

BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



Lake House, c 1885

Owners John & Abigail Fish watched the 1889 **Seattle Fire** from the upper porch.

(See Visitors page 5)

Volume XXXIII, Issue III

May/June 2026

www.kirklandheritage.org

Kirkland Heritage Society

Museum hours:

Monday: 10 to Noon

Wednesday: 2 to 5

203 Market Street
Lower lever of Heritage Hall



Annual Members Meeting with Elections

May 27, 2026 will be our annual membership meeting. Elections will be held that evening. All current board members have agreed to serve another two year term.

KHS has a two year term limit for President so Chris Neir has volunteered to serve as Vice President and current Vice President, Matt McCauley will serve as President.

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 membership meetings. KHS welcomes you to explore your niche in Kirkland History.



The 2026 Slate

(Each serving a 2 year term)

President: Matt McCauley

Vice President: Chris Neir

Secretary: Bonnie McLeod

Treasurer: Loita Hawkinson

At large: Linda Jatón

At Large: Penny Sweet

At Large: Janice Gerrish

At Large: Dave Sherbrooke

At Large: Libbi Wright



Cemetery Tour

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Kirkland Cemetery

10:00 to noon

Guided by Kirkland Historian

Matt McCauley



Cemetery Tour at the Kirkland Cemetery, 2025

The tour is free with all donations used to place granite markers on unmarked graves.



Newsletter Production



Dave Sherbrooke and Penny Sweet, KHS January 2026



Baby Archie, Grandma Bonnie McLeod, and Penny Sweet, March 2026

Little Archie is a 5th generation Kirklander. He offered his help by not making a peep as the newsletters were prepared for mailing.



In the Mail

Dear KHS-

Thanks for sending Ray's obit. I was happy to talk with him last year.

I was glad to see the photo of the old library and Ladies Club. My mother taught me to read when I was five and I read all the books in that library.

Best wishes.

Bill Crow (KHS class of 1945)

Ray Lincoln, LWHHS class of 1948, passed away November 23, 2025. Dick Lincoln, Ray's older brother, and Bill had been bandmates.

(See July/Aug 2025 issue of BP for more about Bill)



Dear KHS,

I'm the person who inquired about **Lee Ragsdale** some years back. Years ago my wife and I were researching a WWII soldier from Monroe and we noticed Lee's name on the WWII memorial in Olympia.

The *Jan/Feb 2026 Blackberry Preserves* has a picture of the **Kirkland hospital**. I was born there September 14, 1934. I didn't realize that Dr. George H. Davis had built it. I checked by birth certificate and discovered that he had signed it.

In 1946 I was selling newspapers at the corner where the Anderson clock is located and accidentally stabbed my right arm with a long #2 pencil sticking out of my pocket. It hurt somewhat but when a man came by and saw what had happened, he noticed that the lead had splintered so he said "Kid, you might get lockjaw!" Remembering a **Dick Tracy** comic strip episode about someone who had lockjaw, I jogged the two blocks up to the hospital and went inside. A nurse greeted me and I showed her my arm. She called the doctor from the next room and he examined my arm. I think he realized (if he was Dr. Davis) who I was. He was very friendly and he took quite a bit of time

attending to my injury and then sent me on my way. I still have the scar and I didn't get lockjaw!

I really was lucky to be living in Kirkland (1934-1948). I remember Mr. Halverson at the drug store, Mr. Elwood at the grocery store, Mr. Ross (the cleaner), Mel Sohns at the Gateway theater, Max Canterbury at the "Y", Carlos Scott (my principal, K-5), Mr. Howard Johnson, principal at KJHS (my 6th-8th grade), Morton Johnson (superintendent of Kirkland's schools and father of my best friend at the time, Richard Johnson, Chet Green (Green's Funeral Home who hosted our "Gray-Y" group at the residence), his son Mike Green was a classmate, Harry Everett, my barber and also I believe Mayor at some point, Coach Bill McLaughlin who was a lifeguard at the beach off of Waverly Way, Al Bennest – the high school band director, Mr. Shinstrom at the bank, Bob Sarver (Sarver's Market) who pitched for the town baseball team, Al Niemic who coached the town team in 1946-1947 when I was a bat boy, Roy Escott who was the *Seattle Times* Rep who got me my bike in December 1944 when I had a route on Rose Hill.

My teachers at Central were all very good: Miss Gibson (K) and her magical string puppet, my favorite teacher Lillian Nelson (1st), Cleo Houghton (2), Miss Johnson (3), Miss Ditlefson (4), Miss Sabota (5), Ann O'Connor (6) and then at KJHS Mrs. Lauer (7), and my next favorite Jenny Livingston (8th). I recall that Darlene Miller was a classmate at the time. I think she'd agree that Miss Livingston was an excellent teacher.

In about 1965, Mr. Howard Johnson, our former principal at MJHS, visited Jefferson Elementary in Everett where I was teaching 6th grade and I asked him if Miss Livingston was still at KJHS and he said she was, so I asked him to tell her how she had influence me and he said that he would.

