

# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

## KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



**1891 Mystery Church at 420 10th Avenue West**  
(Detail from photo on page 4)

See Conundrum, pages 4 & 5

Volume XXXII, Issue III

May/June 2025

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

## Kirkland Heritage Society

Museum hours:

Monday: 10 to Noon

Wednesday: 2 to 5

203 Market Street  
Lower lever of Heritage Hall



## Cemetery Tour

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Kirkland Cemetery

10:00 to noon

Guided by Kirkland Historian  
**Matt McCauley**

Tour is **free** with any donations used to  
place granite markers on unmarked graves



**Come rain or shine, the tour goes on**



## Programs now on Zoom and online!

How to Get the **Zoom** Link:

- If you're a KHS member and would like to receive the link via email, please ensure we have your current email address.
- The Zoom link can be shared with friends and family, but only KHS members will receive the official email directly from us. All programs will also be advertised on social media, so be sure to follow us for updates!

Have questions or need to provide your email? Contact us at

**help@kirklandheritage.org**

We look forward to seeing you online and sharing Kirkland's history with you—no matter where you are!

## Larry E. Miller

1937 - 2024

LWHS class of 1955

A Celebration of the Life of Larry E. Miller  
will be held at 11:00 a.m., May 15, 2025 at  
Heritage Hall in Kirkland.

Heritage Hall  
203 Market Street  
Kirkland, WA 98033



## Life Members:

Richard and Lisa Altig, Cindy Anderson, Maureen Baskin, Laura Bradley-Pierucci, Bob and Valerie Burmester, David and Tasha Davis, Don Dicks and Merrily Hardenbrook Dicks, Ulrich & Nona Ganz, Dan & Kim Hartman, Loita Hawkinson, Steve Lamson, Anne R. Fleming, Sandi Kelly, Ray & Clare Lincoln, Joan McBride/Margaret Meister, Matt McCauley, 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, Linda M. Elliott Scovel, Lisa Miller Sheffield, Larry Springer/Penny Sweet, Lois Y. Pawley-Wick and the late James G. Wick, Libbi Wright.

## Corporate Member:

Stephen Lamson, Continental Productions.

## Microsoft Archive Tour

by President Chris Neir

Last month, Loita, Jim, and I had the incredible opportunity to step behind the curtain and explore something few get to see—the Microsoft Archives. Tucked away on the Redmond campus, this treasure trove of tech history is home to some of the most iconic artifacts and milestones from Microsoft’s decades-long journey.

From vintage hardware to rare prototypes and original packaging, walking through the archives felt like stepping into a time capsule. As fascinating as the collection was, some of the most memorable moments came from the conversations we had—especially when comparing how Microsoft preserves its history with how we do things at the Kirkland Heritage Society. It was fun (and a little surreal) to talk shop about archival methods, preservation priorities, and the challenges of cataloging both physical and digital materials.

There’s something grounding about seeing how a company like Microsoft, which helped shape the digital age, takes the time to preserve its roots. It reminded us that whether it’s local history or global tech, every story matters—and how we preserve it makes all the difference.



**Chris**



**Jim, Loita, Chris**



**Reminded us of the KHS archive.**



**Giant mouse from a trade show. It’s a real eye catcher.**



**Our President**



Bonnie and Martha preparing the March/April 2025 *Blackberry Preserves* for mailing. Their parents were friends before either of them were born. Martha’s father was Dr. Robert Schroeder, a Kirkland Dentist.

## Misconceptions, Conundrums & Historical errors continued:



Kirkland in 1891, photo taken by Houghton Pioneer, Harry D. French

### **The mystery church west of Market Street, a conundrum.**

One of the benefits of scanning negatives is the details that become visible. The above image is a clip from an 1891 glass negative taken by Houghton pioneer, Harry French. The full image is on the back page. It is the oldest known image of Kirkland. In view are the wood-planked Market Street and the Hotel Jackson (the current site of the Leland Condominiums). What caught our interest was a large white church (featured on the cover.)

This church was a conundrum for years. Matt McCauley and I had searched for some hint about this church. At some point we gave up and waited for information to come forth.

In the late 1930's Kirkland teacher, Myrtle Robertson wrote a history of the Kirkland Congregational Church.

Excerpts from Miss Robertson's history inform us that the church was on 10th Avenue West (420 10th Avenue West) for three years.

Peter Kirk's steel mill venture had failed and Kirkland was not going to be a community

of 2000 steel mill workers and their families.

