

# KIRKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM

## Year in Review



Cover art by Rick Tuttle

A look at 2015  
Restoration  
Donations  
Kids First  
Events

Health of the museum  
Financials  
Visitors  
Volunteers  
Membership and Donor Lists  
Winter Hours: Saturdays 10am -2pm, January 9-March 6,

A look at 2016  
Restoration  
Exhibits  
Events

## A look at 2015

**Restoration** work on the house continued albeit at a slower pace than in 2014 but headway was made. Three windows on the west side of the main floor were painted, and a closet on the second floor got a complete makeover with efficient shelving. The most interesting discovery was made while removing paint on the decorative pieces at the top of the columns in the front of the house. They were discovered to be individual elements made of some type of metal. Many layers of paint have dulled the detail of the pieces. The process of removing the paint on such an intricate feature will be tedious, but it will be rewarding in the end.



**Donations** of original family items from Kirkman descendants were generous in 2015. The latest is a traveling trunk belonging to oldest son William Henry Kirkman.

In 1892, 61 year old William Kirkman proposed a trip to his wife, Isabella. They would voyage to England and Ireland to visit family members they had left behind when each emigrated. For William, it had been 39 years. His parents had died but he had brothers and sisters still living in Lancashire with whom he had communicated over the years. Isabella had left Ireland 30 years before and--miraculously--her parents were still living, though both in their nineties. The plan was to take the Kirkman's two older children, William Henry and Fanny. William Henry was studying law at Boston University and Fanny was planning to be married the following year. She needed wedding clothes and the Continent was just the place to buy the latest fashions.

Just recently, Fanny's descendants, the Reynolds family, gave our museum a traveling trunk that made that trip with the Kirkmans. Small and utilitarian,

it has always been referred to as "William Henry's trunk." It is in remarkably good shape and bears colorful stickers that tell a story about their route. But it also makes us question what we had previously believed about the trip. The family story has always been that William was in poor health during the journey and that he and William Henry stayed in Great Britain while Isabella and Fanny toured the Continent. One of the trunk's stickers says Bury, the region of Lancashire where the family visited Kirkman relatives. However, other stickers on the trunk indicate it also traveled to Venice, Paris, and Frankfurt even if William Henry did not. It is likely that Fanny needed the extra trunk for all the souvenirs and pretty frocks she bought for her upcoming wedding!

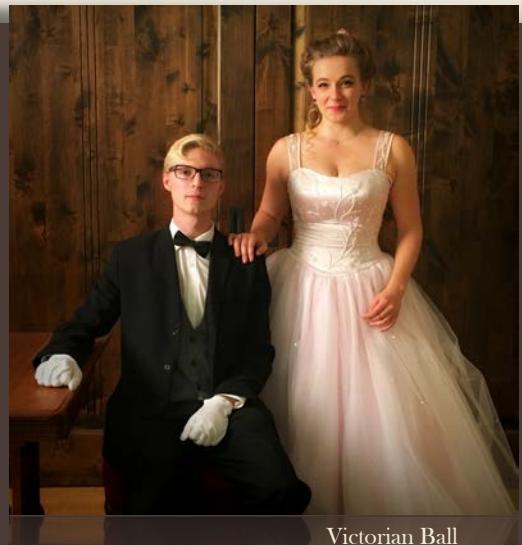
It is also likely that William Kirkman knew his days were numbered when he first planned the trip. He died on the train trip home, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. We are grateful to have this trunk at the Kirkman House Museum that represents William's last voyage.



### 2015 Events and Exhibits

were well received. Our Kirkman House Live series hosted two delightful chamber music performances. Both concerts were organized by professional cellist Sally Singer-Tuttle and featured her and visiting musicians. Also part of our Kirkman House Live series was a lecture by Bob Bartlett who gave an engaging talk on the heroic 555th Black paratroopers who were part of local World War II history.

