

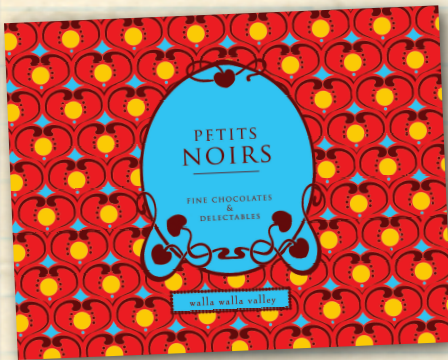
Spring 2008

Kirkman

HOUSE MUSEUM News

Kirkman House Museum Welcomes Specialty Chocolatier

Throughout its new salon series, the Kirkman House has explored various aspects of the Victorian era; from trends and obsessions to technological innovations. This month we are pleased to welcome Lan Wong, owner of Petits Noirs, a local boutique chocolatier. Wong will share her knowledge of specialty chocolate making & appropriate pairings with coffees & teas.



The history of chocolate is quite complex. European contact with this exotic Mesoamerican import first came after the conquest of Mexico in the 16th century. Spaniard conquistadors quickly recognized the value attached to the cacao plant by native cultures, who often used its seeds as currency. Seeds were shipped back to Europe where the chocolate beverage gained status as an elite beverage. With the onset of the industrial revolution in the early 19th century, mass production techniques and lower import taxes made chocolate more affordable and brought the savory treat into the mainstream."

The May 18th Salon, Chocolate & Coffee Pairings, will feature a sampling of confectionary art hearkening back to a time when chocolate was a luxury available to few. Wong will share her chocolates spiced with lavender, cassis and cardamom, all paired with coffees from Walla Walla Roastery and teas that are chosen to bring out the flavors of the cacao bean. The cost is \$30 for the two hour program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Museum members receive a \$5 discount on tickets. Space is limited; please call the museum at 529-4373 to make reservations.

Petits Noirs can be found at: 622 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater, (541) 938.7118 Web site: www.petitsnoirs.com



Hands on History Summer Program

This summer, the Kirkman House is offering a new children's program designed to make history and museums more accessible to young children and their families. Hands on History will engage children ages 5-10 in experiential activities on Wednesday mornings from 9 am -12 pm from June 25 – Aug 20, 2008. Learn about Victorian-era Walla Walla while making homemade ice cream, the wool industry while dying and spinning wool, and the history of leisure while enjoying Victorian pastimes. Participants must be accompanied by an adult and pre-register through the City of Walla Walla Parks & Recreation, by contacting 509.527.4527 or recreation@ci-walla-walla.wa.us.



The museum could use your help! We need volunteer program aides for the Hands on History program. Volunteer every Wednesday during the summer, or participate in select classes that work with your schedule. Volunteers must enjoy working with children and be prepared for the class session they have signed up for. We are willing to work with high school and college students to complete their community service hours or volunteer requirements. Contact Mikaelyn at 509-529-4373 or by email at mikaelyns@kirkmanhousemuseum.org.

The Kirkman House Museum appreciates the support of the Yancey P. Winans Trust in sponsoring Hands on History.

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KIRKMAN NEWS BRIEFS**Chamber Music Festival Open Rehearsal at the Museum**

The strains of this music will pour forth from the Kirkman House Museum when Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival musicians rehearse the Debussy Violin Sonata on June 20th. The Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival will bring live musical performances, and all that goes into their creation, to downtown Walla Walla from June 9th - June 29th. As effortless as a great musical performance might seem, the work in advance of it is fraught with creative tensions and the open rehearsals provide an intriguing & rare glimpse into the collaboration amongst musicians who have spent years developing their individual talents. More information about the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival can be found at www.wwcmmf.org.

