

# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

## KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



**Eliza Ann Waggener Forbes**

**1849 - 1942**

King County's first woman Justice of the Peace. See page 6 for Matt McCauley's article about this amazing Juanita Pioneer.

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[www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org)



**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

**LOITA HAWKINSON**

Writing a presidents letter will never be a favorite task. I would much rather be re-searching and writing history about this historic community. Being president will never give me as much pleasure as working in the archives and talking with you. That said, I nominated myself because I wanted to see some changes. With my first meeting as President of Kirkland Heritage Society, I asked **Sandra Ekins** to chair the Bylaws Committee, which includes **Stuart Clarke, Corrine Hieb** and **Robert Burke**. The committee has now met three times and will be presenting their recommendations to the current board. It is my hope that the new bylaws will be voted on by the membership during the October meeting. Members will be mailed a copy of the bylaws but you will also get a report at the September meeting. There will be many changes if approved. No more staggered elections (all positions elected in the odd number years), term limits, the entire board will have more input, the board will hopefully include more people. The new bylaws are easy to read and understand. Thank you Sandy and fellow committee members for putting this on a fast track so KHS can get on with the joy of documenting and presenting history.



**Wilkeson Stone Pavers Available  
Order Now! See KHS Website for Form  
[www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org)**

The 2009/2010 order has been placed and will be installed as soon as the pavers are engraved and delivered.

The next order will be placed in 2012  
Remember, Wilkeson Stone is Washington Stone. It is the the same stone used in our Capitol Dome in Olympia  
It is worth the wait!!!

**FIRST WOMAN JUROR  
IN SUFFRAGE STATE**



Washington has reason to be proud of the record of its women jurors. In its territorial days women possessed the suffrage from 1883 to 1889, and it was not unusual for them to serve on juries with men. The history of that time states that "Mrs. Julia Hawley of Kirkland served on a grand jury for three weeks and on the petit jury for seven weeks and was complimented by judges for her wisdom and fairness."



Julia Hawley lived over half of her 94 years in Kirkland. The only known photo is the one above taken from an Iowa newspaper. Her daughter, Vannie married a Wittenmyer. Totem Lake was originally named Lake Wittenmyer. The Wittenmyers are another Kirkland pioneer family that we know little about.



**MRS. JULIA HAWLEY—FIRST WOMAN JUROR IN SUFFRAGE STATE.**

Kirkland, Wash.—While many women have served from time to time in the original suffrage states, it remained for Washington, the latest state to give the ballot to women, to establish the precedent of empanelling a jury composed of women only. Widespread interest has been shown in this woman's jury, and numerous requests for interviews in regard to it have been received by the judge. The English newspapers have given a great deal of space to it, and the London Times has asked for a picture of the judge, the jury, and all those connected with the proceedings.

## KHS Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m. Heritage Hall  
September 29, 2010

## Family History Workshop

Presented by Loita Hawkinson

Bring your local family names and dates and see what can be found. Many Washington birth, death and marriage records are available. See who married your parents or yourselves and who witnessed it.

October 27, 2010  
Marsh Mansion\*\*\*\*

## The Murder of James M. Colman, Mercer Island

Presented by Tom Hitzroth

Mr. Colman and the young Wilbur Patten were on their way to Seattle on February 8, 1886 but never arrived. They had been murdered. Program will be at the historic Marsh Mansion on Lake Washington Blvd. \*\*\*\* Note the change of location.



Thanks to: Irene Neumann & Sandra Di-Giacomo's Brownie Troops #2875 & 52869, both from Peter Kirk Grade School: Special thanks to Brownies: Ann, Isabel, Alexis, Natalie, and Sophia. You could not have asked for a nicer and more organized group of girls.



### August ATTENDEES

Bob Burke, Sue Carter, Betty Fields, Dale & Loita Hawkinson, Corrine Hieb, Anita Maxwell, Russ McClintick, Matt McCauley, Larry Miller, Rich & Cathy Nelson, Vic Newhard, Betty & Dave Roberts, Frank Rosin, Janeen Ryseff, Alice & Vern Stoops, Inge Theisen, Lynette Weber.