This year the Victorian Ball was moved to the Milton-Freewater Community Center as the space was a perfect size and the price was reasonable. Attendance was affected by the change in venue but everyone had a great time and we got some wonderful portraits of attendees.



Victorian Ball



Rosie the Riveter  
Fashion Show

# Financial Position and Kids First

2015 Income



2015 Expenses



## Financial Notes:

The income shown for Donations and Grants are mostly restricted to out-of-town advertising, restoration, and our Kids First program. Much of this income came in during the 4th quarter and will be spent in 2016. This is also reflected in the Year End Cash graph. The 2015 Marketing expenses were higher than normal because we received grants to publicize events and exhibits in out-of-town markets. The 2016 Marketing budget will be significantly smaller.

Year End Cash position



## Kids First

We had a fun and busy year with our “Kids First” program. The summer program included a history lesson on the “Battle of Bunker Hill” with a mock battle fought with water balloons to a visit from the Seattle Pacific Science Center bringing a hands on history of geology. We are continuing monthly visits to Campfire’s after school program with fun short history lessons and hands on learning. We had the pleasure of working with 1026 children in 2015.



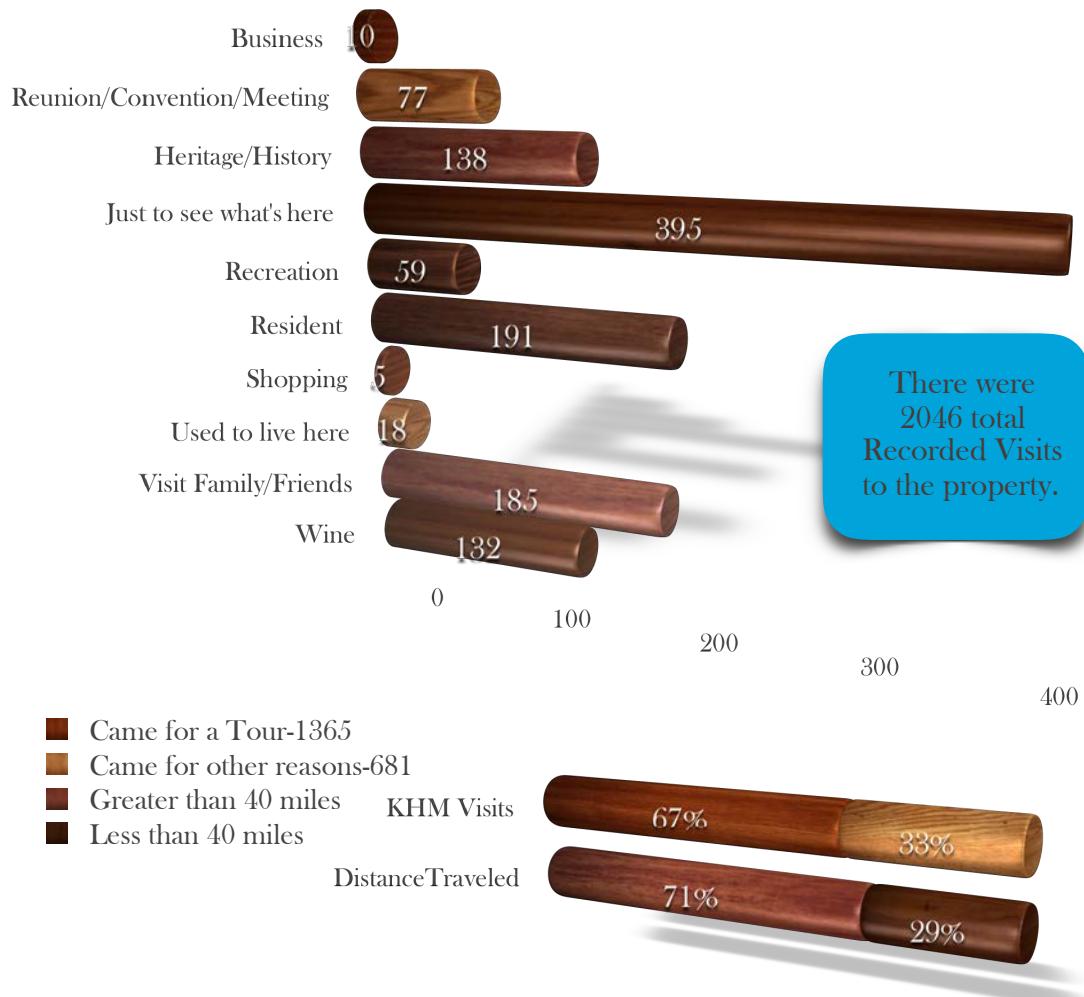
■ Unrestricted ■ Restricted

