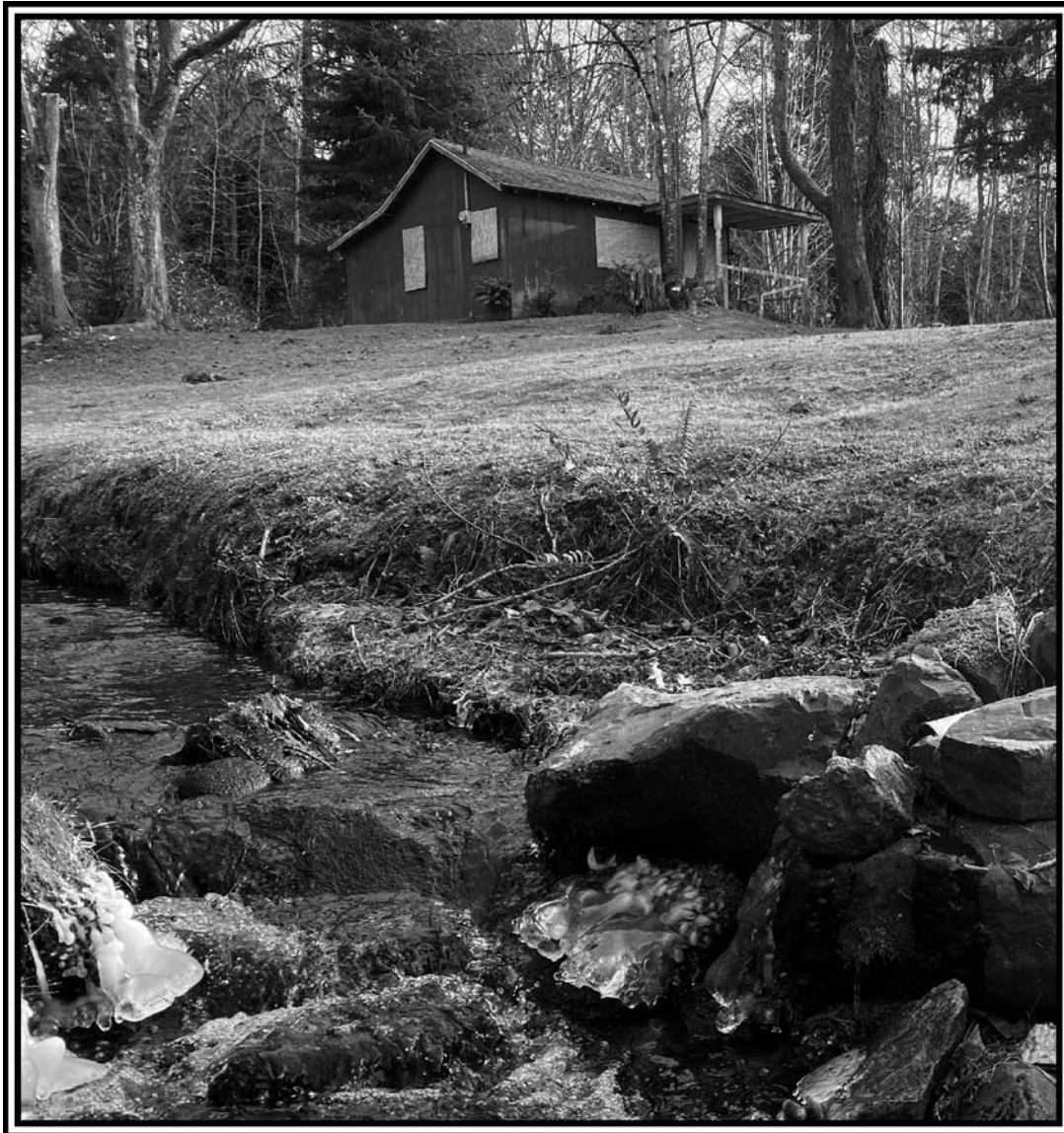


# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

## KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



### **Fisk Family Park Kirkland's newest park**

**6th Avenue South taken from Everest Creek**

**January 2024, Photo by Feliks Banel**

(See page 6 for some history)

Volume XXXI, Issue II

Mar/Apr 2024

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

**KHS Program**  
**Heritage Hall**  
**203 Market Street**  
**May 29, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Annual Members Meeting**  
**with**  
**Elections & History Program**

May 29, 2014 will be our annual membership meeting. Elections will be held that evening. All current board members have agreed to serve another two year term.

