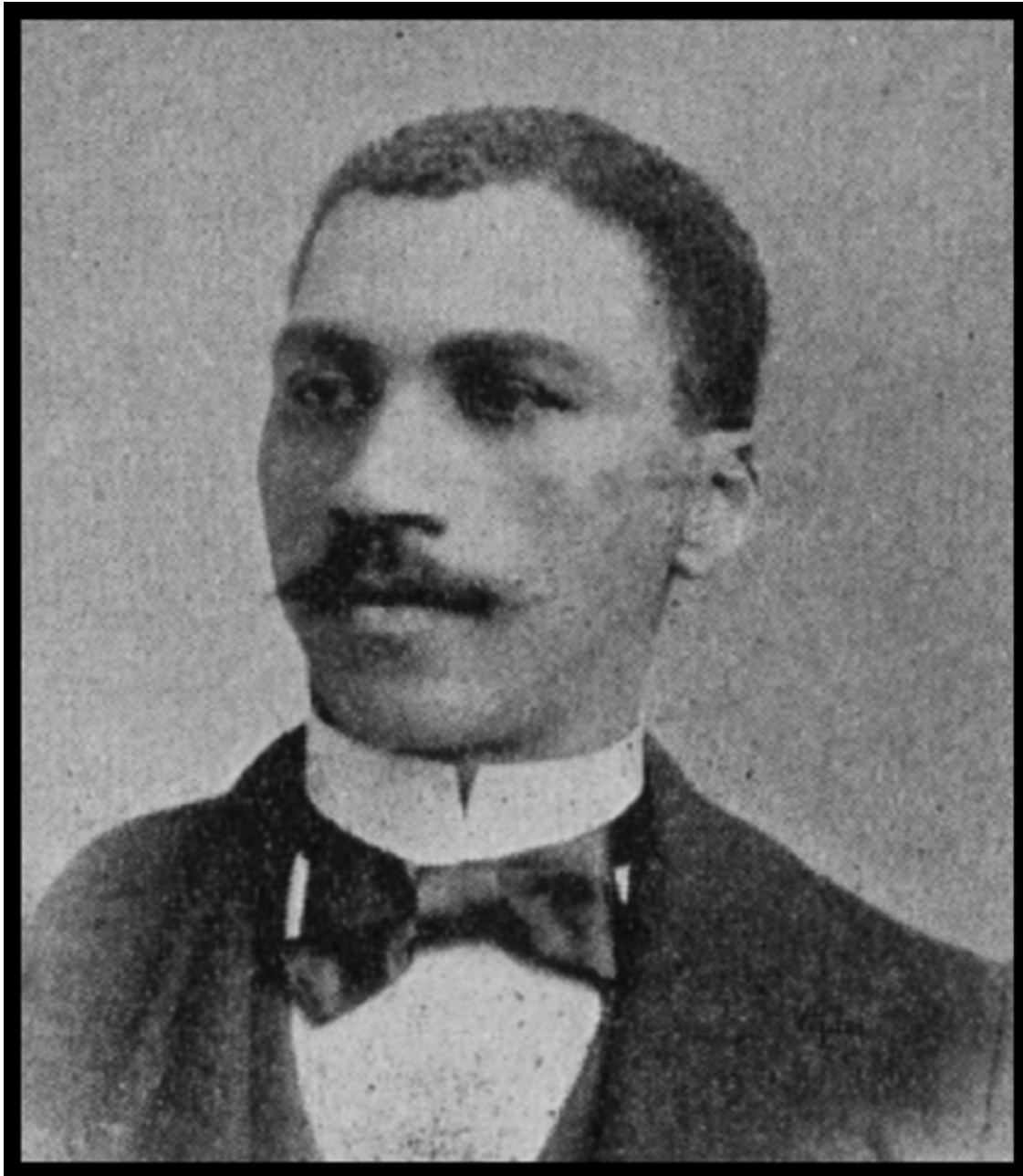


# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

## KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



**I. Israel Walker**

1866 - 1937

See pages 4-6 for history

Volume XXVIII, Issue I

Jan/Feb 2021

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

## From the President

Loita Hawkinson

Russell McClintick, teacher and principal for many of our membership wrote:

