



# The Recorder

Published by the Greater Kent Historical Society & Museum

## Check out the

### Calendar—back cover

- Kent Chronicles 1st Thursdays
- GKHS Board Meetings—public welcome!
- Little Explorers' Club alternating Wednesdays
- Monthly Speaker Series
- Vintage Movies 3rd Saturday at 3pm tickets \$3/\$2 members
- GKHS Field Trips to other museums

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## Letter from the President

by Charlene Shaw

At last, Summer is almost here! Our new gardeners are doing a fine job, but we sure miss Stella Land's loving hand.

Our next big event will be the yard sale. A combined yard sale starts with Stafford Suites on Friday, June 11; the Bereiter House will open its parking lot sales on Friday and Saturday, June 11-12, 9-4pm. Several board members are downsizing their homes and are looking forward to this opportunity to send their treasures on to new homes. Lilly Kato is chairing the event and can be reached at 253-856-9801. Let's make this a huge fund raiser and an opportunity to move along some of our dust collectors. Anyone who would like to help out is most welcome - you can help and browse around at the same time.

The Carriage Barn restoration project is moving along again and we are in the process of getting the permits to start remodeling the core structure. Linda Van Nest has really done a great job steering this through all of the red tape.

Plans are going along smoothly for the Living History Performance at the Saar Pioneer Cemetery on July 17-18. I can hardly wait - I

find old cemeteries so interesting. I get to take tickets and even have found a period costume to wear!

We have several other events that are not open to the public that are taking place this summer too. Dinners at the museum for long time supporters of GKHS are on that schedule. There will be a tea in the garden in July.

You might note that we have a couple of volunteer opportunities for the opening on the Board of Trustees. If you are interested, contact Jack Becvar at 253- 852-2011.

Have you had a chance to see the back porch and laundry room? Stephen has repainted, repaired and set up both rooms to represent the way they would have looked in the early 1900's. Come and take a look!

A big thank you goes out to supporting organizations: Soroptimist International of Kent, Kent AM Kiwanis, Seattle Paint Supply, All Pro Building Maintenance and Costco of Covington.

## James H. Titus, Founder of Kent

Submitted by Jack Becvar

"Death of a Pioneer  
James H. Titus, Founder of Kent, Dies Last Friday, Aged 82 Years  
Was Mayor of Kent for Two Years.-Last Charter Member of Titusville Lodge, I.O.O.F.- Sketch of His Life.

James H. Titus, one of the earliest pioneers of King County, and really the founder of Kent, died at his home in this city last Friday afternoon. He died at the advanced age of 82, and had been remarkable strong and well preserved up until a few weeks before his death.

A large part of the town of Kent is situated on land formerly a part of the Titus farm. The town itself was named Titusville at its organization and was not changed until the Northern Pacific railroad built its line through the Valley.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Odd Fellows, of

which order Mr. Titus was for many years an honored member. Mr. Titus was one of the five charter members of the Odd Fellows lodge of this place and the last of the five to be stricken from the rolls. The others were M. J. Meeker, Duncan Buchanan, O. A. Jeffery, and M. Myers. The lodge was founded in the year 1886. The lodge was named Titusville Lodge in his honor. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Sharpe, adventist preacher of Seattle. The services were held in the I.O.O.F. hall and were attended by a gathering of friends of the deceased which nearly filled the large hall. The floral decorations were very beautiful, one of the prettiest being the emblem of the order, the three links. Mr. Titus was the second Mayor of Kent, and was always

Article continued on page 4

Little Explorers

by Allison Jurgens



The Little Explorers' Program added a literacy component this spring. Parents now have the option of participating in our "Read-to-Me" reading challenge. This feature of the program further promotes the Little Explorers' strong social studies and history focus through learning about other cultures and encouraging themes that also prepare children for entry into primary education. This is an exciting venture for our youngest museum learners, where they earn their own book to keep at the completion of the program.

Greater Kent Historical Society  
 http://kenthistoricalmuseum.org  
 855 E. Smith  
 Kent, Washington  
 253-854-4330

Our purpose is to promote the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the greater Kent area.

2010 Officers  
 Charlene Shaw—President  
 Jim Osnes—Vice President  
 Dave Foltz—Treasurer  
 Carla Loux—Secretary  
 Jack Becvar—Past President  
 Staff  
 Linda Wagner—Director  
 Allison Jurgens—Curator  
 Stephen Chandler—Admin. Assistant

The Recorder is a publication of the Greater Kent Historical Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit historical organization; all donations are

Mark this date on your calendar

A Dinner Fundraiser  
 Celebrating 120 Years of Kent History  
 Hosted by  
 Greater Kent Historical Society  
**Saturday, October 9, 2010**  
 Kent Senior Activity Center—600 E. Smith Street  
 The fun starts at 6:00PM

Renew Your Membership or Make a Donation  
 GKHS Membership Form

Please enroll me as Name \_\_\_\_\_

New  Renewal Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss or Business Name  
 Donor  Memorial Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Senior (65+)/Student/Teacher—\$15  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Individual—\$20

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (one household)—\$35  
 Family Historical Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization (Non-profit)—\$50  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Corporate—\$100

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Memorial Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
 Greater Kent Historical Society (GKHS)  
 855 East Smith Street  
 Kent, WA 98030-4623  
 Questions: call the museum at 253-854-4330  
 I am interested in volunteering at the museum



FREE—4'x6' black slate chalk board with wood frame. If interested, call Sequoia Baptist Church 253-854-4242. First call, first served.