One at-large position remains open because Andrea has moved from the area. We would like to have this position filled. Kirkland Heritage Society has a “working board” meaning many responsibilities are filled by the board. These might include working a shift during our Monday and Wednesday open hours, distributing History Month signs for February and attending any membership meeting. From there, if you have a passion concerning Historic Kirkland, you can find a niche.

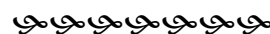
If you are interested in becoming a member of the board, please let President Chris Neir know so that you are invited to one or two board meetings. You can then be appointed by the sitting board.

Kirkland Heritage Society records history from 1870 through yesterday and makes it available to residents and historians.

The hard work of finding a secure location for the archives with some display space was accomplished 25 years ago when the 1922 First Church of Christ building was moved from 220 First Street to what became Heritage Park.

**The current board is:**

President: Chris Neir  
Vice President: Matt McCauley  
Secretary: Janice Gerrish  
Treasurer: Loita Hawkinson  
At large: Linda Jatton  
At Large: Kim Hartman  
At Large: Libbi Wright  
At Large: Dave Sherbrooke  
At Large: Vacant



**Evening program presented by:**

**Shannon Parks**

Granddaughter of Kirkland's  
Susie Gregg Parks Kendrick

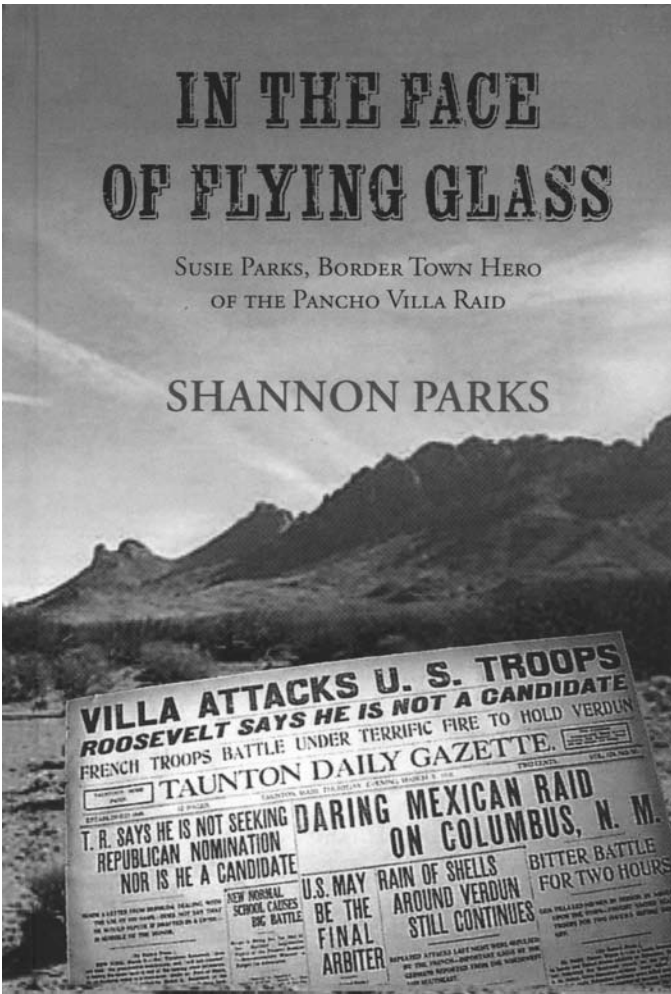
***In the Face of Flying Glass***  
***Susie Parks Border Town Hero***  
***of the Pancho Villa Raid***

The program will be presented by Shannon detailing Susie Gregg Parks Kendrick.

**(Blackberry Preserves 2022 March/April Issue)**

Susan Parks was a 1916 hero of a Columbus, New Mexico raid. At age 19 she was a wife, mother and telephone operator who at 4 a.m., while the first shots were fired, realized she was the only person in town able to call for help when Pancho Villa raided her small town. Susan Parks is buried in the Kirkland Cemetery.

