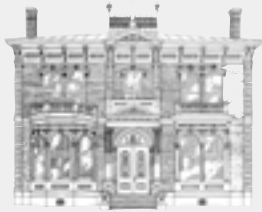


Kirkman

HOUSE NEWS



SPRING 2007

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)
- Family (\$50)
- Friend (\$100)
- Partner (\$250)
- Donor (\$500)
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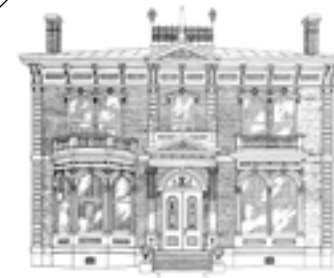
In addition to my membership, I am enclosing a gift of \$_____ to help:

- 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

SPRING 2007

HOUSE NEWS

HOUSE EVENTS

March 2, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Opening Reception

Needlepoint and Cross Stitch
Exhibit with Claire Norsworthy,
Pat Bingham and Jodi Lindquist.
Exhibit runs through April 1.

March 17 Spring Spinning Classes begins.

March 11, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Textile Center Spin-In, featuring stitchery

April 1, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Textile Center Spin-In, featuring dye egg coloring. Artists demonstrate how to color Easter eggs employing traditional dye techniques.

April 6, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Opening Reception Ukrainian Egg exhibit. Exhibit runs through April 29.

May 4, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Opening Reception To Have and To Hold Exhibit runs through June.

May 20, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Textile Center Spin-In, featuring lace-making

More events on page 2

2007 EXHIBITS

New Exhibit Examines Continuity and Change

On November 17, 1894 Fanny Ann Kirkman took her place next to Allen Reynolds in her family's formal parlor. The wedding the Fanny and her mother planned was considered an elegant affair in late 19th century Walla Walla. By contemporary standards, Fanny and Allen's ceremony would have seemed small and quaint. The Kirkman House Museum will examine the transition of our favorite rite of passage from a

private ceremony to public spectacle when it unveils *To Have and To Hold* in May.

Nearly one hundred and fifty years will be explored through articles of clothing worn, and oral histories gathered from local community members. The museum will celebrate the show's opening with a reception from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 3rd, and the exhibit will run through July 1st.

In August, the museum will explore our obsession with play when the *Pursuit of Pleasure* opens. The focus of the exhibit will be the pastimes of 19th century families and the factors that contributed to an increase in leisure time for middle class Americans.



William Kirkman and Isabella Potts Marriage, 1867 (Jim Reynolds collection)



The Kirkman Family at Play, 1890 (Jim Reynolds collection)

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HOUSE EVENTS

Continued from page 1

June 1, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
ArtWalk First Friday

June 10, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Textile Center Spin-In,
featuring linen production

June 24
College Place Garden Club Tour
Showcases local gardens. Proceeds
will fund the planting of a Victorian
Rose Garden at the Kirkman House.

July 6, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
ArtWalk First Friday

July 8, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Textile Center Spin-In,
featuring felting

August 3, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Opening Reception
The Pursuit of Pleasure
Exhibit runs through September 30

August 12, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Textile Center Spin-In,
featuring crochet

September 6, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
ArtWalk First Friday

September 9, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Textile Center Spin-In,
featuring fleece preparation

October 5, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
First Friday: Halloween Origins
and Traditions

October 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sheep to Shawl: Annual festival cel-
ebrating wool production. This fam-
ily event is free. A barbeque lunch
from Noon to 2:30 p.m. \$10 for
adults and \$7.50 for children.

PART III

Mrs. Kirkman's Irish Roots

BY CHARLES HARLEY

'For the first time stepped on Irish soil or rather English Landlord soil,' William H. Kirkman wrote, 13 July, in his *Journal of Summer Travel, 1892*.

William and parents, William G. Kirkman and wife, Isabella, had that day disembarked upon "John Bull's Other Island" en route for the modest farm at Drumgrole, near the town of Ballybay, County Monaghan, leased by Isabella's father, Mr. Robert Potts, from the Leslie family, local grandees.

However true of Ireland as a whole, the view implicit in young William's journal entry of hapless Hibernians prostrate beneath the hunting-booted heels of Anglo-Saxon rack-renters hardly reflects the particular circumstances of the Potts of Drumgrole.

While Isabella was growing up at Drumgrole in the 1840s-50s, the person to whom her father paid rent was female and of Scotch, ultimately Hun, origin. Specifically, the forbears of Emily Eleanor Wilhelmina Leslie had come to Ireland from Scotland in the sixteenth century, to Scotland from Hungary in the eleventh century, and claimed descent from Attila the Hun, whose parents galloped into Eastern Europe from central Asia early in the fifth



❖ *Studio photograph of Isabella Potts taken in San Francisco, California, 1864, the year after her arrival in the United States.*

century. Moreover, for a descendant of Attila, Ms. Leslie proved a pretty considerate landlady.