*“My young years ... taught me to be a better man and spend my life doing something every day that will make my life and the lives of people around me better. I believe we have to show gratitude to our fellow man and the community for what they do for us. I believe your family, friends, acquaintances and old memories will give you the greatest wealth and provide all the prosperity you will ever need or want”.*

I miss Russ and wish we could talk about our current world, the one he started fighting for at age 17. But he left us with his thoughts and wisdom. He continues to teach.

Thank you to all of you that continue to support Kirkland Heritage Society with your memberships and donations. We can blame this pandemic on many of our troubles but must give the same pandemic credit for making us bored enough to sort through our history and find homes for some of our family treasures. Families realize that once the last person who remembers a family member or friend passes away, the “family value” of the object or document fades. A digital copy preserves the details that can be shared with others. But the actual items that were handled 100 years ago are often lost or sold. Thank you all for trusting KHS.

It bothers me no end when I write an accession number on 100 year old documents. But this also is how history is preserved and protected. I do it...in acid free ink or pencil ...but it still bothers me.

Happy 2021 to you all. Loita



Russ in 1943

and

2011



## KHS Monthly Programs Heritage Hall 203 Market Street

Programs will return when we are told it is safe. We will then follow the current guidelines.

2021

Jan and Jock McLaughlin  
and Randy Morelli  
hope to tell us of their family  
history and their impact in  
Kirkland.

## In the mail

Loita asked if I remembered Charlie Younger's Mints from the early days of Kirkland and yes, I sure do. His small shop in the early 30's was on Lake Shore Avenue which at that time was at the end of town going south. It was next door to the East Side Journal and Miles Studio Photo.

The mints were like after dinner mints – little pillows that melt in your mouth. There were flavored ones in pastel pink and green and white were peppermint. You could almost be sure to see a pretty dish of them at most social events and parties and weddings, etc.

I also remember he made caramels in different flavors and wrapped in different colored paper. I can still remember the big round glass containers the caramels were in with the different colors for each flavor. They were lines up across the top of the counter. So pretty.

Younger's Mints became famous around the country and the world. Also it was a popular gift to send to the military overseas during WWII.

Martha  
Martha Burr Millar, KHS class of 1941



Glass jars on Younger's counter

## More Mail

Your latest newsletter brought out some "serious" trivia that no one but those involved will care about. I didn't know Bonnie McLeod, of course, but I knew

Genevieve, Mrs. Click and Joyce. Joyce was a good friend of Martha Burr Millar. Libby and I lived at 1325 5th West just a block from Mrs. Clicks little store. Alongside us lived Siever Randall and wife and their son Ralph. Ralph married a Chicago girl, Margaret, and they moved into one of Mrs. Clicks little rental houses. Those were the days of "Canasta", the card game. Margaret and Ralph became close friends. We fished, camped and played Canasta till the wee hours every weekend.

I believe it was the Junior Prom when I had a date with June Parry (she married the school band director). June called me early afternoon saying she had a terrible cold. I was very disappointed and talked her into coming for one dance. I then took her home. I came back to dance and spied Joyce Click alone. We danced every dance till the prom was over. We had a super nice time together. And yes, I knew Bob Zierow, Joyce's husband.

Regards, Ted

Ted Tillman, KHS class of 1941



## Life Members:

Richard and Lisa Altig, Maureen Baskin, Laura Bradley-Pierucci, Bob and Valerie Burmester, David and Tasha Davis, Steve Lamson, Matt McCauley, Laura May Mosing, Richard and Kathy Nelson, Michael and Cathy Radcliff, Larry Springer/Penny Sweet, Sandi Stone.