In August of 1893, the combined membership of the Houghton Church and the Kirkland church was less than sixty. The Reverend Mr. Alling thought that the practical thing would be to do away with the two organizations and form one church. There were several months of waiting for everyone to be convinced and money had to be raised to meet the necessary expenses, but by the spring of 1894 the move was under way.

The Kirkland church had greater seating capacity so they saved it, moving it to a more central location. The Kirkland Land Company traded a lot for the lot on 10th Avenue West. The church building was put on rollers and moved down 10th Avenue West, along Market Street, and up the hill to its final location on 5th Avenue and 1st Street, the current site of the Kirkland Congregational Church.

Thanks to KHS member Kent Sullivan and the Kirkland Congregational Church, we now have the history of the church in Harry French's photo.

The first meeting of the Houghton and Kirkland churches as a single organization was July 8, 1894.

## Miss Robertson's Account Filled in More History

Mr. Emory Brooks had his store and Post Office in the historic Campbell Building, now home of the Mason's. The Brooks family lived in the top floor. The day the church rolled past on Market Street, three little Brooks girls: Etta, Lena, and Nora, were sick in bed with the measles. On the day of the move, Mrs. Brooks, against the doctors wishes, allowed her daughters to watch the move from their upstairs window.

By the time KHS learned of this history, the last elder member of the Brook's family had passed away. Ted Tillman, nephew of Etta, Lena and Nora may have had something to add. He certainly would have enjoyed the story.

## An eBay Find Fills in Yet More History

Although KHS relies on community contributions for our growing archives, occasionally KHS will buy a rare item on eBay. A document was published in 1895 for a fund drive to raise \$400 to get the Kirkland church out of debt. The church-move had cost double what had been estimated. Inside the folder tells valuable history about the two churches merging and the economy of Kirkland at the time.

The folder is in mint condition. At least 800 were mailed to area Congregational Churches. Being 130 years old, ours might be the only one that has survived. It was purchased in 2023. The folder confirms everything Miss Robertson had written ninety years earlier.

Her report is considered both a primary source and a secondary source. It is a primary source because of the hand written minutes of the two churches. It is a secondary because it also relied on the fading memories of families. This 1895 fund raising folder is a primary source.

**The Facts.** The *Congregationalist* of December 27, 1894, under the head of Washington, contained the following news item:—

**HOUGHTON AND KIRKLAND.**—These churches consolidated are now worshipping in the building of the latter moved to a central position. The edifice of the former has been remodeled for a parsonage.

These four lines tell the story of a year's work. An Ecclesiastical Council, convened a year ago to ordain the present pastor, strongly advised the consolidation of these two churches, situated as they were in a community of less than a thousand souls, and separated by only a mile and a half. The narrative read by the Registrar at the last session of the General Association of Washington contains the following allusion:—

"The two churches thus united—Houghton and Kirkland—take the name of the latter. The union is to be heartily commended. Instead of two weak churches, there is one strong, efficient church, which, under the leadership of Brother Alling, gives promise of good and great things for the cause of Christ in Washington."

**Our Need.** The removal of the Kirkland church building above a half-mile to a central point, together with some enlargements made necessary by the consolidation, has involved a considerable expense, much more than we anticipated,—the cost of moving being fully double the original estimate. Then, while we were in the midst of it all, our mills both shut down, and as they supply the only employment the neighborhood affords, our subscription lists have suffered greatly. Our own people, none of whom are well off and most of whom are poor, have given in money, material and labor to the full extent of their ability, and the utmost limit of the possible, locally, is reached. But we believe that what *ought* to be done *can* be done, and as this was one of the ought-to-be cases, we have good hope of being able to complete the enterprise to the glory of God, which means, of course, debt free. We have this confidence because we have faith in God, faith in our Congregational Fellowship, and, therefore,

A page from the 1895 fund raising mailer



Another glass negative shows the church as it stood for many years. Photo by Madonna Marsh, mother of Louie Marsh, name sake of Marsh Park.



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*.



## May is Spring Time in Kirkland



Clipping from a May 1932 issue of the *East Side Journal*.

At one time viewing acres of tulips and daffodils was a short walk in Norkirk rather than an afternoon drive up north.



Newspaper photo from the May 12, 1929  
*East Side Journal*

## Van Aalst has Million Tulip Bulbs On Way Here From Holland

Clipping from 1925. van Aalst bulb farm was a major industry in Kirkland.