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I saw the name Hardenbrook in the life member list. My sister June Parry had a good friend named Gladys Hardenbrook (class of 1941).

The war (WWII) certainly impacted Kirkland. The shipyard, sailors in abundance, blackouts (my dad was one of the air raid wardens and I would accompany him sometimes on his nightly rounds). One Monday morning we arrived at school to find five 105mm howitzers parked in the play shed. Mr. Scott warned us about playing around them; we did anyway (after school).

Lastly, when my dad died when I was in 5th grade, Miss Nelson sent me a very nice card telling me to try to be brave like the soldiers in the war.

Kirkland was a great place to live!
Tom Parry

Tom Parry continues to be a font of history and memories. He led KHS to the facts about the death of Lee C. Ragsdale. The *East Side Journal* reported he had been killed in action in 1945 with the announcement of his Memorial Service. In 1949 Lee had a funeral with burial in the **Kirkland Cemetery** after his original grave was found and Lee's mother requested that Lee be returned to his hometown. Because of Tom's research, we now know that Lee died as a POW in 1945. His mother never learned that Lee had died as a POW.

(See May/June 2015 issue of BP for more about Lee)
(All back issues of BP are on the KHS website)



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*.

Visitors



Penny Sweet and the Fletchers

Pictured above is Ken Fletcher with his father Elliott Paul Fletcher (LWHS class of 1951) and newly retired City Councilman, Penny Sweet. Ken was acting like a kid and stole his dad's hat.



May Poon at KHS

May is studying for her Master's in Library Information Science through an on-line program at Indiana University. May interviewed KHS about our Archives and procedures in March of 2026 in completion of an assignment.



Doug and Sue Ichikawa

Pictured above are Doug and Sue Ichikawa with an ice-cold bottle of sarsaparilla from the KHS kitchen. Doug and Sue are 40

year residents of Juanita.

Doug was born in America and is of 100% Japanese Ancestry. His mother grew up in California and her family was among those that spent the WWII years interred in a relocation camp. Doug said that his mother would not speak of her memories. His aunt, however, participated in drama while in camp. After the war, she had a few roles in movies that required a female Japanese part. Doug's aunt did share her memories.



Wayne Peterson

Wayne is pictured above donating his father, Dean Peterson's, 1956 letterman's sweater and his own 1980 letterman's jacket. Both are hanging with our growing collection of school uniforms. .



Wayne returned a few weeks later with his father's football helmet.

The helmet is now on display with other Kang sports memorabilia.



The Almoaibed family stopped in to the KHS Museum to do some family research and take a look about.



Kristen, Nasser, and Sophia Almoaibed

Nasser, above, is Kristen's son and Sophia is her daughter-in-law.

Kristen Olsen Almoaibed is the great granddaughter of Ed and Bess Kirtley and she is the Gr. Great granddaughter of John and Abigail Fish.

John and Abigail Fish purchased **Lake House** (See front page) and had arrived years before Peter Kirk. **Lake House** was the first hotel on the Eastside. The Fish's daughter, Bess, married Ed Kirtley and took over operating **Lake House**. Kirtley is the name remembered by many Kirkland residents. Kristen Olsen Almoaibed's mother was Jean Kirtley Olsen.

Because the Fish family arrived when Houghton was a tiny community, they have blood ties to most of the early Houghton residents. The family can thank the late Wayne Kirtley, Kristen's cousin, for his diligence in keeping track of her family's history. Wayne shared much of this history with KHS and donated many of his family's photos, documents, and treasures in KHS's collection.

In the photo above, Kristen is holding the spinning wheel spindle that the Fish family brought to Houghton. The spinning wheel was not needed because Seattle sold yarn and finished goods. John and Abigail Fish had come prepared to be self sufficient. The spinning wheel and loom were eventually used for kindling but the spindle and

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shuttles were saved. Wayne Kirtley donated them to KHS in 2014.



Vicki Tompkins Bilyeu at KHS

Vicki visited KHS Museum to fill in some of her family's missing information. Much like the guests on the previous page, Vicki's visit was another with deep and interesting roots in the beginnings of Kirkland. Vicki's family arrived in 1888 when the dream of Kirkland becoming a large manufacturing city was in its infancy.

Vicki's Great grandfather John J. Tompkins, a Union Civil War Veteran, operated a furniture store, a livery, and a grocery. He was also Kirkland's first funeral director. With a town of less than 200, it took several business hats to support a family. His son, Harrie Tompkins (mentioned later), was Vicki's grandfather.



King County City Directory Ad, 1891

Vicki's other Great grandfather was John G. Bartsch. John G. Bartsch was Kirkland's first builder. Mr. Bartsch built Victorian style homes including Peter Kirk's home that is the logo for KHS. He built Central School and also Rose Hill Elementary as well as the Shumway home on Lake Street South in 1909 that now stands on Little Finn Hill.

(See BP Mar/Apr 2010 for history on the 1985 Shumway move.)