Books will be available to purchase. Shannon included some great history about Kirkland. Barbara Parks Gay, youngest child of Susie Gregg Parks and aunt to Shannon, supplied first account family history. Barbara was born in Kirkland. Ray Lincoln was not in her class, but remembers her well. Others may as well.



Kirkland Heritage Society hours:  
 Monday from 10 to noon  
 Wednesday from 2 to 5



**Life Members:**

Richard and Lisa Altig, Cindy Anderson, Maureen Baskin, Laura Bradley-Pierucci, Bob and Valerie Burmester, David and Tasha Davis, Don and Merrily Hardenbrook Dicks, Steve Lamson, Anne R. Fleming, Sandi Kelly, Ray & Clare Lincoln, Joan McBride/Margaret Meister, Matt McCauley, Larry Miller, Laura May Moseng, Jim & Cathy Neir, Tom & Sally J. Neir, Richard & Kathy Nelson, Timothy & Mary Ord, Richard and Peggy Ostrander, Wayne Peterson, Michael and Cathy Radcliff, Darlene “Dee” Miller Saunders, Larry Springer/Penny Sweet.

**Corporate Member:**

Stephen Lamson, Continental Productions.



Larry Springer and Penny Sweet are finding homes for items passed down to them by friends and neighbors. This hand constructed model of the ferry, Washington of Kirkland, was built in 1997. It was one of at least 35 models. We do not know at this time if the models were all of the Washington of Kirkland or if they were various Ferries. We have the builders name so we look forward to learning more



The model found a home on a shelf below the two navigation lights that Frank Rosin salvaged from the Washington of Kirkland. Also displayed is a plank from the old ferry dock, also salvaged by Frank in 1950.





## Jennie Violet Getty

A Brief Biography  
by Loita Hawkinson

### *A treasure from eBay*

In 1914 Jennie Violet Getty's collection of birds' eggs and nests, then considered the most complete in the Northwest, were given to the University of Washington. Miss Getty had died in 1913 after spending years on the shores of Lake Washington near her home in Kirkland, Washington, where she gathered 250 sets of eggs and nests. Some of these were very rare. Miss Getty was regarded as one of the most prominent ornithologists in the state. Pressed flowers, paintings and photographs were also given to the museum at the University of Washington.

It was written that when Miss Getty died, "*children and birds and flowers had lost a friend and protector.*" She was a member of the Mountaineers. Her work was so widely known that she was invited to speak at Yale.

Miss Getty worked tirelessly for the passage of the law that prohibited any shooting either on Lake Washington and within two miles of the shore. She personally gathered and delivered over 600 signatures to Olympia. It was thought that the overexertion of this cause led to her early death at age 51. Her death certificate reports that she died of an infection. Today we realize this may have been caused from the handling of the bird nests.

Genevive Violet Getty was the last child born to John Getty and Martha Ann Wiley Getty. Her older siblings were George Getty, Delbert Louis Getty and Laura Getty Allen (Mrs. Horatio Allen). Laura's husband's family were pioneers of Duvall. George was the father of industrialist J. Paul Getty.

Genevive, called Jennie, moved to Kirkland in 1898 and purchased Lake Washington property from Mary Kirk, wife of Kirkland

founder, Peter Kirk. She had been a school teacher before moving to Washington and remained a teacher until her death.

Jenny was involved in the suffrage movement with many of Kirkland's most prestigious women.

After her unexpected death, Jenny's niece, Miss Georgia Allen, gathered her aunt's notes and published a book, "*Bird Life In Washington*" in 1916. The book included many photos and sketches by Miss Getty. Because she had planned to write a book, her niece used her aunt's words and her field notes. Miss Getty's field notes are archived at the University of Washington.



## Genevive Violet Getty

Known as **Miss Getty** by her students  
Known as **Jennie** by her many friends  
and family

## City Improvements through the years

During April and May of 2024, Lake Street and Kirkland Avenue will be closed to traffic. The City of Kirkland will be improving downtown pedestrian safety and enhancing a path between Marina Park and downtown stores.