Local Museums Team Up for Fall Exhibit

The Kirkman House and Fort Walla Walla Museum will open Cover to Coverlet, a joint exhibit, on August 27th. The exhibit will feature historic quilts and coverlets, with Fort Walla Walla Museum showcasing pieces from its extensive historic quilt collection. The Kirkman House will exhibit historic coverlets, including two from the museum's collection. The exhibit runs through October 5th and will serve as a complement to the 9th Annual Walla Walla Valley Quilt Festival opening on September 16th. Information about the quilt festival can be found at www.wallawallaquiltfestival.org.



See you at Sheep to Shawl

From the Director

The Kirkman House recently received several gifts to help restore the museum. A grant for \$1,500 was awarded by the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. The fund, administered by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, is an annual grant program that provides "small yet meaningful amounts of money to help promote historic preservation where it really happens - at the community level." 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.

The Art & Clara Bald Trust continued its support of the museum's work, awarding a grant for further restoration. The trust's previous grants have helped the museum replace a crumbling retaining wall and install proper storage for our collection of textiles. Gary's Paint & Decorating came to the museum's aid by donating paint and supplies so that the museum could complete its renovations to the office and collection processing rooms.

The gift that stood out to me most this year came from a favorite member who passed away last winter. Benjamin Flathers, always a most welcome guest at the museum, ensured we could continue to work on projects he found important by remembering the museum in his will. While I would cherish another visit with Mr. Flathers, his thoughtful foresight on behalf of the Kirkman House is truly appreciated.

Gifts from both individuals and organizations are gratifying and go a long way toward helping us preserve the Kirkman home and provide insight into how and why this community developed into the flourishing town we enjoy today. Heritage preservation is an important task and one that can only be accomplished through combined efforts. Thank you for your support!

~kirsten



Help Out and Have Fun

MUSEUM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Love the Museum? Volunteer

As many of our long-time members know, the Kirkman House would not exist if it weren't for the dedication of our volunteers. The museum is fortunate to have volunteers who take on a once a month project and continue to serve several hours a month for five, ten, or even twenty years. Many of our current volunteers are active retirees who have a passion for history and local culture. Now, as many of these dedicated folks wish to move on to their second or third retirement, we are looking to swell the ranks of new volunteers.

As you volunteer at the museum, you learn about Walla Walla's past and share your knowledge while greeting visitors to our Valley from all over the country. We currently have several opportunities to get involved. In addition to those listed here, volunteers are needed to serve on many planning committees, such as Gardening and Textile Center Committees. For further information on any of these opportunities, please contact Mikaelyn at mikaelyns@kirkmanhousemuseum.org or call 509.529.4373.

Hands on History Summer Program Aides

We are currently looking for volunteer program aides to help with activities for our summer program. Aides are needed Wednesdays from 8 am - 1 pm beginning June 25th. Program aides should enjoy working with children and be interested in learning

about the Victorian era through fun and educational activities.

Garden Stewards

If you like to get your hands dirty and would enjoy working on plans for a beautiful historic garden, then we need you for maintenance and development of our grounds. In addition to garden work, we have openings available on our Garden Committee and we are searching for avid gardeners who are up for the challenge of creating a historic garden in the 21st century. In addition, committee members are requested to volunteer at least three hours a month to maintain the garden beds surrounding the house and the Dyer's Garden.

Kirkman House Docents

Docents, or tour guides, provide entertaining and educational tours to visitors year-round. Docents learn about the Kirkman family and house, as well as Walla Walla's history, from 1870's to the present. We offer our visitors an opportunity to step back in time and experience daily home life during those eras. We welcome tour guides to dress for the occasion as historic figures, or in Victorian styled clothing. Docents are provided with training, and a minimum of 6 hours a month is asked of them in return. Peak tour hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm and Sunday 1 - 4 pm.

Textile Center Guides

Located next door to the main museum, the Textile Center houses a

few varieties of looms and spinning equipment. The center educates guests about textiles from medieval times up to the present. Volunteers learn about processing wool and flax, spinning, weaving and dying with plants. We are looking for individuals with knowledge of textile arts, such as quilting, tatting, embroidery, or felting. The Textile Center is currently open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 - 4pm. Guides can provide demonstrations and instruct classes on various topics about textiles.



