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*Unemployed Resist Eviction*. Ronald Debs Ginther. 1931, watercolor.

Photo:  
*Breakfast Outside Tacoma Commons Mission*. Chapin Bowen, circa 1930, photograph.

Images courtesy of Humanities Washington



Issue 1, 2014

Kirkman House Museum  
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Gary Tetz  
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## Hope in Hard Times Opens January 17

### Tours eight museums in Washington State

The Great Depression profoundly affected Washingtonians. Many citizens took to the streets in protest, joining with fellow activists and grassroots political movements to rally for solutions to economic crisis. Others survived by forming small communities called “Hoovervilles,” in which homeless men lived while hunting for work. Other Washingtonians made it through tough times by making the best of what they had, recycling and reusing everyday items while looking ahead at the promise of better days.

Humanities Washington’s traveling exhibit *Hope in Hard Times: Washington During the Great Depression* explores the adversity and triumph of everyday Americans during the 1930s, comparing the struggles of the 1930s with those faced today. Personal experiences illuminate the broader themes of the exhibition, enlightening audiences about how people lived during these difficult times.

This special exhibition invites visitors to use the stories that they see within the exhibit to start conversations of their own about family histories and the impact this historical event had on their own lives or those of others. The theme of hope woven throughout the narrative reminds viewers that they, too, can find their own opportunities for creating change and learn from the past.

The exhibit opens at Kirkman House on Friday, January 17 and runs until early April. A special members-only preview and reception will be held at the museum on Wednesday, January 15 at 5:30 pm.

*Hope in Hard Times* will visit eight communities during 2013-14, appearing for 12 weeks at each location. It is curated by the Washington State Historical Society and based on a larger exhibit of the same name that appeared at the Washington State History Museum in 2012.



NERDProv comedy troupe delights the audience at the *Emphatically Spectacular Variety Show*

## Variety Show Launches Festival

### A thousand laughs and thrills in four acts

*The Festival of Converging Histories* kicked-off on Friday night, November 8 with the *Amazing Professor Beebe's Emphatically Spectacular Variety Show* at the Gesa Power House Theater. Professor Thomas Beebe emceed an extravaganza that was enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience.

Seattle's NERDProv comedy troupe opened the show with impromptu sketches and hilarious geeky send-ups inspired by TV shows, movies, comics, music and games.

Act Two was Master Payne's Steampunk Sorcery featuring astounding displays of humor, quick wit and sleight of hand. Payne has entertained and bamboozled audiences in the Puget Sound area for 35 years with his performances.

Next up were the enchanting performers of Troupe Azure. These beguiling belly dancers enthralled the audience with talents never before seen outside the mysterious Middle East. The troupe featured its all-new

Steampunk routines and costumes.

The evening's entertainment concluded with a fantastic Steampunk fashion show produced by Miss Haley's Bombshell Boutique and Steampunk fashion designer Eliza Van De Rostyne. Over two dozen imaginative and exotic creations delighted the audience.

"Many of the audience members were dressed in wonderful Victorian or Steampunk outfits," said President Rick Tuttle. "It was a terrific night."



Rick and Estee Pummel at the Ball

## Grand Victorian Ball

### An enchanting evening

*The Festival of Converging Histories* feted an elegant evening of Victorian dancing on Saturday, November 9 at the Sharpstein School gymnasium.

Music was provided by the 12-piece Country Dance Orchestra from La Grande. Dance Master Dan Clark called the dances and instructed the participants in some dancing fine points.

Dancers were adorned in traditional Victorian attire, Steampunk costumes and modern formal wear.

## Psychic Fair a Hit

### Janice Lynch leads sessions

Building on the museum's ten years of previous *Whispered Memories* psychic presentations, the Festival expanded to include a *Psychic Fair* with the traditional group sessions and individual consultations with readers of various psychic disciplines.

The *Whispered Memories* group sessions were lead by Janice Lynch. For over 25 years Janice has shared her compassion and psychic abilities as a spiritual mentor with clients all over the world. Another *Psychic Fair* is planned for this Fall.



## Holiday Bazaar & Christmas Jubilee

The Holiday Bazaar was in full swing on Thursday and Friday, December 5 and 6. Over a dozen vendors in attendance displayed their hand-crafted jewelry, knitted and crocheted items, homemade holiday ornaments, candies, note cards, gourmet foods, photo albums, apparel for children and adults, glass works and many other beautiful gift items.

The Bazaar was followed on Saturday, December 7 by the annual Christmas Jubilee. Entertainment was provided by the Park Plaza Choir, Living History characters, and Christmas carolers. A special treat for children was a visit by St. Nicholas, dressed in his fur-trimmed green winter robe.