The “*pedestrian scramble*” will create a crosswalk at Lake Street and Kirkland Avenue. The scramble will allow foot traffic to cross the intersection in any direction while all traffic is stopped. This feature will be unique to Kirkland but is used in many cities and would have been handy during the ferry days of old.

Kirkland Heritage Society has a few samples of street and sidewalk improvements. Many were taken by the late Arthur Knutson, former Public Works Director.

The oldest photo, seen below, is from a glass



This is on Kirkland Avenue (called the Redmond Road at the time) and Lake Street, mere feet from where the new “Scramble” crosswalk will be by summer. The dirt road was getting wood planking. Much has changed in 120 years.

Photos of road work on the right are Lake Street, Central Way, Commercial Avenue (now Park Lane), 3rd Street by the “new” City Hall.



Lake Street



Central Way



Commercial Avenue (now Park Lane)



3rd Street by City Hall



Central Way

## Fisk Family Fisk Family Park

The Fisk family arrived from Wisconsin in 1914 and settled on Rose Hill on Sheffield Street which is now 116th Avenue NE in the Highlands Neighborhood. The Highlands was on Rose Hill until I-405 made it a bit of an orphan.

The Fisk family was Walter Marshall Fisk and Grace Berto Fisk and their three children: Harry, Raymond and Helen. Raymond Davis Fisk married Janet Doris Smith in 1938. It was during the depression and people were thrifty and industrious. Their 1941 home started out by building the basement where the newlyweds lived while the rest of the home was built. Ray was working for the Boeing Airplane Plant and was able to salvage shipping container plywood for their home. Here is where James Gregory Fisk (class of 1964) and Joyce Fisk Rainier (class of 1960) were born. James did not marry and was living in the family home until 2006 when the home was sold. Jim kept the little red cottage with the Everest Creek until his death December 2, 2022.

It is this small parcel that became both a landmark and fascination on 6th Avenue South. Thoughtful Kirkland citizens made the City aware that this tiny parcel was on the market. Because of its charm and proximity to the Cross Kirkland Corridor they suggested the City purchase the property from the Fisk descendents. After the City purchased the property for \$800,000 and agreeing to name the parcel Fisk Family Park, the Facebook forum began filling in the history of this new park.

From property records which must be taken as a primary source, we know that the little cottage was built in 1945, had two plumbed fixtures, electric heat and a bedroom. From a visual inspection, the City knows that the

plumbed fixtures are gone and that the water supply had been from Everest Creek

From Facebook, neighbors and Fisk friends we learned that Jim Fisk housed his pigeons in the cottage and that it had been used as a barn. A neighbor remembers when it was the Red Barn Antiques and KHS found the ad in the Seattle Times. We know that this was a short lived business and that Jim was a fan of antiques and restoration.

We learned from a lifetime friend of Jim Fisk that the cottage was built from plywood salvaged from Boeing. We know from history and aerial views that the cottage was built in the woods, not by the road. KHS member, Don Winters, pointed out that 6th Avenue South dead ended at the railroad from both directions. City records will tell us when the street finally was cut through if anyone cares to investigate.

We know a great deal about the cottage after months of research. What remains a mystery is why it was built to begin with. With a son and daughter involved in scouting, no one remembers meetings being held there. A life time friend of Jim often discussed the cottage and there was no mention of overnights.

So what we know is that Jim Fisk would be pleased that his cottage is valued and that his property is now a park. And we know that he left many friends with his passing.



If you're interested in volunteering on projects in **Fisk Family Park**, please send your contact information to Kevin Ball in the City Parks Department:  
kball@kirklandwa.gov  
or 425-587-3398.



