In August of 2007 Walla Walla’s two heritage institutions, Kirkman House Museum and Fort Walla Walla Museum, began talking about ways in which the two museums could partner on projects that benefit our community. The two museums open our first joint exhibit on August 27th.

Cover to Coverlet will showcase the development of quilt and coverlet artistry over a span of 200 years. Fort Walla Walla Museum will feature quilts and coverlets from the museum’s collections, and the Kirkman House Museum will display historic coverlets belonging to both the museum and regional collectors. Textile artists will recreate a traditional coverlet on the Kirkman House draw loom.

Working together, the museums secured a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The nearly six-week exhibit will coincide with other fall events at both museums: Fort Walla Walla Museum’s Women’s History Celebration on August 30th, their September 20th-21st Fall Harvest Festival/German Heritage Day, and the Kirkman House Museum October 4th Sheep to Shawl. The Walla Walla Valley Quilt Festival, September 19th-21st, will also occur during the exhibit. See our Calendar of Events (page 3) for seminars and special activities associated with the exhibit.

Join us for Sheep to Shawl 2008

The Kirkman House’s popular fall festival will take place on October 4th. Visit the museum between 11 am and 3 pm to see sheep shorn, participate in demonstrations of carding, dyeing, spinning and weaving wool, and view local vendors’ handmade woolen crafts. Sheep to Shawl is a family event that is free and open to the public.

In conjunction with our Cover to Coverlet exhibit, Kirkman House Museum Textile Center artists will demonstrate how to remove a woven coverlet from the loom beginning at 1 pm.

Each year, the museum holds a drawing for a hand-dyed and -spun woolen product, made from the wool shorn during the previous Sheep to Shawl. The funds generated from the drawing donations help pay for museum programs. This year’s drawing is for a green and gold scarf knitted by Susan Swayne. Suggested donations for the drawing tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5. Tickets are available at the Kirkman House Museum or from local vendors at Farmer’s Market.
KHM receives conservation bookshelf
Treasured objects and artifacts held by the Kirkman House Museum will be preserved for future generations with help from the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of conservation books, DVDs, and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal funding of the nation’s museums and libraries.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, a conservation initiative that the institute launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study by the conservation institute Heritage Preservation documenting the dire state of the nation’s collections. The multi-faceted, multi-year initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America’s collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections.

State preservation organization provides funding for museum’s preservation work
The Kirkman House Museum recently received a $1,500 grant from the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund. The fund, administered by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, is an annual grant program that provides up to $2,000 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. The funding will help the museum restore the side porch to its original condition and appearance.

Take a few minutes to help us plan for our future.
Over the past few years, we’ve been working hard to expand and improve our classes, events, exhibits and restoration projects. By filling out the survey included in this newsletter, you can help us identify our strengths and challenges, and continue our efforts to bring the museum to life for current and future community members.

The survey is one of the earliest steps in a comprehensive planning process we’ve just started, thanks to a generous grant from the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust. With the guidance of consultant Jan McGowan from Sisters, Oregon, we’ll be completing new development, strategic and business plans by March, 2009. Please help us get off to a good start by completing the survey, and returning it in the enclosed, pre-addressed envelope.

Special thanks to....
Eric Von Bargen and Mark Lanning for helping the museum dispose of the three trees that were downed during the January 4th storm.
KDiamond for donating bark for the garden beds in front of the house.
Narum Construction and Konkrete Industries for donating services and goods to our retaining wall project.
Museum member Lavonne Reser for donating new water lines to the Kirkman House Museum service kitchen.
New summer program makes history education fun

The Kirkman House Museum launched a new program for children this summer. Hands on History began educating school-aged children about Walla Walla Valley history and 19th century family life on June 25th.

Throughout the nine week program, participants made and enjoyed home-made ice cream, learned about marbles from local resident and marble enthusiast Charles Meyer, played lawn games, and created fiber arts projects. “We made our own marbles,” chanted a group of children on their way home after one session. Each week children were able to take home something they had created.

Support for this program was provided by Abajian Motors, Yancey P. Winans Trust, Sterling Savings Bank, Bi-Mart, Walmart, Book & Game Company, Inland Octopus, Super I Foods, and Dairy Queen. Thanks to the contributions of these community members and our volunteers, the museum was able to make the program affordable and accessible to local families. Keep reading our newsletters for updates on next year’s activities!

Calendar of events

Cover to Coverlet
August 27th-October 5th

Cover to Coverlet
Opening reception & behind the scenes tour
September 5th
5 pm - 8 pm

Cover to Coverlet
Overshot drafting seminar
September 21st

Textile Center artists demonstrate how to make a draft pattern for a coverlet

Cover to Coverlet
Weaving seminar
September 28th

Textile Center artists demonstrate threading a loom for weaving

Sheep to Shawl
October 4th
11:30 am to 3:00 pm
The Kirkman House Museum’s annual fall festival

Whispered Memories Tea
November 1st

Victorian Christmas Jubilee
December 6th
2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
The Kirkman House Museum’s annual holiday open house
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.

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**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

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**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+)
- □ 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