## Corporate Members:

Hallmark Realty, Madison House.



KHS receives 100% commission from the sales of Bob Neir's *A City Comes of Age* and Steve Lamson's *The Power of a Dream*.

## I. Israel Walker

Researched & reported by

Loita Hawkinson

In honor of Black History Month we are honoring some history of our first known black resident, Mr. I.I. Walker.

Isaac Israel Walker, was born in Chester, South Carolina in 1866 to Reverend Dublin Israel Walker and Matilda Walker. His father was a South Carolina State Senator from 1874 through 1877.

Isaac Israel Walker went by I. Israel Walker. He attended Livingstone College in North Carolina and received a normal school education (today known as a teaching education) and also learned the painting trade. In the 1800's, painting was not a handyman's project but required complex skills. In the 1800's a professional painter earned more income than a teacher. Mr. Walker had been a teacher before moving to the northwest.

Seattle's great fire of 1889 attracted tradesmen from all over the country. At age 23, Mr. Walker was one of the many who moved to Washington to help rebuild Seattle. He was also seeking in his words: "Seattle's free air."

Mr. Walker purchased land on the north east corner of Lake Wittenmeyer, now called Totem Lake. This land had been part of the original Edwin Langdon homestead. Juanita was his home until his death in 1937.

In 1896 Mr. I. Israel Walker was a Republican candidate for Seattle Constable (sheriff). He won the primary and got on the ballot but lost in the general election. This small piece of history shows how politically active and respected he was in Seattle.

Constables, Seattle.  
I. ISRAEL WALKER.  
GEORGE GAU.

### FOOT FIRST HILL ON TRAIL,

Oct. 26, 1897.

This is to certify that I bought my outfit at Seattle from O. Knox on Third Avenue and have found it satisfactory in every respect. The articles were first-class and the packing everything that was needed.  
I. ISRAEL WALKER.

In 1897 Mr. Walker went to Alaska to take part in the Alaska Gold Rush. In 1902 he returned to the Northwest and then to South Carolina to visit his widowed mother and family. By December of 1902 he was on his way back to the Klondike for another two years. Mr. Walker had claims that did not payout but like many with the 1897 gold fever, he had managed to make a small fortune providing services to other prospectors. He had put his painting trade to good use.

Mr. I. I. Walker, one of the pioneer colored men of Dawson City, who made a trip to his old home in South Carolina some weeks ago to see his aged mother and other relatives, has returned and is making preparations to leave for the North one day next week. Mr. Walker has some valuable claims up there and thinks they will do nicely by him during the coming working season.

.....Israel Walker, a son of Matilda Walker, who left here some 14 or 15 years ago, is back on a visit to his mother. He went to Seattle, Wash., and from there to Alaska. He gives a most interesting report from the Klondyke. He does not claim to have made a fortune yet, but he has claims that promise to yield rich returns in the future.....

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Back in Seattle, in 1906 Mr. Walker was general manager and secretary of the Afro-American Realty and Investment Company. He was a popular man and held many positions during his life.

Mr. I. I. Walker, general manager of the Afro-American Realty & Investment Co., was confined to his bed on account of a dangerous cold for a few days.

\* \* \*

### The Comfort.

Newly furnished rooms. Walking distance; rent reasonable; rooms by the day or week.

I. ISRAEL WALKER,

1101-1103 Jackson Street.

### From 1906 & 1907

The more a person researches, the more we learn that much humor is the same as 100 years ago. In a 1907 Seattle newspaper it stated: "Let the ladies of the city give themselves no further uneasiness as the reported marriage of Mr. I.I. Walker was not only a false alarm, but a gross mistake".

In 1920 it was reported: "Mr. I.I. Walker of Kirkland was in the city last Thursday. He is much interested in bees and berries and thinks he is in sight of the long "lost mine", referring to his Dawson City days.