**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*.**



# Blackberry Preserves

President:	Chris Neir	425.827.3446
Vice-president	Matt McCauley	425.827.3446
Secretary:	Janice Gerrish	425.827.3446
Treasurer:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950
At-Large	Linda Jatton	425.827.3446
At-Large	Dave Sherbrooke	425.827.3446
At-Large	Libbi Wright	425.827.3446
At-Large:		425.827.3446
At-Large:	Kim Hartman	810.599.1754

## Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson*	425.827.1950
	Libbi Wright	425.827.3446
Bookkeeping	Jim Neir	425.827.3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950
	Guest Writers	425.827.3446
Cemetery Tour & Memorial	Matt McCauley* Sue Contreras Loita Hawkinson	425.827.3446
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton*	425.827.3446
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson Guest writers	425.827.1950
Programs:	Karen Schickling	425.827.3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris* Shannon Harris	425.827.3446
Membership	Bob Gerrish	425.827.3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950
Planning and Historic Sites:	Christina Lewis	425.827.3446
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 email to remind you of the next meeting or event.

Volunteer editor: Fred Hawkinson

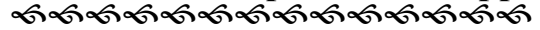
Webmaster: Christopher Neir

## 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.**



### 2024 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

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:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

E-mail:

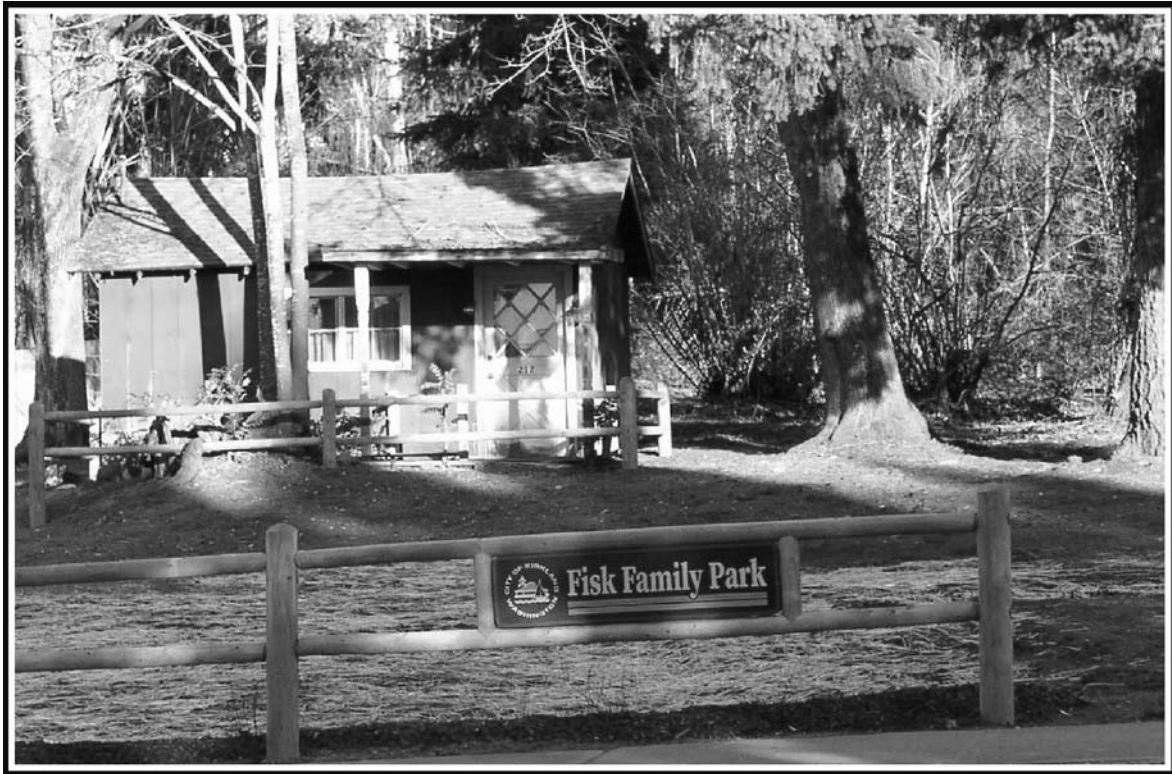
Checks should be made payable and mailed to:

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**



### *Fisk Family Park*

Kirkland Parks Department wasted no time preparing Fisk Family Park on 6th Street South for 2024 Summer enjoyment.

**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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Stamp  
Box**



Kirkland Heritage Society

Kirkland Heritage Society, est 1977  
Heritage Hall  
203 Market Street, Lower Level  
Kirkland, WA 98033



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