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W.G. Kirkman's English Roots: New Views and a Deepened Perspective

Charles Harley

~Continued from last issue

In February 1857, this particular friend was with Kirkman prospecting for gold in Columbia County, California. In October 1857, he and Kirkman went to a photographer in San Francisco to sit for portraits: "Friend Haslam & me were taken together." In March 1858 Kirkman writes from Australia, where he is smarting over his failure in the gold field of Heathcote Melvor, in the state of Victoria, that Haslam, also Down Under, is "well and working at the tinkering business." At last report, chum Haslam is about to return to California to start a cider business, his intended partner in the venture to be Kirkman's former partner in the recently abandoned quest for Antipodean gold.

Another place with a Kirkman connection marked on the tithe map is the Christ Church Wesleyan Methodist chapel school, the "old Methodist school," as Kirkman calls the establishment.

"For I could tell you how deeply I have felt my lack of information... though in form I had a common school experience..." Kirkman wrote to his parents, adding scathingly, "God save my brother from a similar one."



Finally, from the archive of Ramsbottom Heritage Society, comes an undated photograph (above) of the ruins of the Grant Brothers' great calico print factory known as The Square, following its construction in 1821 rated among the wonders of industrial England.

"I feel sorry that you should have been so long working short time," Kirkman wrote to his father from the gold field of California, 1855. "Well, the loom is good in its place, I suppose, but I don't want to have to do with it and another thing is I never will so long as there exists either [California or Australia]." He further remarked that he would "rather dig a day than go to see Kirkman up in corner" - i.e., find his father idled by lack of work at the mill - "as I used to some times."

The younger Kirkman clearly regarded employment at the The Square as little better than voluntary servitude. If, on revisiting that scene of the Grants' industrial fiefdom, he cracked a smile, it surely was in acknowledgement of the life there he had so successfully escaped.

Our new web site will have the complete article and more photos.



Part of the 1842 tithe map of Tottington Lower End overlaid over a satellite photo of Ramsbottom, Lancashire. The James Kirkman family cottage was one of those built in a row indicated by a horizontal bar in the lower left. The red arrow points to the doorstep remains that is thought to be the Kirkmans.

2008 Schedule

Exhibits

Cover to Coverlet

August 27-October 26, 2008

A look at historical coverlets, examining the technical and artistic aspects of these American heirlooms.

Programs

Children's Hands on History

Summer Program

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

- 6/25 - Ice Cream Social
- 7/2 - Marbles & Games
- 7/9 - Drop Spindle spinning/card weaving
- 7/16 - Beatrix Potter Day with Science Walk
- 7/23 - Kool Aid Dying
- 7/30 - Victorian Pastimes
- 8/6 - Felting
- 8/13 - Marbles & Games
- 8/20 - Farewell to our summer friends

Events

Sheep to Shawl

October 4, 2008

A day long look at the sheep industry with shearing, spinning and weaving demonstrations.

Victorian Christmas Jubilee

December 6, 2008

The Kirkman House Museum annual holiday open house.



The doorway to what may have been William Kirkman's boyhood home in Tottington Lower End. The U.K. censuses for 1841 and 1851 record young William's presence in the community. He may well have lived there from birth, in 1831.

Photograph by Barry Aldous, 2007.

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www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org

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 on 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 the 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

To enrich the cultural heritage of Walla Walla by preserving the Kirkman Family home, sharing its history, and educating our community and visitors about domestic life in Victorian-era Walla Walla.

Membership Benefits

- ☐ Free admission to the Museum
- ☐ Kirkman House Museum Newsletter
- ☐ Advance notice for Kirkman House programs
- ☐ Invitation to "Members Only" events
- ☐ Recognition in the Kirkman House News
- ☐ Tax deduction on dues
- ☐ Knowledge that you are helping to save the Kirkman House for future generations

2008 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+)

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**

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