The van Aalst family would like to see their named spelled as they spelled their name.



This van Aalst bushel sized field basket is on display at the KHS Museum. A Peck field basket was also donated and is on display. They are 100 years old and in good condition.

## Larry Miller's legacy gift to the people of the Kirkland he loved

Larry has joined the ranks of Louie S. Marsh who donated the Marsh family's lake shore that is now known as **Marsh Park**.

Larry left his estate to the city of Kirkland to create a community garden and park. Larry had a green thumb and a love of gardening. For decades, Larry provided pea patch spaces to his friends. This was long before community gardens became popular. Along with a plot, Larry provided organic soil, fertilizer, water and his sage advice.

The land donated was the home where Larry and his siblings grew up. They need to be thanked as well. This land is prime real-estate that could have left them an impressive inheritance.

# 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:	Bonnie McLeod	425.260.0290
At-Large:	Kim Hartman	810.599.1754

## Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson* Libbi Wright	425.827.1950 425.827.3446
Bookkeeping	Jim Neir	425.827.3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950 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

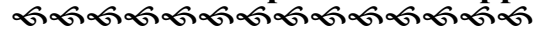
\*\* During WWI, the Hello Girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, this sweet lady will email to remind you of the next meeting or event.  
Volunteer editor: Fred Hawkinson  
Webmaster: Christopher Neir

## 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.**



### 2025 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

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:

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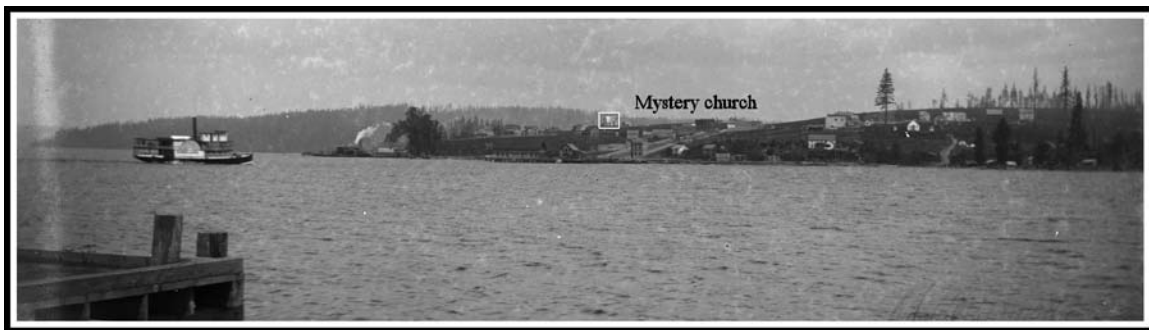
Checks should be made payable and mailed to:

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

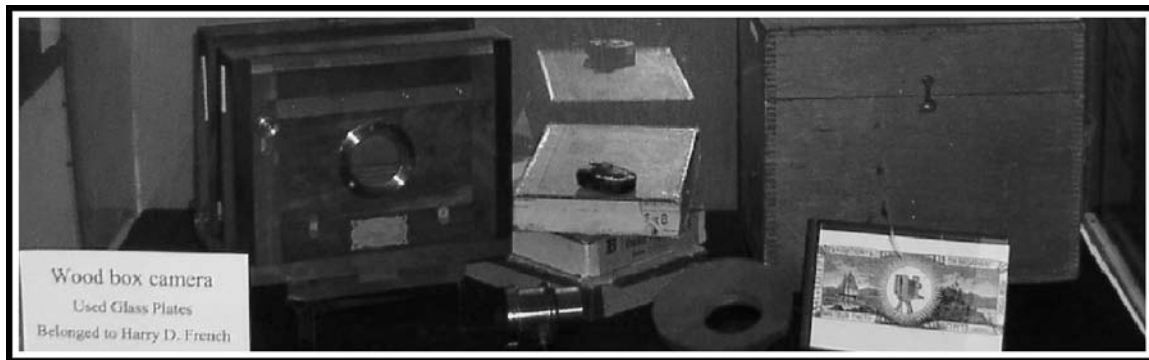


## TO RENT HERITAGE HALL

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



1891 Glass Negative from Houghton Pioneer Harry D. French.



The camera of Harry D. French.  
The camera was donated by **David Davis**, grandson of Harry D. French.  
David's grandfather took the photo above.

**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.

**First  
Class  
Stamp  
Box**



Kirkland Heritage Society, est 1977  
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