

Kirkland, Washington

Founded in 1888

By Loita Hawkinson

Kirkland Heritage Society

Juanita and Houghton were here many years before Kirkland was founded. The families that owned the land that became Kirkland said they lived in Houghton.

Redmond, Juanita and Houghton were all the Juanita precinct.

Kirkland is named for Peter Kirk but he is only one of Kirkland's founders.

Kirkland has six founders.

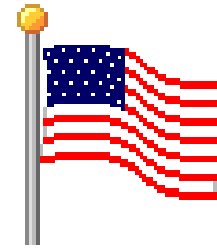


Three were from England:

Peter Kirk

Walter Winston Williams

John George Kellett



Three were from the United States

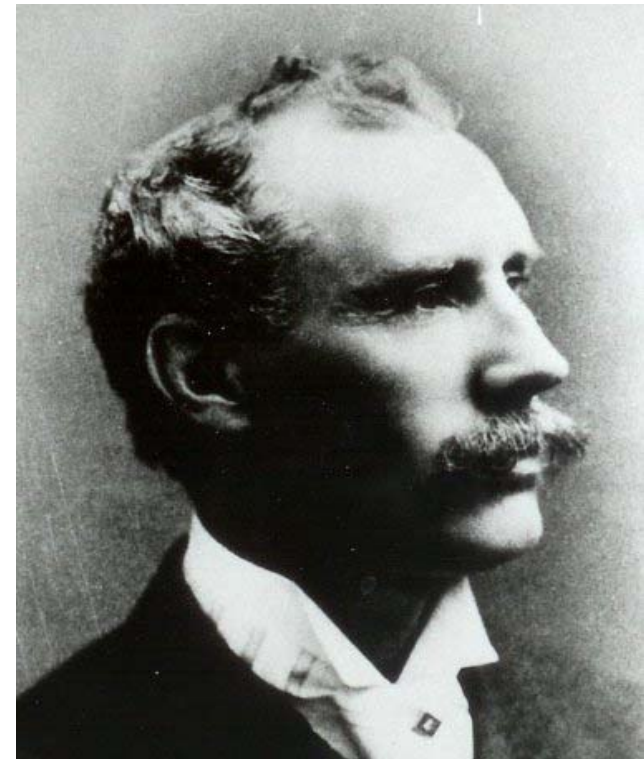
Leigh S.J. Hunt

Reginald Heber Collins

J. Montgomery Sears

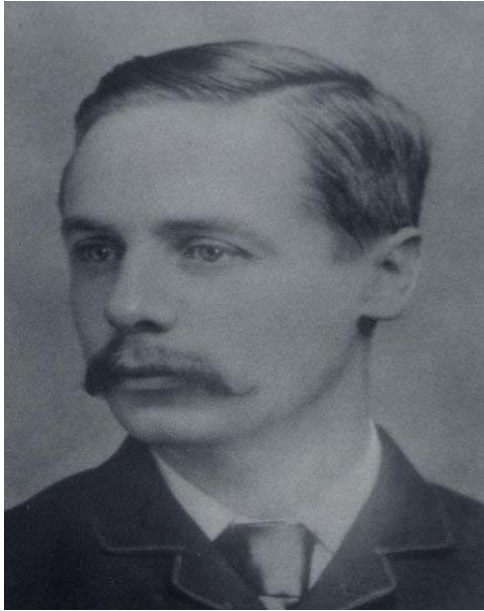


Peter Kirk,
our namesake.



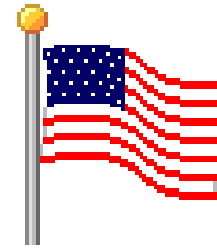


Walter Williams worked for Mr. Kirk in England.