## Visitors

### The Survey Says

This year the Kirkman House and Fort Walla Walla Museums received two grants totaling \$7,000 to promote the World Wars exhibit in out of town areas. Part of the requirement was to gather data on our visitors. Although we have been doing this for several years we had to change our set of questions a bit. The graph to the right shows the answers to the question "What is your primary reason for visiting Walla Walla?" This question was asked only to those who came for a tour or exhibit, not those who came for other reasons. Because we are able to interact with all of these visitors on a personal level we were able to collect data from about 99% of them.

We also kept track of why they came to the Kirkman House and how far they had traveled. These results are shown in the second graph.



The museum tours were down about 100 from 2014, but still reflect higher numbers than we have traditionally seen. Our admission price has been \$5 per person for many years and because of rising costs, we are raising the 2016 admission to \$7. We don't think this will discourage visits because we hear many compliments on our fun and informative tours and often get a \$10 or \$20 donation and some visitors have said the admission should be \$10.

### Volunteer Hours

■ 2014 ■ 2015 10000



The museum is operated entirely by volunteers. This bar graph shows the recorded hours donated to the cause compared to last year. We estimate about 30% of the hours were not recorded in either year.



Walla Walla Food Tour clients love it when Rick dresses up for them. The Kirkman House is the overwhelming favorite stop on the tour. Rick and the Walla Walla Food Tour were featured in a Seattle Times article.