## 1907 Kirkland newspaper

### WOMEN WILL FIGHT FOR RIGHTS.

### Kirkland Will Send Strong Delegation to Convention in Seattle.

The regular meeting of the Women's Suffrage Club met with Mrs. Julia Hawley, September 17. The business under consideration was the election of delegates to State Convention. The following delegates were elected: Mrs. Hawley and Miss Baine, Mrs. Elder, Mrs. Graves, Miss Clifton, Miss Getty, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. W. Curtis. Alternates, Mrs. McIntosh, Mrs. G. Curtis.



### 1884, from St. Louis, Missouri:

consulting the woman vote. Those who think that women, if given the ballot, would not take enough interest in politics to use it, are advised to take a trip to Washington Territory and undeceive themselves.



Did you see *Little Big Men*, the ESPN documentary about the 1982 Kirkland Little League World Champs? They did a great job at presenting the spirit of Kirkland and the team. Three Cheers to **Cody Webster** who told with great diplomacy, just how much it hurt to have the nations adoring eyes on him and yet feel the jealousy of some overly competitive parents on opposing local teams in the years that followed. The Kirkland boys won the championship because of team spirit and that same team spirit can still be felt by the men these boys became. Kirkland Heritage Society made the credits. And so did **James Neir**. Jim's aerial movies taken from a blimp ride across Lake Washington were used throughout the documentary.

# Doris Cooper

## Kirkland's accidental leader

by Loita Hawkinson

**Doris Munz Cooper** has always had such a confident demeanor that you would never suspect she threw her hat into the political ring by chance. Doris was a Houghton housewife and mother. Her life was her family and their neighborhood of other young Houghton families. All ordinary for the time and all fulfilling.



When the **Houghton Mayor** called and asked Doris to a meeting and possible position on the Board of Adjustments, Doris agreed to attend the meeting. She did not know the mayor and had no idea why she had been called. When Doris introduced herself, it became clear that they had no idea who she was either. Our Doris Cooper was not the person they thought they had called. The college graduate and mother of five then went on to serve on the Board of Adjustments for seven years.

Being a natural organizer and from a politically informed family, Doris then found herself on the **Houghton Council** and later the **Kirkland City Council**. In 1985 Doris was elected Kirkland's first woman mayor. Doris Cooper served 3 terms as mayor and for 16 years her fellow Kirkland council members were men.

We can thank Mayor Cooper for many of our local parks. It was Doris and her fellow council members that took the "buy now and develop later" stand. Doris realized that our parks are Kirkland's biggest asset and lack of money was a poor reason to lose them to

commercial development. Doris led at least four park bond drives. Because of Doris and her fellow council members, Kirklanders had the opportunity to purchase the Waverly school property and let it sit idle as open space until Heritage Park was developed.

One of the largest challenges for Doris was her desire to please everyone. Her goal was to leave Kirkland a desirable place for young people and their families. Her view on Heritage was to preserve the character of the town. Doris encouraged other women to become involved in Kirkland's future.

What is she most proud of? Doris will tell you, it is the parks.

One of my favorite quotes by Doris is: "picking a city manager is harder than picking a husband and now that I've thought about it, the field is probably better." Doris did a pretty good job of sifting through the field and finding her Ralph when they were both in college. Clearly a team, you seldom see Doris without Ralph Cooper.

For more history on Doris Cooper's political career, read **Bob Neir's** book, a *City Comes of Age*, available at **Parkplace Books** and **Kirkland Heritage Society**. Kirkland Heritage Society has a 2-hour oral history recorded with **Dr. Lorraine McConaghy**. **MOHAI** has a five minute 2010 Podcast available on their website. Doris gives wonderful interviews and her self-effacing stories make her political life a joy to listen to



**Ice cream and history, 2010**

**KHS BOOTH AT  
KIRKLAND UNCORKED  
Bob Burke**

Matt McCauley and I coordinated this year’s effort on the booth at the Kirkland Uncorked Festival at Marina Park on July 16th through 18th. It had been a while since I had called people to serve at the booth, although Dale Hawkinson, who has done it for years, had put together some of the past lists to use! As I made calls, I was reminded of how willing people are to volunteer to work at the booth. Most commented how much fun they had! So remember that next year when you get a call!

