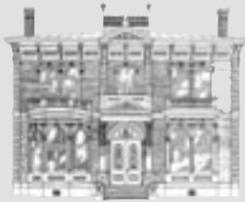


Kirkman

HOUSE NEWS



FALL 2006

Museum hours

Wednesday - Saturday,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Our mission

The mission of the Kirkman House Museum is 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.

Become a Kirkman House Museum member

Your membership helps maintain the museum and in return you get these benefits!

- Free admission to the Kirkman House Museum.
- Four issues of the quarterly newsletter.
- Advance notice for Kirkman House events.
- Invitation to "Members Only" events.
- Recognition in the Kirkman House newsletter.
- Tax deductible contribution.
- Knowledge that you are helping to save the Kirkman House for future generations.

2006 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 and Seniors (\$15)
- Individual (\$25)
- Friend (\$250)
- Family (\$50)
- Donor (\$500)
- Patron (\$1,000+)

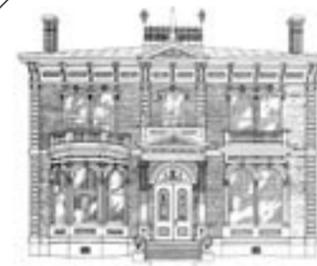
In addition to my membership, I am enclosing a gift of \$_____ to help:

- Restore the Kirkman House Museum
- Develop educational programs and exhibits
- Other: _____ 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

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



Kirkman

FALL 2006

HOUSE NEWS

House events

Fabulous Fiber Opening Reception

September 1, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sheep to Shawl

September 9, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sheep are shorn on the side lawn, and their wool is cleaned, dyed and spun by local spinners. Grandma's Garden caters the lamb and chicken barbecue. Admission to the event is free. Tickets for the barbecue are \$10 for adults and \$7.50 for children.

Textile Center Spin-In

October 8 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Whispered Memories Psychic Tea

November 4

Psychic Janice Lynch returns with her fascinating presentation, communicating with the other side through guest's heirlooms. The cost for this event is \$25 and includes refreshments. Seating is limited, so reserve your seat to this popular event early.

Victorian Christmas Open House

December 3, Noon to 4 p.m.

The museum is full of music and laughter at this seasonal celebration. Even Saint Nicholas can't resist the fun, showing up for a visit and photos with children!

ANNUAL EVENT

Sheep to Shawl Day at the Kirkman House

Spend the afternoon at the Kirkman House during this annual event that offers the opportunity to witness some of the methods our ancestors employed to clothe themselves.

The day features demonstrations of sheep shearing, and the carding, dyeing, spinning and weaving of wool shorn that day. Also available will be demonstrations of wool felting and other crafts. Visitors may try their hand at spinning with a drop spindle, weaving on a simple loom, and felting. Vendors will offer handmade items for sale.

This year a full barbecued lamb or chicken lunch will be available from Noon to 2:30 p.m. at the bargain price of \$10 for adults and \$7.50 for children. Members of the museum receive a 10 percent discount on the adult ticket price. Ad-

vance tickets are available at the Kirkman House.

This is a free family event so children are encouraged to participate in activities. The museum will be open for tours throughout the day.



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William G. Kirkman	



← Robert Potts and visitor view the remains of Isabella Potts's childhood home.

Mrs. Kirkman's Irish Roots

BY CHARLES HARLEY

'California is the hardest place to get a wife in any place in the world,' William G. Kirkman wrote home from San Francisco, October 15, 1854. Kirkman, though, was nothing if not persistent. 'On the 4th of February, 1867, in San Francisco, Mr. Kirkman was united in marriage to Miss Isabella Potts, a native of Ireland,' W.

D. Lyman's Old Walla Walla County tells us.

Through his letters back to England and because, before emigrating,

Mr. Kirkman worked in what then was one of England's leading industrial enterprises, his Old Country background has long been fairly accessible to us. For knowledge of Mrs. Kirkman's Irish roots, however, we have until recently had little more to go on than brief journal entries covering a few days' visit to his Potts grandparents' farm at Drumgrole, County Monaghan, as recorded in

1892 by the Kirkman's elder son, William H. Kirkman.

'Thursday, July 14th... At four o'clock took train for Ballybay... Took rooms at Leslie Arms Hotel and were then driven to Drumgrole about ¾ mile distant where we saw for the first time grandfather & mother...'

FOR A STONE EXPOSED FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY TO THE ETERNAL IRISH DAMP, THE POTTS MEMORIAL IS REMARKABLE UNMOSSY.

In May, my wife Ellen and I visited Ballybay, a country town some fifty miles north by northwest of Dublin. Thanks to

two encounters there, our knowledge of the descent and early circumstances of the woman who eventually became first lady of Kirkman House was greatly increased. The first encounter was with Mr. Robert Potts, whose farm includes the acres Isabella's father once held. The second was with Mr. Peadar Murname, co-author, with his brother, of a monumental history of Ballybay and vicinity.