Second Sundays - Spin-Ins

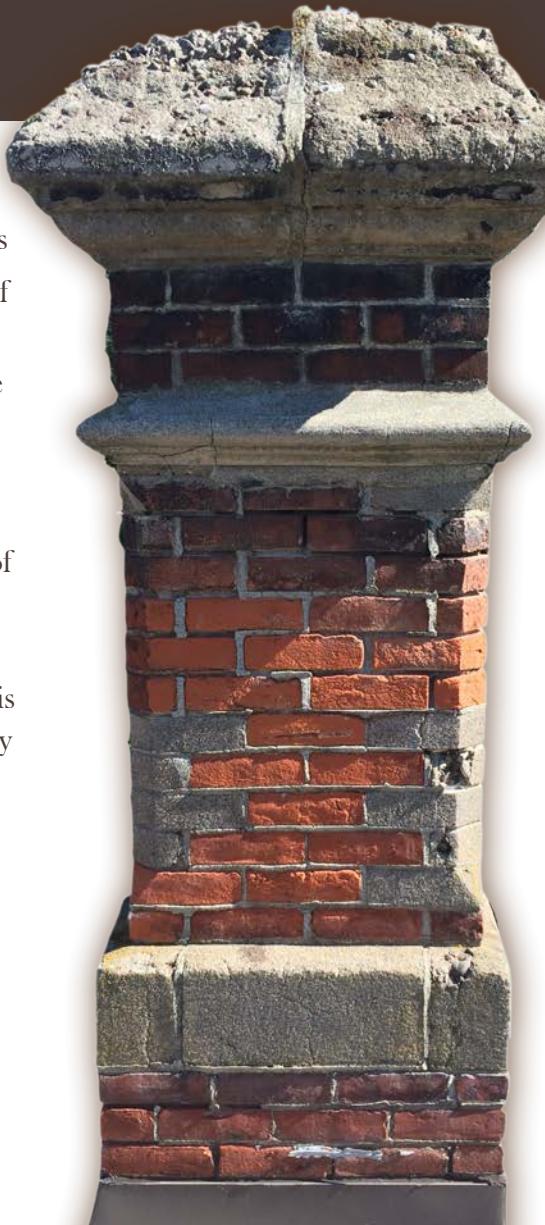
## 2016 Events

- February 15, Annual General Meeting, 5pm  
TBD in May - Garage Sale  
June 8 - Chamber Music Festival Rehearsal, 10 am-12pm  
October 1 - Sheep to Shawl  
October 22 - Victorian Ball  
November 5 - Whispered Memories Psychic Fair  
December 1, 2 - Holiday Bazaar  
December 3, 4 - Kirkman House Live, Christmas Concert  
December 3 - Victorian Christmas Open House  
December 11 - Winter Maintenance Closing

You are cordially invited to our Annual General Meeting to hear more about our activities, meet our board members, ask questions, and see the progress on our new permanent exhibit "Windows to the Past"

February 15 at 5pm

**Restoration** projects in 2016 will address two major issues. The first is the restoration of the internal gutter system so it will properly direct rain water away from the building. The original gutters and roof failed in 1999 and were covered over by a new roof installed at that time. The other major project is restoration of the two chimneys on the back of the house. Both are in very poor condition and are becoming a potential safety hazard. Once the chimney servicing the dining room is repaired we should be able to use that recently restored fireplace at events. Both projects should be completed by the end of the summer. Restoration of woodwork around windows and columns will continue but probably at a slower pace than the last two years. If you would like to help out with maintenance or yard work, we are always looking for volunteers.



President  
Kent Settle

Immediate Past President  
Mona Geidl

Vice-President  
Susan Monahan

Secretary  
Rick Tuttle

Treasurer  
Pam Myers

Directors

Tommy Breeze  
Tim Copeland  
Maejul Gannon  
Mona Geidl  
Susan Monahan  
Pam Myers  
Carolyn Priest  
Kent Settle  
Rick Tuttle

### 2015 Volunteers

Laura Ames  
Erik Ellis  
Alandra Dalan  
Sue Gillespie  
Joan Helm  
Esther Hippauf  
Donna Lasater  
Brenda Ramirez  
Arden Robinette - Intern  
Skylar Rude  
Bari Scott  
Kt Sharkey  
Susan Swayne

### Special Thanks

Walla Walla Food Tours  
Fort Walla Walla Museum  
Ace Hardware  
Garys Paint & Decorating  
Baskin Robbins  
Four Feathered Sparrow LLC  
Elks Lodge  
Whitman College  
Walla Walla University

# With Sincere Appreciation-

We thank the members, donors, volunteers, and friends of the Kirkman House Museum who have helped make 2015 such a successful year. We can't do it without your support.

## Members

Bricks and Mortar: \$200  
annually for three years.  
Roger and Cheryl Cockerline  
Sally and Fred Kearsley  
Laura and Stephen Mulcahy

## Friends: \$250 and up

Donna Cook Gardner and Tim Copeland  
Sue and Mike Gillespie  
Susan and Jim Swayne  
Richard and Carolyn Tuttle  
Jill and Robert Zagelow  
Matt and Christy West

## Supporters: \$100 to \$249

Eric and Candace Ball  
Howard Boggs and Linda Kastning  
Bill and Joanna Burk  
Jon and Mary Campbell  
Stephen and Gwen Fausti  
Mona Geidl  
Judith and Ken Jurgensen  
Ashley Kirkman  
Jennifer Kirkman  
William Allen Kirkman  
Kelly and Trula McFarley  
Kari Miller  
Susan Monahan and Mark Brucks  
Pam and Stan Myers  
Marian Plucker  
Carolyn and Don Priest  
LaVonne and Yancey Reser  
Jane Rizer  
Jane Robison  
Susan Robison  
Martie Schilling  
Diana and Chris Schmidt  
Sonia Schmitt  
Ed and Helen Logan Schneider  
Kent and Eileen Settle  
Linda Tam  
Roger and Terri Trick  
Chad Van Donge  
Katherine Wildermuth & John Jamison