Thanks to the City of Kirkland and Kirkland Uncorked for returning to a summer festival and opening it up again to community groups such as KHS.

Many Thank You’s to the Twenty plus KHS members who helped at the booth this year – many doing multiple tasks:

Load at Heritage Hall and Set-up: Fred Hawkinson, Steve Lamson, as well as Matt and Bob with Vic Newhard who provided the vehicle;

Arranging the Exhibit: Barbara Loomis and Cathy Radcliff with help from Fred;

People who worked at the Booth: Russ McClintick, Sandy Ekins, Betty and Dave Roberts, Barbara Loomis, Bob Burke, Janeen Ryseff, Merrily Dicks, Sue and Sants Contreras, Christina Brugman, Betsy Pringle, Matt McCauley, Steve Lamson, Anita Maxwell, Frank Rosin, Pam Owens, and Dee Saunders;

Tearing Down and Taking Booth to Heritage Hall: Matt, Steve, Fred and Bob with Barbara Loomis providing the vehicle.

We had questions and comments, gave away lots of information on KHS, and sold Bob Neir and Steve Lamsons’ books (having Steve there helped sell a number of his books). Ice cold Sarsaparilla was a hit and many people donated to help KHS in its



efforts. All in all, this year’s booth was another success and one of KHS’ major opportunities to gain exposure to the Kirkland community. And, although it is a lot of work, it really is FUN!



**Rain or Shine**

**Kirkland Heritage Resource Center open:**  
Monday: from 9 to 12 noon.  
Wednesday from 2 to 5.  
**203 Market Street, Lower Level**

## Eliza Forbes

by Matthew McCauley

**Eliza and her husband Dorr Forbes** arrived on Seattle's primitive waterfront in 1877 with two young sons and all their belongings. Eliza said her apprehension about the move to the east side melted immediately when she first laid eyes on Juanita Bay. She said there wasn't a soul in sight, just a beautiful bay surrounded by giant trees. Mrs. Forbes knew at that moment that Juanita was where she wanted to live.

A staunch Republican, on January 23, 1887 Mrs. Forbes was the first woman elected justice of the peace on the west coast. In Washington Territory women could vote before it was possible in most of the rest of country. Later women lost that right and Eliza had to step down from office. She remained a political activist and had a large photograph of Teddy Roosevelt prominently displayed in her living room. She frequently attended Republican Party meetings in Seattle. Granddaughter Mrs. Dorris Forbes Beecher recalled that when Eliza was in her late 80's she made the trip across the lake to one party function and fell and broke her arm. Undaunted, she returned home and daughter-in-law, Alicia Forbes, called Dr. George Davis who attempted to splint the broken arm. Eliza stubbornly refused to wear the splint and despite that her arm healed perfectly.

In her later years, typically a Forbes family member would transport Eliza, but if a family member was not available, she didn't let that stop her. She would call the jitney (taxi) in Kirkland to come pick her up and take her to the ferry so she could attend Republican Party meetings. Once she was in her 90s, her sons asked the jitney operators to no longer fetch her when she called. Undaunted, one time Eliza disappeared and the family made a mad search for her. They heard from a neighbor that he'd seen her: she was out alongside the road hitching a ride to the ferry. Seemingly, Eliza Forbes did what Eliza Forbes wanted to do!

Another time, again in her later years, Eliza disappeared for the day, but returned very excited. As a young woman in the 1800s she'd had a dream one night that she was flying through the sky in a machine that carried passengers through the sky—a dream years prior to the advent of powered flight. Eliza had slipped over to Seattle and flew in an airplane to Bremerton and back. She said the experience was her dream coming true. At the time of her adventure, few Kirkland-area residents and certainly no other member of the Forbes family had flown in an airplane. This feisty pioneer grandma was the first. Mrs Beecher said even well into her senior years, her pioneer grandmother would still catch fish from Juanita Creek, then a thriving salmon stream but also home to trout and other edible species, and liked to pick stinging nettles, dandelions and wild berries as part of her meals. Mrs Beecher said Eliza also liked sit on porch and shoot robins from her fruit trees with a .22 rifle. Pioneers considered robin's breast a culinary delicacy and she continued to live as a rugged, individualistic pioneer, right up to her death in 1942.