Mr. I. I. Walker of Kirkland was in the city last Thursday. He is much interested in bees and berries and thinks he is in sight of the long "lost mine."

Mr. I. Israel Walker, who resides on his ranch across Lake Washington, remembered some of his old time friends holiday week.

Mr. Walker's parents founded the Metropolitan AME Zion Church in South Carolina. Following in his parents footsteps, Mr. Walker was a founding member of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Seattle. Both of these churches still stand and are landmarked.

Mr. Walker did not file a homestead but like many, purchased his land from the original homesteader. His first known job in Seattle upon his arrival was as janitor of the Seattle Post Intelligencer so we can be sure he knew publisher Leigh S.J. Hunt who is a founder of Kirkland. Soon Mr. Walker owned and sold land in Seattle and was upwardly mobile. He had rentals on Jackson street where he also lived when not in Juanita. At age 23, he was already active in local politics.

The *East Side Journal* started printing in July of 1918 so we can be grateful to the *Seattle Times* and the *Post Intelligencer* for recording the movements of Isaac Israel Walker. He was mentioned in the Society Section frequently. Other than in business dealings, his race was seldom mentioned.

Mr. Walker did not have children and he was the only one of his family to move to the west coast. Had he had children to follow in his footsteps and continue investing in his many causes, you have to wonder what impact they could have made.

Juanita resident and teacher, Ruth Nelson, drew the historic Juanita Map which shows early Juanita history. Walker's name is on this map (see back page) so Miss Nelson knew of Mr. Walker. The Mickelson's had to know him as well. Sadly, we did not know of Mr. Walker when Helen Mickelson and Miss Nelson were still living and could fill some details of this historic man.

Thanks to the internet and modern search engines, this issue of *Blackberry Preserves*

Continued of page 6

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is on the web. If his family ever tries to learn about their one relative who left his birth town to find his fortune out west, they will find this article.

Over the years several families have have found long lost family through KHS. It is a win win situation when it happens. KHS had one photo our our first mayor, Dr. E.H. Bradley. When his family found KHS, they had one photo. Now both KHS and the Bradley family have two photos. And we know that he died during WWI of the Spanish Flu. And they know that in 1905, Dr. Bradley became the first mayor of Kirkland.

The Kellett's of London found KHS. John Kellett's son Peter Kellett had returned to England after his sisters were of age. The families eventually lost touch. Peter's great granddaughters started asking questions about their American ancestors. Their father did a simple search that led them directly to KHS. This led to a trip from London to Kirkland in 2014. Patrick and Shannon Harris have the Historic Kellett home. The Kellett family had a wonderful tour and visit in their ancestors home. John Kellett is credited with naming Kirkland and London has a Costco.

Because Costco chose Kirkland to be their signature brand when their offices were on Rose Hill, both the Bradley and Kellett families can claim some fun bragging rights.

And the list does go on and on.

We can only hope that Mr. Walker's family will find us and share more history and photos. And of course, we would love to share what we have learned from our local newspapers.



Kirkland Heritage Society office  
and museum will re-open:  
Monday from 10 to noon  
Wednesday from 2 to 5 when  
recommended by the City.



## Programs

Karen would like suggestions for future programs:

Karen Schickling @ 425-273-6299 or  
kschic1965@gmail.com.



## AmazonSmile

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AmazonSmile.

When you purchase from Amazon, .5% of  
your total purchase can be donated to KHS.  
Amazon pays this .5%, not the buyer. The  
link to our AmazonSmile account is on our  
website @

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

.5% may not seem like much but every  
penny helps support Kirkland's history.

# Blackberry Preserves

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At-Large:	Dave Sherbrooke	425 827-3446
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Bookkeeping	Andrea Kyralla	425-827-3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson Marjorie Denton	425 827-1950
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Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson Frank Rosin Guest writer	425 827-1950
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Membership	Bob Gerrish	425-827-3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Planning and Historic Sites:	Kim Hartman* Lynette Weber	810.599.1754 425 890-9058
Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir*	206 478-3173 425 827-3446

\* Chair or Co-chairs

\*\* 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.