Supporting the Museum

The Kirkman House Museum has a responsibility to preserve our past and provide an understanding of our history. There are many ways you can help with the preservation and education efforts that take place in the museum.

Become a museum member: Member's benefits include a subscription to the museum's quarterly newsletter, advance notice of events, and invitations to "Members Only" events. Membership dues help pay for special exhibits and programs at the museum that enhance the cultural spirit of our community.

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. It supports ongoing restoration, strengthens our programs, and provides financial security for the future.

Support the annual fund: Contribu-

tions to the annual fund, during the fall phonathon or at any time of year, provide important support for the care and maintenance of the museum, as well as for the conservation of our collections.

Volunteer: Volunteers are an invaluable part of the Kirkman House. Whether by leading tours, assisting with collection management and exhibits, helping at our special events or providing support behind the scenes, our volunteers' service helps ensure the Kirkman House Museum functions smoothly. Volunteers serve on a weekly, monthly or as-needed basis.

Donate in-kind items: Contributions of material goods help reduce the administrative costs of the museum. Another option is to have your Staples purchases from the store and print center applied to the Kirkman House's rewards card (just give them our phone number when you check out). Rewards members can earn up to 20% in rewards, which covers a lot in office supplies.

Contact Kirsten at 529-4373 or by email at khm@kirkmanhousemuseum.org if you are interested partnering with the Kirkman House Museum.

NEW EXHIBIT: Fabulous Fiber

The Kirkman House Museum is pleased to present Fabulous Fiber, a special exhibit looking at the history of fiber art. Fibers have been used for millennia to create utilitarian items that serve as a means of symbolic expression. Throughout its history, fiber art was used to tell common folktales that reinforced a culture's belief system. According to Susan Swayne, Kirkman House Museum Textile Center artist, "Even the process of making the piece imparts meaning, through the use of tools that marry form and function, and the skills of the maker".

The exhibit, featuring contemporary pieces created by local and regional fiber artists, will open with a reception on Friday, September 1st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The show runs through October 29th.

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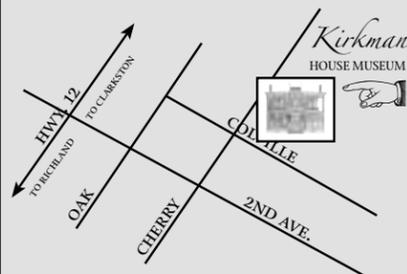
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Visit the Museum



Museum hours

Wednesday - Saturday,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Director's Corner

I recently returned from the Washington Museum Association Conference held at the Museum of Flight in Seattle. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to learn what resources are available to museums of all sizes. The workshops are invaluable, and it is comforting to find out that one's colleagues are experiencing similar challenges, no matter how big or small their organization!

This year's visit was even more rewarding as I was able to meet with two of the Kirkman descendants who live on the west side. Jim Reynolds and his wife Elsie graciously invited me to their home to visit and pick up some family items they wanted to donate to the museum. Jim is the grandson of Fannie Ann Kirkman Reynolds. They sent me off with, among other things, two chairs that sat in the Kirkman family parlor, and a disc of family photos dating back to the 1860s.

Betty Kirkman Jacobs and her husband Mel were also kind in inviting me in to share in her birthday celebration. Betty, the daughter of Leslie Kirkman, was in Walla Walla in 2004 when the family had a reunion at the museum. She presented me with a pair of candlesticks the Kirkmans picked up on their 1893 trip to England, and a Chinese dish that Isabella's cook, Ah Sing, sent to her when he was visiting his family in China.

Both of these individuals had wonderful family memories dating back to when Isabella Kirkman was alive. It is a gift to historians to be able to listen to living histories, and the museum hopes to share them through museum exhibits in the coming months.

Kirsten

Zapotec Women's Coop Comes to Walla Walla

On September 25, 2006, Pastora Gutierrez will arrive in Walla Walla for a four day visit, representing La Vida Nueva. This Zapotec women's collective is committed to conserving their traditions, and expressing their cultural values through weaving rugs on large looms.

Patterns and techniques of weaving have been passed down from generation to generation in the Oaxaca region of Mexico, but women have only been allowed to participate in the actual weaving for the last 55 years. Even today it is difficult for women to be fully respected and recognized for their creative, social and political contributions.

La Vida Nueva, established in 1996, is a support network made up of widows, single mothers, older women who live alone, and young women. By weaving and working at other jobs in the community, they are able to

support themselves and their families.

The public is invited to a presentation at Whitman

College on Wednesday, September 27 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in Kimball Theatre (Hunter 212).

Another public event will be at the 1st Congregational Church on Thursday, September 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. where rugs will also be for sale.

EVEN TODAY IT IS DIFFICULT FOR WOMEN TO BE FULLY RESPECTED AND RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR CREATIVE, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Kirkman House News

Whispered Memories

The Kirkman House's Annual psychic tea is moving to the first weekend in November to accommodate the fall exhibit schedule. Janice Lynch returns by popular demand to enlighten participants on their heirlooms. Tickets to this event disappear fast, so call to make your reservation early.

