the Kirkman House!

Become a Museum Member

Members' benefits include a subscription to the museum's newsletter; discounts on program and class fees, and invitations to "Members Only" events. Your membership dues help pay for special exhibits and programs at the museum that enhance the cultural spirit of our community.

Join the Bricks and Mortar Society

These generous members commit to donating \$200 a year for three years to ensure that preservation work at the museum continues.

Include the Kirkman House Museum in your planned giving

From its origin as a museum 1978, the Kirkman House has preserved an important piece of Walla Walla's architectural and cultural heritage. Today, the museum continues to provide education about daily family life in Victorian-era Walla Walla. A gift to the Kirkman House Museum's endowment fund is an investment in the cultural heritage of our valley for future generations.

Support the annual fund

Contributions to the museum's annual fund provide important support for the care and maintenance of the museum, the conservation of our collections and our ability to continue providing dynamic programming.

Donate in-kind items or services

Contributions of material goods or professional services help reduce the operating costs of the museum.

Volunteer

Whether leading tours, assisting with collection management and exhibits, or helping at our special events our volunteers are invaluable to the museum's successful operations.



KIRKMAN HOUSE MISSION

The Kirkman House Museum enriches the Walla Walla community with exhibits, events and programs that bring our valley's history to life.

MUSEUM MEMBER BENEFITS

- ☐ Annual Subscription to the Kirkman House Museum Newsletter
- ☐ Discounted admission to the museum's community programs
- ☐ Advance notice for Kirkman House programs
- ☐ Invitation to "Members Only" events
- ☐ Tax deduction on dues
- ☐ Knowledge that you are helping to save the Kirkman House for future generations

2009 KIRKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

☐ I would prefer not to have my name listed in museum publications.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Students/ Seniors (\$15) ☐ Individual (\$25) ☐ Family (\$50)

☐ Friend (\$250) ☐ Donor (\$500) ☐ Patron (\$1,000+)

☐ Bricks & Mortar Society (\$200 commitment per year for three years)

In addition to my membership, I am enclosing a gift of \$_____ to help:

Credit Card #: _____

☐ Visa, ☐ MC, Exp. Date: _____ Total amount enclosed: \$_____

Please return this form with your check payable to: **Kirkman House Museum**

Mail to: Kirkman House Museum 214 N. Colville Walla Walla, WA 99362