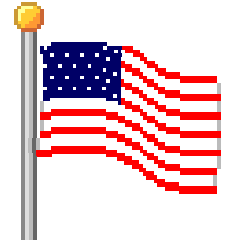
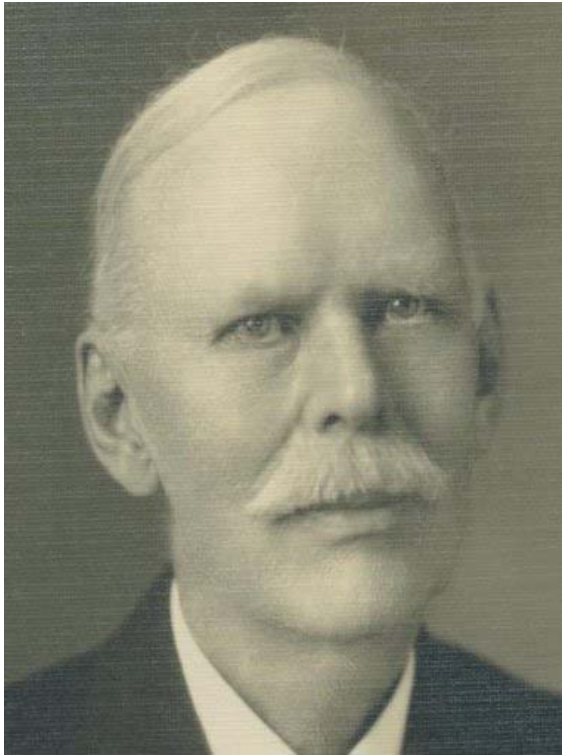


John Kellett also worked for Mr. Kirk in England.

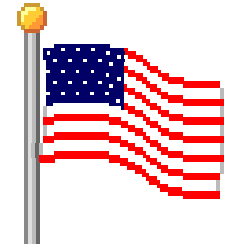
Mr. Kellett named Kirkland after Mr. Kirk. The Kellett family had lived on **Rose Hill** in England.



Leigh Hunt convinced Mr. Kirk to built his steel mill near Lake Washington. **Hunts Point** is named for Mr. Hunt.