## Families and Individuals:

Myles and Myrna Anderson  
Doug and Karen Bayne  
Sandra Blackaby  
John and Shauna Bogley

Kellie Bond  
Sandra Cannon and Glenn Morrison  
David and Lou Ann Casper  
Dan and Barbara Clark  
Leo Doyle  
Joanne and Daniel Drumheller  
Jan Foster  
Joan Potts Helm  
Nan and Chuck Hopson  
Sue LaRue  
Hans and Elizabeth Matschukat  
Ty and Diane McEuen  
Mary Owens  
James and Elsie Reynolds  
Margaret and George Sampson  
Anne Haley and Jim Shepherd  
Bonny Struthers  
Terry and Ronnie Tucker  
Rick and Patti Tuttle  
Ruth Kirkman Tyler  
Bruce Buchanan  
Art and Norma Griff  
Linda Hintz  
Robertta Hunt  
Jean M. Johnson  
Jeanine Johnston  
Vi Jones  
Ginger Kelly  
Margaret LaVoie  
Rosemary Lloyd  
Margaret Metastasio  
Karen and Doug Morton  
Joyce and Hugh Muzzall  
Denise O'Bryan  
Judy and Lewis Palmer  
Homer Potts  
Elaine Prentice  
Kathleen Ruggeri  
Peggy Sanderson  
Rose Anne Walker  
Steve Wilen  
Dianna and Steve Woolley

## Grants

Bonnie & Clifford Braden Foundation  
Port of Walla Walla  
George T. Welch Community Grant  
Blue Mountain Community Foundation  
Wildhorse Foundation  
Visit Walla Walla  
Clara and Art Bald Trust  
Mary Garner Esary Trust

J L Stubblefield Trust  
Walla Walla County  
Yancey P. Winans Trust

## Donors

\$5,000  
Sue and Mike Gillespie

\$1,000  
Jane Rizer  
Anonymous

\$500  
Matt and Christy West

Up to \$500  
Thomas and Anita Baker  
Julie Dandrea  
James and Lucy Chubb  
Marian Plucker  
Tim Copeland  
Sally and Fred Kearsley  
Judy and Lewis Palmer  
Roy and Lianne Schellenberg  
Donna Cook Gardner  
Arlene 'Suzie' Keenan  
Sue LaRue  
Laura and Stephen Mulcahy  
Robertta Hunt  
Kathleen Ruggeri  
Robertta Hunt