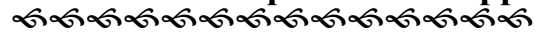
Webmaster: Christopher Neir

## Kirkland Heritage Society

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

425-827-3446

**KHS is 100% volunteer with no paid staff.  
Your memberships make it happen.**



### 2020 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

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
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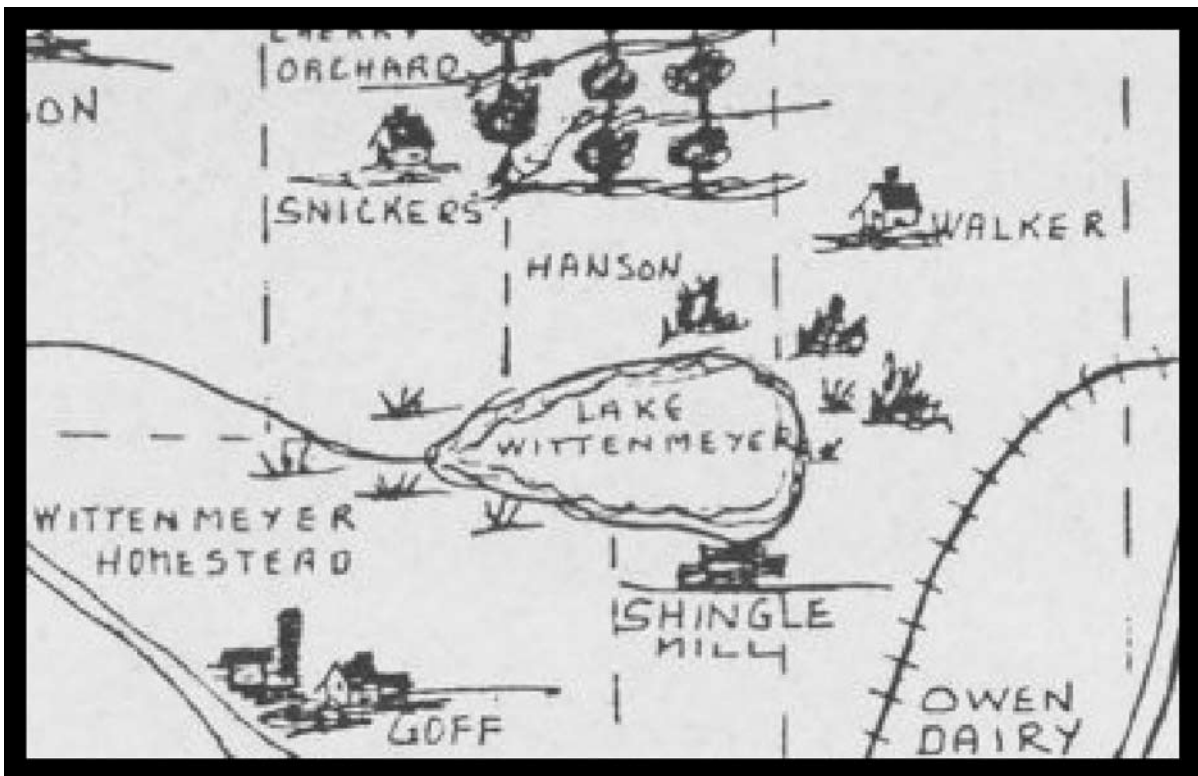
Checks should be made payable and mailed to:

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



## TO RENT HERITAGE HALL

**Call the City of Kirkland's  
Customer Service Division at:  
425-587-3300**



From the Juanita Map drawn by Miss Ruth Nelson

**Blackberry Preserves** is produced by the **Kirkland Heritage Society**, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. **Loita Hawkinson, Editor.**  
For information on KHS - visit our website: [www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org),  
or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

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