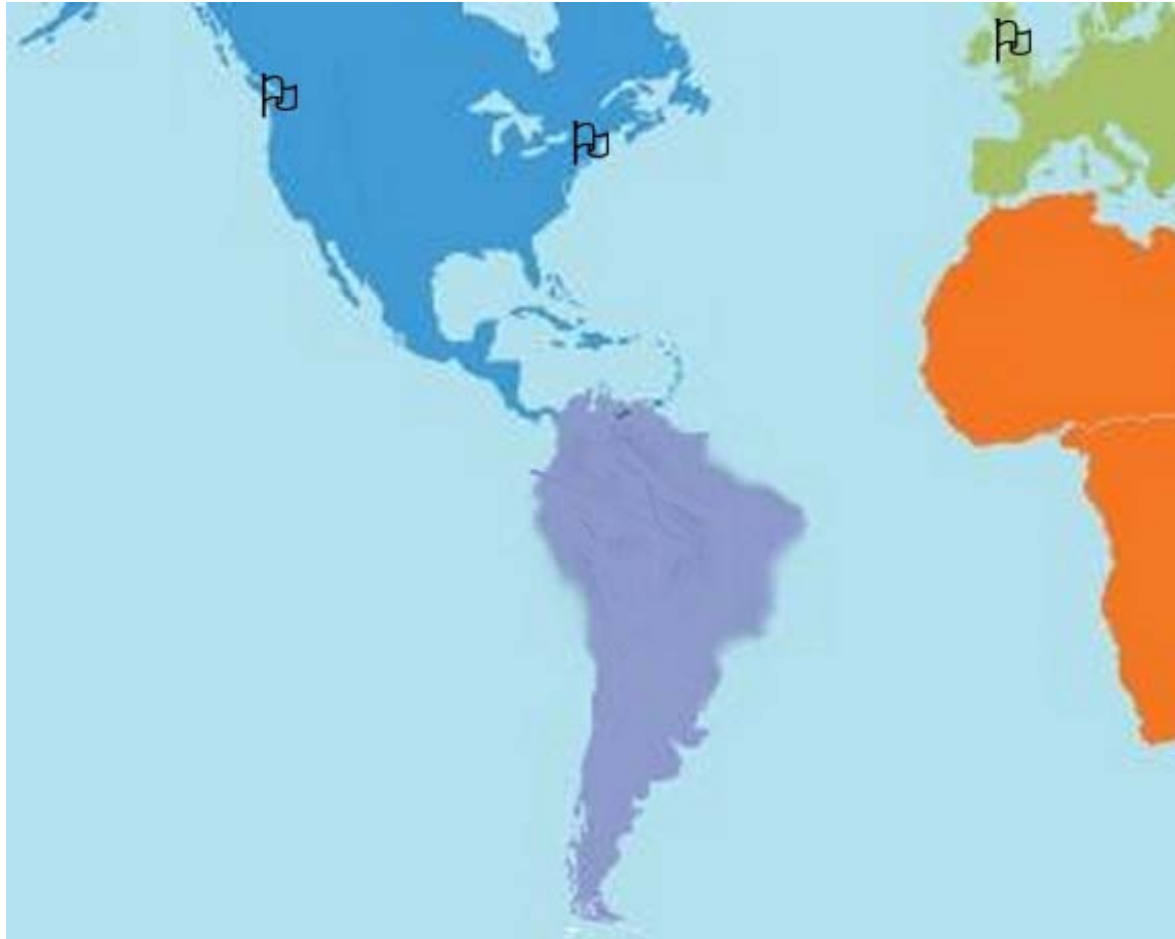


Reginald Collins was a friend of Leigh Hunt.
He became Kirkland's first Mayor.



J. Montgomery Sears
was one of the richest men
in America. He built the
beautiful Sears Building
on Market St.





In 1888, ships had to sail around the horn on the bottom of South America just to go from New York to Seattle.

American had very few railroads in 1888 so Peter Kirk knew it would be a very good idea to build a rolling mill in America. If he built it on the Pacific Ocean side, he could ship the rail to other countries too.

Rolling mill means the steel rails are pushed through rollers until they are the right size and shape.



Steel rolling is hot work.



Peter Kirk's original rolling mill in England in modern times.

Another picture of Peter Kirk's foundry before it closed in 2009 after 129 years.





This man worked at the rolling mill. He came to take pictures after it closed in 2009.



Rail made at Peter Kirk's rolling mill in England.



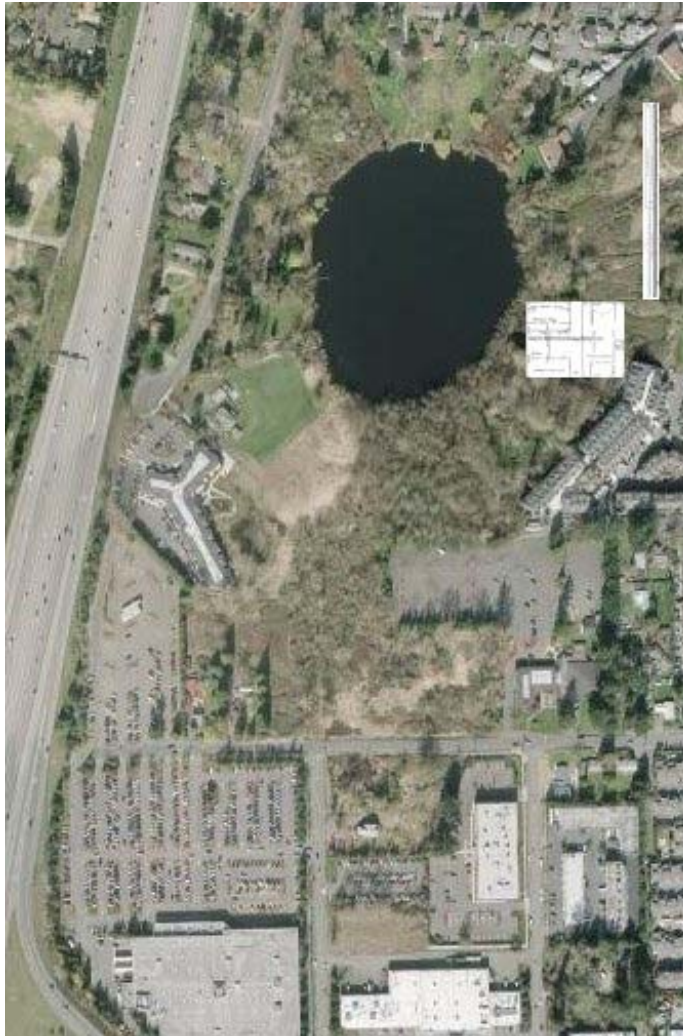
Forbes Lake with railroad and mill.
The railroad bed became Slater.