Vicki's Great uncle George Bartsch and Grandfather Harrie Tompkins were both ferry captains. (See back page) In 1904, they filed Articles of Incorporation for **Bartsch & Tompkins Transportation**, often referred to as **B & T Transportation**. Peter Kirk was a director and major stock holder, showing that Peter Kirk had neither run out of money nor had given up on Kirkland after the failure of his steel mill in 1892. **B & T Transportation** eventually became Lake Washington Shipyard (now Carillon Point).

Because Vicki's grandmother Rosa Bartsch Tompkins had six sisters who married locally and remained in the area, Vicki is related to most of Kirkland's earliest settlers.



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, 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.



Blackberry Preserves

President:	Chris Neir	425.827.3446
Vice-president	Matt McCauley	425.827.3446
Secretary:	Bonnie McLeod	425.827.3446
Treasurer:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950
At-Large	Linda Jatón	425.827.3446
At-Large	Dave Sherbrooke	425.827.3446
At-Large	Libbi Wright	425.827.3446
At-Large:	Janice Gerrish	425.827.3446
At-Large:	Penny Sweet	425.827.3446

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
		425.827.3446
Cemetery Tour & Memorial	Matt McCauley*	425.827.3446
	Sue Contreras	
	Loita Hawkinson	
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatón*	425.827.3446
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950
	Guest writers	
Programs:	Karen Schickling	425.827.3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris*	425.827.3446
	Shannon Harris	
Membership	Libbi Wright	425.827.3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950
History Month		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.

Editor: Fred Hawkinson

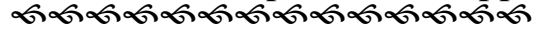
Webmaster: Christopher Neir

Kirkland Heritage Society

www.kirklandheritage.org

425-827-3446

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



2026 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

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:

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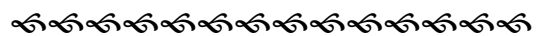
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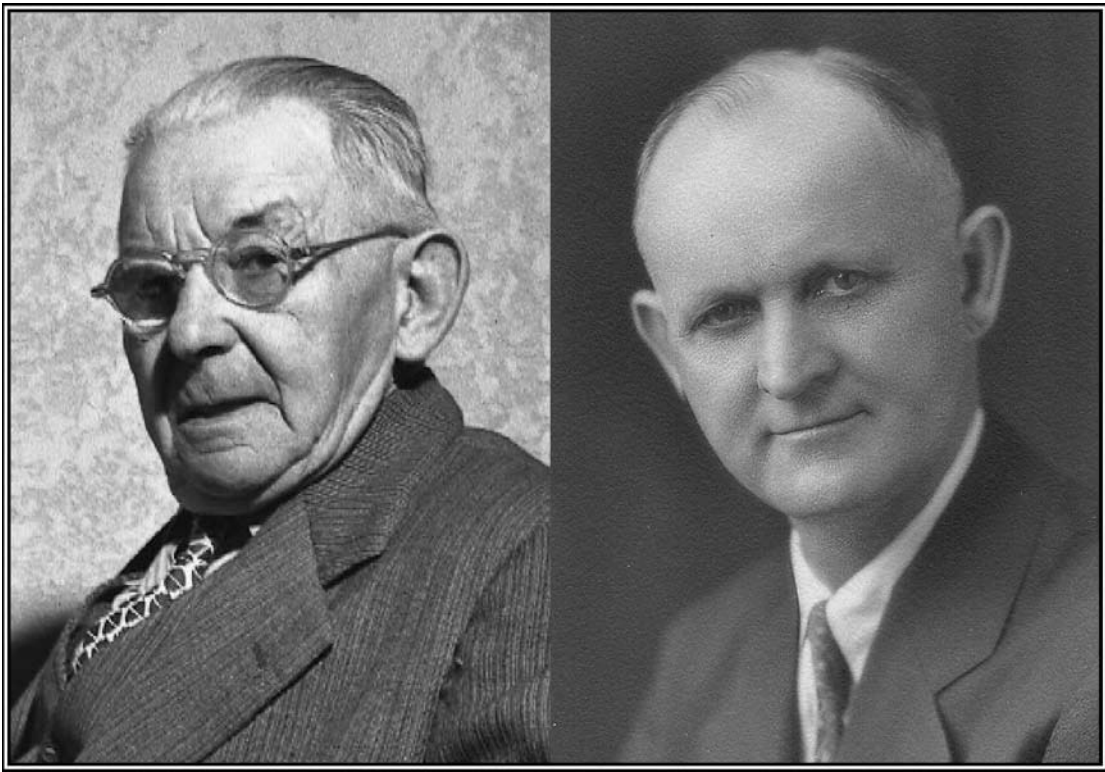
Checks should be made payable and mailed to:

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**



Shown above are **George Bartsch** and **Harrie Tompkins**. Both were adolescents when they arrived in Kirkland in 1888. As adults, they became steamboat captains, relatives through marriage and in 1904, business partners. The two ferry captains operated the ferries on Lake Washington.

(See page 6)

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,
or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

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Kirkland Heritage Society

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



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