Textile Center Artist's Work on Display

Baliage Studios, located at 1637 E. Isaacs Ave, Suite E, is exhibiting weavings done by Peggy Hoyt. Hoyt, a key member of the Kirkman House Museum Textile Center, is one of our premier textile artists, having spent years studying traditional techniques in various parts of the world. Raylene Scott, a stylist for the salon, says they plan to continue displaying Hoyt's work, rotating items on a monthly basis.

Mr. Potts of Drumgrole I found in the local telephone book. Mrs. Potts answered the phone. I explained that we were from America to research the Potts of Drumgrole. She replied that her husband would pick us up by car at eight next morning.

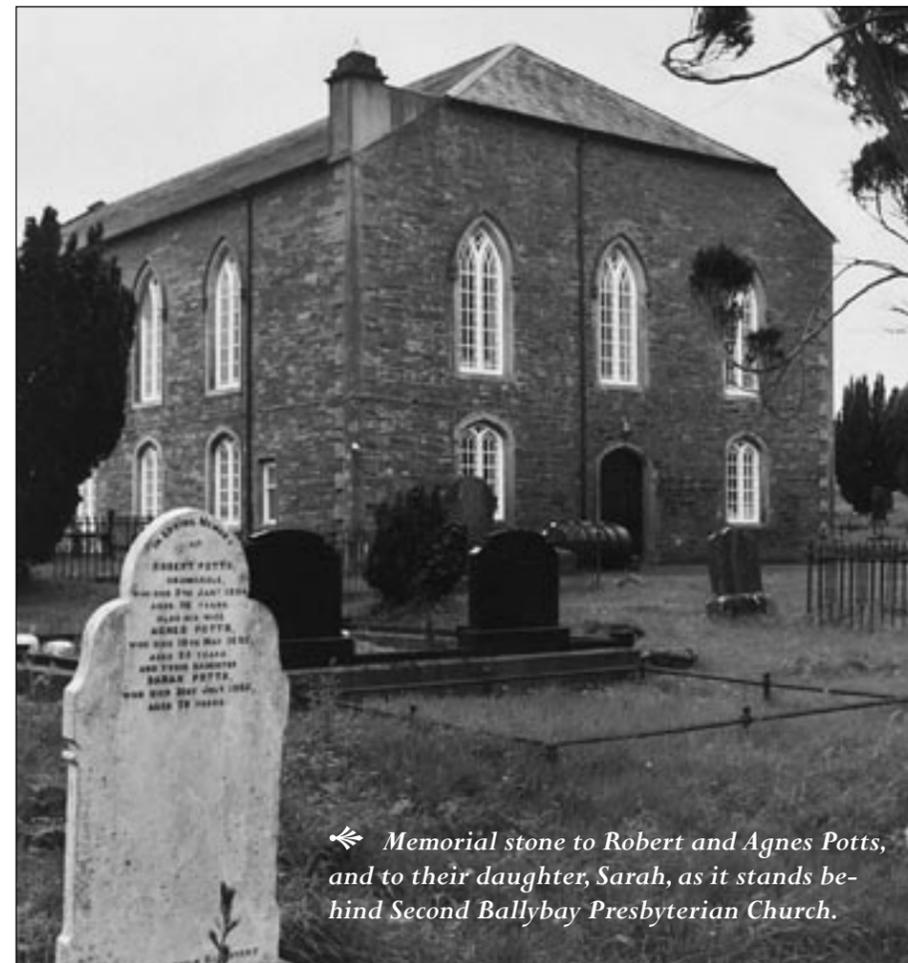
As he drove us from our Ballybay lodgings, Mr. Potts said that, despite his having the same names as Isabella's father, their families were not related. Isabella's Potts had left the land he now owned three generations ago. Her line in Drumgrole had died out.

At Drumgrole, we took a muddy farm lane that brought us to the edge of a rising field—Drumgrole is Irish for Ridge of Hoops—of verdant pasture. Mid field lay two solid slabs of mossy stone, one of them cut as though to

accommodate a door or window: all that remains of Isabella Potts's family home. Nearby, densely mantled with brambles, lay ruins of farm buildings, tumbled stone walls and twisted iron. Inspection was brief because Mr. Potts had undertaken to show us also the gravestones of Isabella's parents, notwithstanding that, back at the farm; an ailing cow awaited his ministrations.

For a stone exposed for more than a century to the eternal Irish damp, the Potts memorial, situated in the far right corner of the Second Ballybay Presbyterian Church bone yard, is remarkable unmossy. Its inscription is easily read—and to me proved somewhat surprising.

(To be continued in the Winter 2006 newsletter.)



☞ Memorial stone to Robert and Agnes Potts, and to their daughter, Sarah, as it stands behind Second Ballybay Presbyterian Church.



☞ The remaining stones of Isabella Potts's family home.



☞ Close-up of the Potts's memorial stone, Second Ballybay Presbyterian Church, County Monaghan, Ireland.

Photos taken by Ellen Harley, 4 May, 2006.