The machine, blacksmith and pattern shops with the foundry building and coal bunkers behind.



Side of the pattern shop and the Foundry Building.



Costco

Where was the Steel Works?

When you go to Costco, you are very near Forbes Lake and the original site of the steel works.



Rose Hill Elementary School

This school was across the street from the steel mill. The boys would float their toy boats in the cooling ponds that were still there. When they played on the playground, they would often find pieces of pipe left over from the steel works.

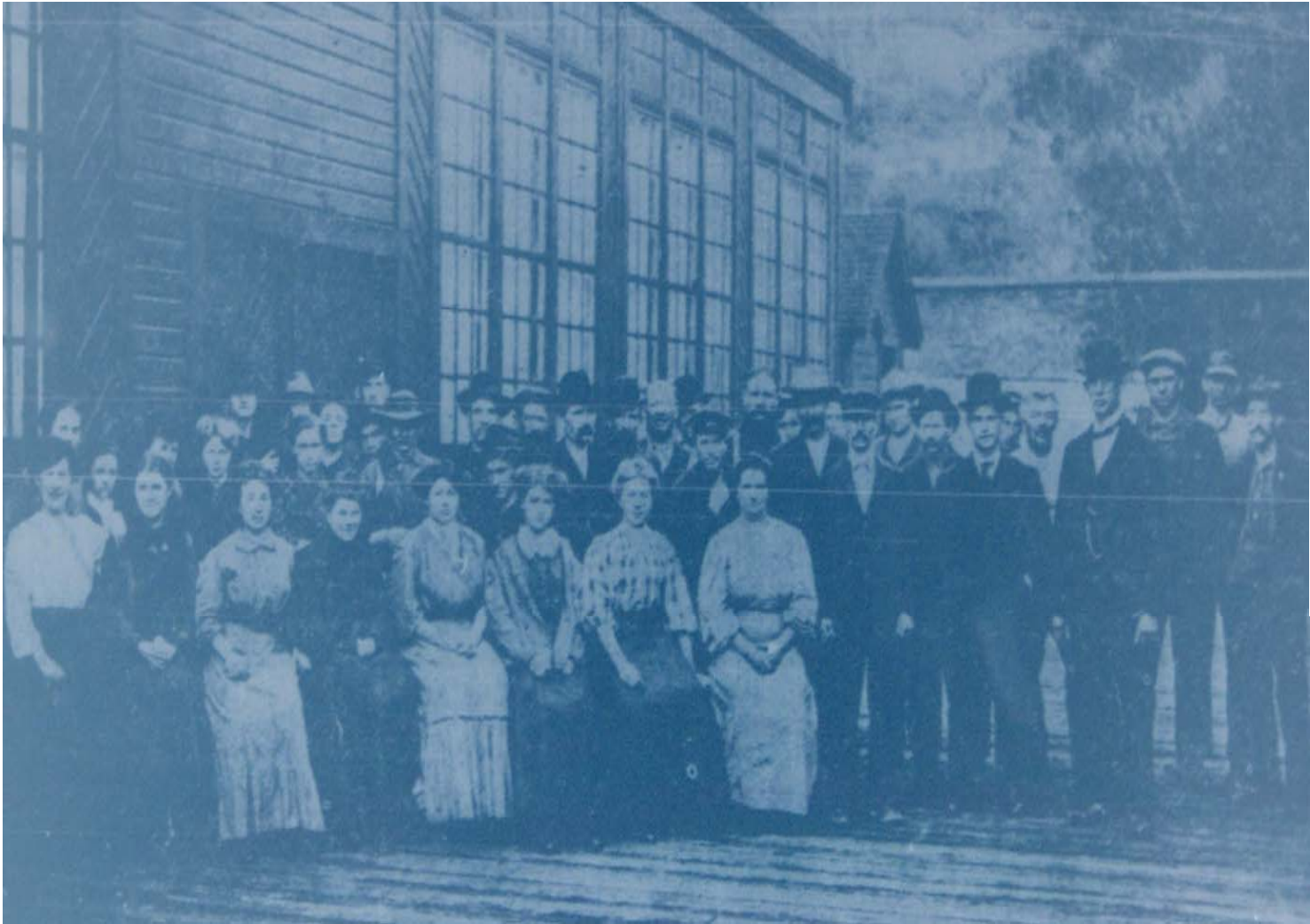
There are many reasons why the steel mill did not open.