## Annual meeting set Special event on January 15

All Kirkman House members are invited to the museum's annual membership meeting and a special pre-opening showing of the *Hope in Hard Times* exhibit on Wednesday, January 15. The event will run from 5:30 to 7:00 pm and include a brief Year in Review presentation by President Rick Tuttle. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

## Premier membership benefits expanded

### Over 700 museums for free

Kirkman House members at the \$100 level and higher now enjoy free admission privileges at over 700 museums in North America because of our participation with the North American Reciprocal Museums Association (NARM) and the Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums (ROAM). By presenting your Kirkman House premier membership card, you can visit an ever-expanding list of US and Canadian museums for free.

Cooperating museums in the Pacific Northwest include the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Frye Art Museum, Henry Art Gallery, Museum of History and Industry, Bellevue Art Museum, Maryhill Museum of Art, Whatcom Art Museum, Northwest African American Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Museum of Glass, Experience Music Project, Museum of Contemporary Craft of Portland, Umpqua Valley Arts Center, Hallie Ford Museum of Art, The Museum at Warm Springs, and the Boise Art Museum.

To obtain a premier membership, visit [kirkmanhousemuseum.org](http://kirkmanhousemuseum.org) and click "Membership."

## What's in a Name?

### HAD label retired

After forty years of operating as Historical Architecture Development, the museum's corporate name is now the Kirkman House Museum. The board approved this name change in August to reflect the organization's changed mission and focus.

"In 1974, HAD was created to encourage historical architecture preservation in Walla Walla," said Tim Copeland, an original HAD board member. "Many older homes and downtown buildings were threatened and HAD arose to protect them. It succeeded in getting many buildings in the National Register of Historic Places and encouraged the development of the downtown as we see it today."

"In 1983, when HAD bought the Kirkman residence to protect it" Copeland continued, "it became clear that our energies and resources would be completely consumed by the demands of this house. The mission of community-wide preservation was being assumed by the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, so HAD's changed focus made sense."

"This name change formalizes what has been a de facto reality for many years," said President Rick Tuttle. "It's great that our legal and functional names are now the same."



## Fanny Ann's Furniture

### Gift requires transport

Richard Reynolds, a retired US Air Force Lieutenant General and a member of the Kirkman family, has donated three exquisite pieces of furniture that originally furnished Fanny Ann's bedroom. The gift includes a double bed, a marble-topped bureau with a framed mirror, and a marble-topped washstand. The pieces are beautiful examples of fine furniture craftsmanship of the late 1800s.

The furniture has been carefully preserved at General Reynolds' residence in Beavercreek, Ohio and requires transport from there to the museum.



## It's Hip to be Square

### New online store lights up

The museum recently moved its credit card processing to Square. This change has saved the museum a significant amount in service fees and made it much easier to accept credit cards for tours and special events.

In a related change, the museum is now hosting an online store on the Square Market.

"In our store, you can buy the museum's cook book in paperback or CD, and Joe Drazan's *Walla*

Professional moving will cost over \$3,000. We are considering lower-cost moving options but expect to need at least \$2,000 for this project.

This is a rare opportunity to reunite Fanny's furniture with the room in which she lived. Few house museums have their original furnishings, and we are thrilled at the chance to reacquire these pieces.

A fund has been created at the Kirkman House online store. If you wish to help us transport this furniture, please send a check to the museum or go to [kirkmanhousemuseum.org](http://kirkmanhousemuseum.org) and click the "Fanny's Furniture Donation" button.

*Walla 1866-1920* CD of historic advertisements and photographs," said President Rick Tuttle. "You can also pay for museum memberships and make donations to our various projects. This new store will make online transactions much easier for our members and donors."

To see the Kirkman House online store, go to [kirkmanhousemuseum.org](http://kirkmanhousemuseum.org) and select a link in the Store section.



## Schedule of Events - 2014

### January 15

Annual membership meeting

### January 17

*Hope in Hard Times* opens

### April 6

*Hope in Hard Times* closes

### June 4

*A Century of Wedding Gowns* opens

### July and August

*Hands on History* for Campfire kids

### September 7

*A Century of Wedding Gowns* closes

### September 27

Fall Festival

### December 4 and 5

Holiday Bazaar

### December 6

Christmas Jubilee

### At Fort Walla Walla now

Civil War exhibit

# President's Report of 2013

## A great year followed by bright prospects

By Rick Tuttle, President

This has been an extraordinary year for Kirkman House and 2014 is shaping up to be even more exciting.

### House Renovation

A major accomplishment of the year was completion of a \$95,000 house restoration project that began in 2008. The project included the restoration of some windows, rebuilding an outdoor porch, the renovation of one of the cabins, replacement of the HVAC system and dozens of other improvements. Upon completion, the museum received \$31,600 from the Washington State Heritage Capital Project – a partial reimbursement for these restorations.