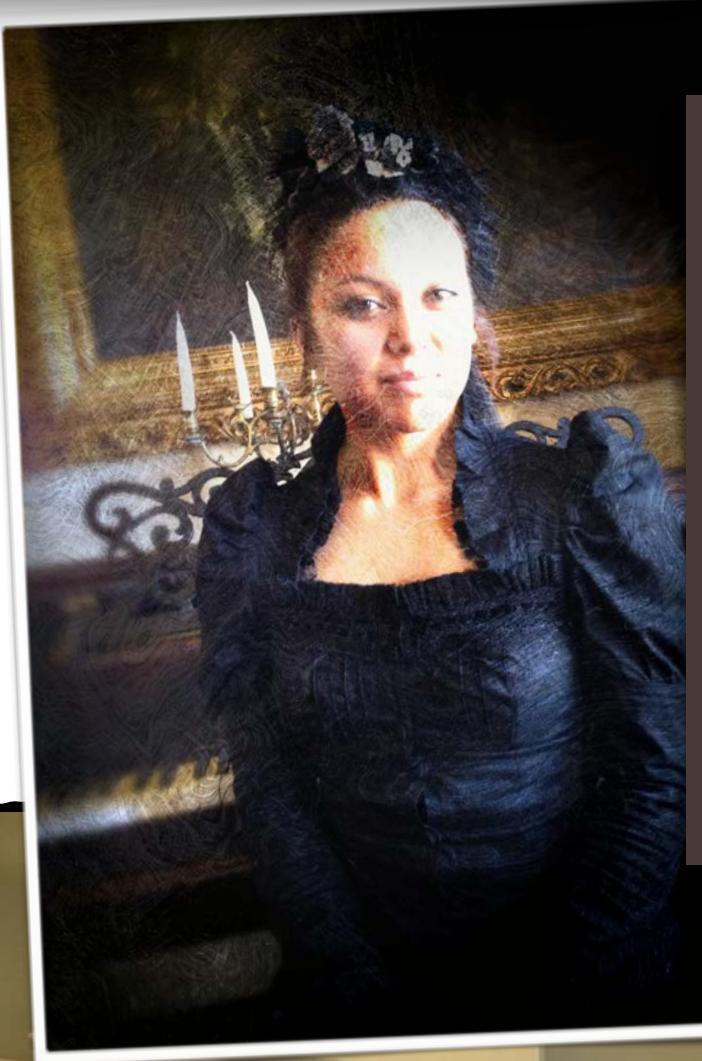
## In Memory of Betty Jacobs

Carol White Kirkman  
Susan Monahan and Mark Brucks  
Jim and Janet Steffens  
Pam and Stan Myers  
Don and Carolyn Priest

## In Kind

John and Terry Thunell  
Diana and Chris Schmidt  
Carol White Kirkman  
Allison Bren Ferris  
Dan and Barbara Clark  
Sara Partisan  
Ann Reynolds  
Jim and Janet Steffens  
Sally Singer Tuttle  
Kim Nemeth Woodley  
Mark Blanc

## 2016 Exhibits



### The Little Black Dress

On exhibit throughout 2016

Kirkman House's exhibit features every woman's secret weapon, the classic black dress. Although a plain black dress was usually worn for periods of mourning in the Victorian/Edwardian era, it became fashionable in the 1920's with Coco Chanel and Jean Patou's designs featured in Vogue magazine. The Little Black Dress has been the staple of women's wardrobes through the depression, the flu epidemics in the early 1900s, and World Wars I and II.

Our exhibit will feature not only a variety of historic black frocks, but also charming jackets and capes. We will feature black clothing styles from every era: severe, fancy and whimsical. Come and see the Little Black Dress from the 1800s and through the years until the present!

**Windows to the Past** is a new permanent exhibit opening in the spring. The exhibit will put the Kirkmans in context within Walla Walla and feature topics such as the Penitentiary, historic buildings, and businesses.

Get a sneak peek at our Annual General Meeting at 5pm on February 15.



Consider renting the museum for a company meeting or party.



Make a donation or renew  
your membership today at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ooy2qpb>

*Kirkman House Live Presents*

# Dueling Cellos

February

13th at 7:30pm    14th at 2:00pm

The Kirkman House Live series presents a pair of Valentine's concerts titled 'Dueling Cellos,' featuring Ed Dixon, principal cellist of the Walla Walla Symphony and Sally Singer Tuttle, cello faculty at Whitman College, who comes to us from the UK. The music will include favorite duos from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras and something more unexpected. The Kirkman House warmly invites you to take the very special pleasure of hearing beautiful cellos played by two highly acclaimed cellists in the intimate and acoustically delightful setting of our 19th-century drawing room.

The first performance is at 7:30pm on Saturday, February 13 and is \$45 per person. Doors open at 6:45pm for socializing and locally sourced hors d'oeuvres. Blue Mountain Cider, and wine from Tranche Winery will be served.

The second performance will be on Sunday, February 14 at 2pm and is \$20.

**TRANCHE**

Tickets are available at the Kirkman House Museum web site: [kirkmanhouse.org](http://kirkmanhouse.org).