Can you imagine what the Moss Bay Iron and Steel Works would have looked like if that had actually started making steel and rolling railroad rail in Kirkland?



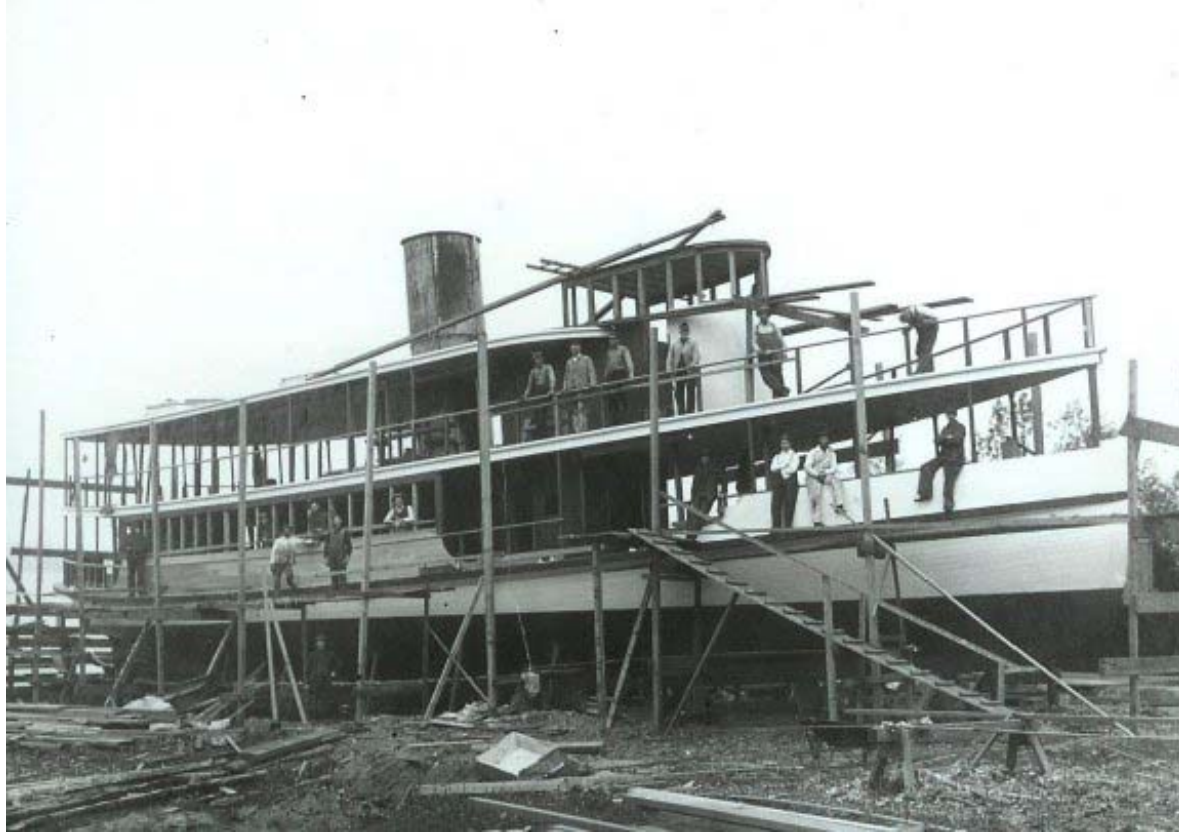
This is the Moss Bay Iron Works in Workington, England as it looked when Peter Kirk lived here. They made steel and they made railroad rail.

Most people moved away from Kirkland when the steel mill did not open. But many people stayed because it was a beautiful town and there were jobs.