For the first time the museum has a constant, predictable heat source and the wonderful luxury of air conditioning which is greatly appreciated by our visitors and museum volunteers. And the system has lowered the gas bill significantly.

The columns at the front entrance are in the process of being restored due to significant rot in several non-structural places at the base of the columns. The columns have been sanded, primed, and one coat of paint has been applied – with final painting to be completed when warmer weather arrives.

With the removal of the old boiler, the basement has been thoroughly cleaned and reorganized and large, heavy-duty shelving has been installed providing much needed storage. If you attended the fall Speakeasy event, you likely noticed the basement's greatly improved condition. A mobile bar was added providing us with the ability to use it in multiple areas of the museum.

Thanks to a donation from Alan

Jones, the collections' processing room received a badly-needed worktable and long counter with lots of shelves and drawers. These items make collections work much easier and more efficient.

We also cleaned and reorganized the office and storage areas and have two well-equipped workstations with modern computers and updated software.

The walls of the historic kitchen have been re-plastered and painted to look like new. The next task is to repair the kitchen's woodwork trim and refinish it in the original dark tone it was in the 1890s. The "working" kitchen will also get a makeover with some new cabinets and a refrigerator. About \$4,500 is needed to complete the kitchens, and we hope you will consider contributing to this project using our new on-line store.

Summer projects will include a new roof for cabin B and repair of the cabin's front door. At least two more museum windows will undergo complete restoration this coming year with the help of grants. And if sufficient labor is available, we plan to do more painting on the front of the house and rebuild the carriage house doors.

In the spring, the museum will purchase a new riding lawn mower, and we look forward to improving the condition of the lawn.

### Exhibits, Events and Programs

The museum developed a new partnership with Campfire for our *Hands on History* program this year. Over 150 Campfire kids visited Kirkman House participating in three days of games, crafts and other Victorian-era activities.

*The Roaring Twenties* exhibit was a popular attraction that looked at

Walla Walla just before the onset of the Great Depression. This exhibit served as a prequel to our first exhibit in 2014, *Hope in Hard Times* that opens January 17.

*The Festival of Converging Histories* was the most ambitious series of events the museum has presented in many years. The variety show at the Powerhouse Theater attracted a large audience, and all three of the festival's events were greatly enjoyed by participants.

### Marketing and Promotion

New marketing initiatives helped increase the museum's presence in the community and resulted in greater awareness and participation. Postcard promotions of exhibits and events were substantially increased last year, and new brochures and other marketing materials are in development now. When released, we expect these pieces to help us attract more visitors staying at area hotels, and a soon-to-be-launched new website will be more attractive and convenient.

*continued on page 7*



Rick Tuttle, President

# With sincere appreciation

we thank the hundreds of members, donors, volunteers and friends of Kirkman House Museum who have helped make 2013 one of our most successful years. We couldn't have done it without you.

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Marcia Wilke  
Kristen Wilson  
Jill Zagelow  
Bev Ziska  
Students from  
Walla Walla  
Community College  
Walla Walla University  
Whitman College

## President's Report of 2013

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### **Financial Condition**

Through a growing membership and many generous contributions, Kirkman House ended this year with a comfortable cash surplus and no debt. While we aren't rich, it's great to have a cash cushion of over \$30,000 at the end of the year. In past years that number has been less than \$1,000. Our finances were helped greatly by the grant from the Washington State Heritage Capital Project that partially reimbursed us for house improvements made over the last five years. Membership income and donations from individuals were also up substantially this year.

Because Kirkman House is operated solely by volunteers, our fixed expenses are modest. The annual budget is about \$40,000 and

over 70% of our income comes from member and donor support. We couldn't operate the museum without the many hours of work board members and other volunteers devote to the organization throughout the year, and all of the financial help we get from our members and donors. We are enormously grateful for this support.

It has been my distinct honor to serve a second stint as President of the museum this year. I sincerely appreciate all the work and support provided by the museum's current and past board members, members, volunteers and staff. It has been a real privilege to work with every one of them. I also appreciate the new friendships that have developed as a result of this association.

I encourage anyone who has an interest in our area's heritage or

historical preservation to volunteer at the Kirkman House. It is a very rewarding experience and provides a wonderful opportunity to work with a great group of people.

With one more year left on the board before my mandatory retirement, I feel good about the progress we have made and our current position. We have a very dedicated board, and I will be able to reduce my involvement over the next year knowing the organization is in good hands.

*Kirkman*  
HOUSE MUSEUM

214 North Colville Street • Walla Walla, WA 99362

HOPE  
IN HARD  
TIMES

— EXHIBIT —  
OPENS JANUARY 17