County Monaghan was sorely hit by Ireland's Great Hunger of 1847-48. Blight ruined more than half the county's crop of potatoes, its people's staple food. Over the decade 1841-1851, through starvation and emigration, the popula-

Supporting the Museum

TO PRESERVE AND EDUCATE—YOU CAN HELP

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 with the preservation and education efforts that take place in the museum. 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 quarterly newsletter, discounts on program on class fees, advance notice of events, 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.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP WITH THE PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION EFFORTS THAT TAKE PLACE AT THE MUSEUM.

Join the Bricks and Mortar Society

These generous members commit to donating \$200 a year for three years to ensure the restoration and 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. It supports ongoing restoration, strengthens our programs, and provides financial security for the future.

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 funding full-time staffing.

Volunteer

Whether by leading tours, assisting with collection management and exhibits, helping at our special events or providing support behind the scenes, our volunteers

help ensure the Kirkman House Museum functions smoothly. Volunteers serve on a weekly, monthly or as-needed basis.

Donate in-kind items or services

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

Wish List

Painters for front and side porches
Hand Vacuum
Gardeners and garden tools

Contact Kirsten at 529-4373 or by email at khm@kirkmanhousemuseum.org if you are interested in more information on ways you can partner with the Kirkman House Museum.

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Kirkman House News

Board of Directors Elect New Officers at Annual Meeting

The museum's Board of Directors kept busy through December and January. At the annual meeting on December 21, the directors elected officers for 2007 annual meeting. The new officers are President Linda Kastning, Vice-President Sally Kearsley, Treasurer Susan Roberts and Secretary Patti Tuttle.

Five new directors were also elected to the board during the annual meeting: Sandi Burt, Wendy Cheng, Donna Gardner, Charles Harley and Pam Myers. Many thanks to all of our board members who dedicate their time and energy to ensuring that the museum's programs enhance the quality of our community!

Docent Training Offered

If you are interested in being a tour guide for the Kirkman House, the museum is offering two opportunities to get started this spring. Each session will provide a thorough introduction to the Kirkman family, their home and their role in late 19th century Walla Walla. The training will include strategies for engaging visitors as they move through the museum. The trainings will be held on March 24 and May 21, from 10 a.m. until noon. Space is limited, so please reserve your spot early.

Spinning Classes available

Textile Center's wool producer and spinner, Mary Jane Fehrenbacher is offering two *Introduction to Spinning Classes* beginning March 17th. Learn how to prepare a fleece, set up your wheel and spin and ply yarn. The museum does have a limited number of wheels that students can reserve to use during the class.

Saturdays March 17, 24, 31 and April 14

Class A 10 a.m. to Noon

Class B 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration: \$65 members/\$70 nonmembers

Materials (fleece and roving): \$65.00



← *Main Street, Ballybay, May 2006. Remove motorcars and petrol pumps and the street would be much the same as that the visiting Kirkmans walked down in 1892. The building with the clock was formerly the Leslie Arms Hotel, where the Kirkmans stayed while visiting Isabella Potts Kirkman's parent in the summer of that year. The Leslies were the Potts's landlords for well over a century. (Photograph by Ellen Harley.)*

tion of Ballybay and its neighboring parish shrank by 20 per cent. But for Ms. Leslie's charity and timely investments, that figure would have been worse.

IN NAMING THEIR SECOND SON LESLIE, THE KIRKMANS WERE PERPETUATING THE MEMORY OF LANDED GENTRY...

The Northern Standard newspaper for January 1847 stated that this lady "most liberally contributed 100 pounds to the Relief Fund", which ladled out vegetable broth to the destitute. Men, who, with their families, might otherwise have starved, were given jobs on Ms. Leslie's demesne, road making and ditch digging. For Ballybay—she owned the town—Ms. Leslie authorized construction at her own expense of a new market house, thus employing skilled tradesmen who otherwise might have foundered on the failed economy. How straightened Robert Potts was by the famine we do not know. Records for tithes and taxes suggest that he

weathered those hard times with acreage undiminished. Quite likely his rent was reduced. We find no suggestion that, from hunger and penury, any Potts of Drumgrole fled Ireland or sought refuge in the local workhouse—where, in exchange for roof and crust, inmates wore their fingers to the bone.

Odds are Potts and Leslies respected each other for what they were worth. The Leslies of Ballybay owed their estates to the expropriation of Irish Roman Catholic territorial magnates by Protestant conquerors. The Potts,

too, were Protestant colonists from Scotland. 'Destroy the Irish and plant your estate with Protestants,' as a great landlord's estate manager advised his employer. The Leslies, though, were known for their kindness.

In naming their second son Leslie, the Kirkmans were perpetuating the memory of landed gentry whose tenants Ms. Kirkman's forbears had been for well over a century. Isabella Potts quit Ireland not as a miserable refugee but, surely, with ambition to achieve in the New World a modicum of the prestige the Leslies enjoyed in the country she had left behind. As things turned out, she succeeded rather well.

Visit the Museum

Museum hours

Wednesday - Saturday,

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