These people worked at the Seattle Woolen Mill which was in Kirkland, on Lake Washington.

Kirkland has a long history of building boats,
ferries and ships.



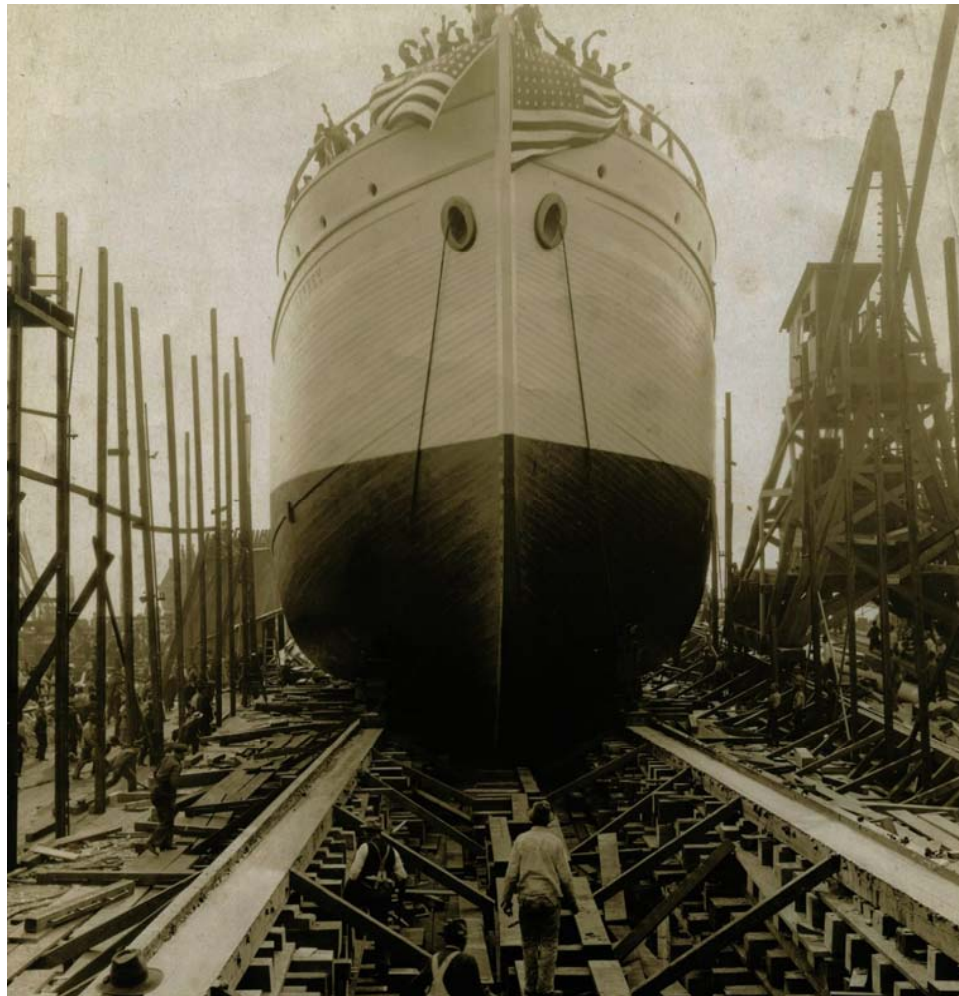
The Atlanta had to stay on Lake Washington because there was no ship canal when it was built.



The Urania and the Atlanta were identical.



This large ferry had to stay on Lake Washington when it was new but it eventually was used in Seattle because it could leave the lake.



This ship was built for WWI. It could go to the ocean because the ship canal was dug in 1916. This ship was made of wood.

The ship is “**On the Ways**”. **WAYS** are the track that guide the boat into the water.



PUBLISHED BY THE LAKE WASHINGTON SHIPYARDS • HOUGHTON, WASHINGTON

LWS Fighting Ships All Afloat At End of War



These ships were built during WWII and were all made of steel.

Did you know that Lake Washington was 9 feet higher until 1916? Lake Washington lowered when the ship canal was dug. This is also when the Ballard Locks were opened.