For an unedited version of the life of Eliza Forbes, visit [www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org). Matt McCauley's article is written from his oral history with Dorris Forbes Beecher which he recorded in 1993. Matt has also included many photos.



### THANK YOU TO:

The thank you page will be returned with the next issue. There is just too much known history about the ladies of Kirkland. Something had to be bumped.



### Golden Grads

September 25, 2010  
Lake Washington High School  
1 - 4:00 p.m.  
Anyone who attended 50+ years ago is invited

**Kirkland Heritage Society**

Heritage Hall, Lower Level  
203 Market Street  
Kirkland, WA 98033

**Phone:** 425 827-3446  
**E-Mail:** help-line@kirklandheritage.com  
**Website:** www.kirklandheritage.org

**Officers and Board**

President:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Vice President:	Vic Newhard	425 522-4082
Secretary:	Sandra Ekins	
Treasurer:	Stuart Clarke	
At-Large:	Sue Carter	425 822-5486
At-Large:	Barbara Loomis	425 827-7194
Past President:	Robert Burke	425 828-4095

**Committee Chairs & members**

Archives & Collections:	Dale & Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Blackberry Preserves	D & L Hawkinson Marjorie Denton	425 827-1950
Funding	Robert Burke	425 828-4095
Hello Girls**	Sue Carter	425 822-5486
Feature Writers	Irene Vlitos-Rowe Matt McCauley	425 827-3446
Education and Programs:	Anita Maxwell Vic Newhard	425 828-3683 425 522-4082
Membership		425-827-3446
Oral History:	D & L Hawkinson Clarence Stone Matt McCauley	425 827-1950
Planning and Historic Sites:	Lynette Weber Tom Hitzroth Robert Burke Barbara Loomis	425 890-9058 425 823-2981 425 828-4095 425 827-7194
Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir Kris Woods Sandy Ekins	206 478-3173

\*\* During WWI, the hello girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, these sweet ladies call and remind you of the next meeting or event.

**2010 MEMBERSHIP**

**Kirkland Heritage Society**

**January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010**

KHS qualifies for tax exemption under 501(c) (3) and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. We qualify for matching gift contributions by those employers who offer this benefit.

**Membership Category**

_____ Senior / Student	\$20
_____ Individual	\$25
_____ Family	\$30
_____ Supporting	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$1,000
_____ Organization/Government	\$100
_____ Professional Business	\$125
_____ Corporate	\$250

I would like to make a contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

**If your company matches contributions, please provide the signed Matching Gift Form!**

Name

Address:

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Phone:

E-mail:

Checks should be made payable to and mailed to:

Kirkland Heritage Society  
Heritage Hall, Lower Level  
203 Market Street  
Kirkland, WA 98033.




**Support for the Kirkland Heritage Society**  
 is provided by our members,  
**CULTURE 4 Culture & City of Kirkland**  
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX



**TO RENT HERITAGE HALL**  
Call Nicci Osborn at Kirkland Parks  
**425 587-3342**



When women got the vote in 1910, Kirkland elected Miss Carrie Shumway to the Kirkland City Council. In contrast, Seattle held a special election and recalled the mayor who had talked down to women. The news clippings below are from the London news.

### **WOMAN SUFFRAGE VICTORY.**

Women's suffrage on Wednesday brought about the defeat of Mr. H. C. Gill on a "recall" election as Mayor of Seattle (Washington).

Mr. Gill attacked the women during the campaign, alleging that they took no intelligent interest in the city's affairs, and adopted whatever attitude the clergymen told them.

**Blackberry Preserves** is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, Loita Hawkinson, Editor: 203 Market Street, Kirkland, WA 98033, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. To contribute articles please email to [bparticles@verizon.net](mailto:bparticles@verizon.net). For information on KHS - check our website: [www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org), or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

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Stamp  
Box**



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