Opening Day, July 4, 1917



The Washington of Kirkland ferry in the locks.

When the lake lowered, Kirkland grew a great deal. Marina Park had been under water. Lee Johnson field was not under water but it was marshy. After Lake Washington was lowered, the town center moved from the brick buildings on Market to the current downtown.

Juanita got Juanita Beach and business land.

Houghton families got beach front.



Kirkland downtown before Lake Washington was lowered.



The Grocery Store and Post Office in Houghton.

Both of these buildings are still there.

Fun Facts about Kirkland

People rode the ferry to Seattle before the bridges were built.

Before there were roads, all water front homes had a landing to catch rides on the lake ferries. The ferry system was called the Mosquito Fleet because there were so many boats that it looked like a bunch of Mosquitoes on Lake Washington.

Native Americans came to Juanita every year to harvest Wapato. Wapato is a root vegetable that grows in the water. After the lake was lowered, the Wapato died.

Most families had a cow and some chickens. The cows would roam the streets of Kirkland.

Kirkland had a movie lot and at least one movie was made here.

Costco has stores around the world and they all sell Kirkland brand.

The Seattle Seahawks had their first headquarters at the Lake Washington Shipyards.



The Seahawks practice field at the Lake Washington Shipyard. Before 1916, Lake Washington came right up to the road.

What happened in 1916????



The first Seattle Seahawks team in 1976.



Peter Kirk's home
1890-1916



Kirkland Heritage Society



Peter Kirk's home in Workington, England
His son and nephew on playing in the front yard.

So far, Kirkland's history has been
all about men.

But women made history in Kirkland too.



Mrs. Forbes of
Juanita was the first
woman Justice of
the Peace in King
County.



Mrs. Julia Hawley
was the first
woman juror in
Washington.



Miss Carrie Shumway was the first woman councilman in Washington. She was on the Kirkland City Council.



Mrs. Esty started the first Cub Scout troop in Washington. She was the very first woman scout leader.



Joanne Carner is a lady golfer. She was the first person ever to win three United States Golf Association championship events. She was born in Kirkland and learned to play golf at the Juanita Golf Course, now Juanita Bay Park..



**Didi Anstett was
Miss USA in 1968**



Nell Barrie Taylor was an actress on stage and in silent movies. She lived on Rose Hill most of her life.

Questions:

- What happened in 1916?
- What are WAYS?
- Who was Kirkland's first mayor?
- Where was Peter Kirk from?
- What was the Mosquito Fleet?

Now a bit about Heritage Hall



This building was built as a church on 1st Street in Kirkland.

After it was a church, it was a business building.

Later, it was going to be torn down because the new owner wanted to build a condominium.

Because it was such a nice old building, the owner gave the building to the City of Kirkland so it could be saved.





The City moved the building two blocks in 2000.



The City of Kirkland moved the building.

Then Kirkland Heritage Society members
volunteered hundreds of hours to help repair the
building.



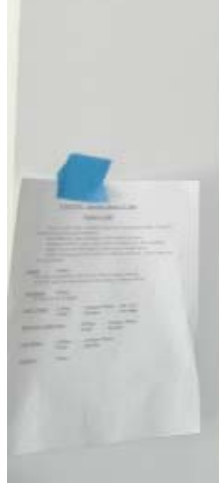












For all of your life, this building has been here on Market Street.

Buildings, both old and new, always need repairs and maintenance. They need new roofs, fresh paint, fresh caulking, their floors polished and so on.

In 50 years, this building will still be standing if it has been cared for. It will then be up to you to be sure it continues to get the care and upkeep.

Saving and maintaining buildings is called Preservation.

Saving an old historic building is called:

Historic Preservation.

Historic Preservation:

Keeps buildings out of landfills.

Saves valuable resources.

Gives a town charm.

Can cost more money to start with, but saves money later on.

Historic Preservation
is a good thing!



Mystery Photo

Can you name
this little girl?



It is Mayor McBride.

Mayor McBride grew
up in Kirkland.

Thank you for being such wonderful listeners.

I hope you are all proud to call Kirkland your home.

The End



Kirkland Heritage Society