**A Kent Family Snippet - Henry and Lillian Jane Holmes**

By Karen

Both Henry and Lillian are buried in the Saar Pioneer Cemetery per the information provided on their death certificates, but they have no headstones. It is unknown if there ever were headstones for them.

Lillian, also known as Jane, was seven years old in the 1861 Canadian census. She was born in Upper Canada in July 1860 to parents Peter and Martha McDougal. Her siblings were Peter, age nine; Robert, age five; Catherine, age three; and Charles, age two. The family lived in a log house in Stanley Twp, in Huron County.

Henry was born in November 1847 in Canada. His parents, Henry Holmes Sr. and Susan, were also born in Canada. The 1880 census taken in Bellevue, Morrison County, in Minnesota enumerated the married couple, Henry and Jane. Henry was aged 32 years and a farmer; Jane was aged 26 years. A son, Frederick W., aged two years, was born in Minnesota. An unnamed daughter, age seven months, was born in November also in Minnesota. Jane's parents and siblings live in the same county in 1880.

The year 1900 brings the Holmes family to Kent, King County, Washington. Henry was 52 years old. He immigrated in 1872, has lived in the U.S. for 28 years, and became a naturalized citizen. He worked as a teamster. Lillian was 39 years old and has been married for 19 years. She is the mother of eight children, five still living in 1900. She immigrated in 1875 and has lived in the U.S. for 25 years. Their sons are: Murray G., born in January

1885; Weldon, born in December 1886; Oliver W., born in October 1888; and Edgar E., born in June 1895. All the boys were born in Minnesota.

On 17 June 1909 in Kent, Henry Holmes Jr. passed away at the age of 63 years, 5 months, and 22 days. He had worked as a laborer. The informant on the death certificate was John Holmes. Henry was buried in the Methodist [Saar Pioneer] Cemetery by C. G. Chittenden. An obituary published in the *White River Journal* dated 24 June 1909 stated that he had been dangerously ill because of appendicitis. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Masonic Hall, Rev. Mr. Bishop of the Baptist Church preaching the sermon.

Seven years later, Lillian Jane Holmes passed away on 9 December 1916 in Kent. She was 65 years, 4 months, and 27 days old. The informant on the death certificate was O. W. Holmes. She was buried in the Methodist [Saar Pioneer] Cemetery by C. G. Chittenden. Her obituary that ran in *The Kent Journal* dated 14 December 1916 stated that she had passed away at her home. She was survived by her mother, Mrs. McDougal, living in Maine and five sons, Dougall, Oliver, Murray, Edgar, and Wildren (three of whom live in this city). Funeral services were held at the Chittenden chapel Monday afternoon, with Rev. Woodley officiating.

Save the Date:  
**Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, 7-9 pm**  
 at the Castle Bridge Winery  
 for a GKHS wine tasting fundraiser!  
 Details in the next issue!



To my friends who enjoy a glass of wine...and those who don't...

As Ben Franklin said: In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria.

**Membership**

by Carla Loux

We're still working on the numbers to verify just where we are for total membership. Right now we have:

- 116 Renewed and new members for 2010
- 37 Lifetime Members
- 7 New members during April and May, 2010
- 160 Total membership

There are still a goodly number of memberships that have not renewed for this year. As soon as we confirm those non-renewed members, we'll begin contacting them by phone. Jack and I have begun distributing business and individual membership applications. We are starting with Kent Downtown Partnership members, service clubs, and city employees.

## James H. Titus, Founder of Kent (continued from Page 1)

Submitted by Jack Becvar

one of its foremost citizens. The mayor and city council turned out in a body and also furnished a beautiful floral design, a large cross bearing the dates 1891-1893, showing the years Mr. Titus served as mayor. Ex-mayors in attendance were Mr. Geo. Woods and Capt. J. J. Crow. The following sketch of the life of Mr. Titus is taken from the book "Lives and Achievements of King County Pioneers:"

The name of James H. Titus is inscribed high on the roll of King county's honored pioneers and eminent men, and the part which he took in founding and developing the county well entitles him to prominent mention in this volume. He established the town of Kent, in which he has long made his home, laboring for its promotion and welfare. He is honored and esteemed by his many friends and acquaintances, and the influence of his life upon the community has been most beneficial.

Mr. Titus was born in Kennebec county, Maine, on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1823, and his ancestors settled in that locality when the territory was known as Massachusetts. In 1844 he left the ancestral home and removed to Michigan, where for a year he worked at the blacksmith's trade in Kalamazoo and Marshall, and for the succeeding four years made his home at Springfield, Massachusetts. Returning to Maine in 1849, he purchased a farm in Kennebeck county, but in that year the gold excitement in California attracted him, and selling his possessions in the old Pine Tree state he made the journey, via Cape Horn, to the Pacific Coast in the Fall of 1849. During the first four years in the Golden State he worked at his trade in Marysville, while for the succeeding ten years he was the proprietor of a hotel at Oroville, and in 1872 he came to Seattle, Washington, purchasing and making his home on the Dwamish river for two years. In 1874 he took up his abode at Maddoxville on the White river, where he followed the dual occupation of farming and blacksmithing for five years, on the expiration of which period he became the owner of one hundred acres of land, and on a portion of this place the town of Kent was afterward built. When the Northern Pacific Railroad was constructed through this section, in 1884, Mr. Titus disposed of a part of the farm on the east side of the track to parties who laid it out into town lots, but he since held the remainder, consisting of about thirty lots, on which he has erected many residences, and the property is situated on the west side of the railroad track. He is practically the founder of Kent, which stands as a monument to his enterprising spirit. In its infancy this place was given the name of Titusville, but at the request of the Post Office Department the name was afterward changed to Kent. In his fraternal relations he is a charter member of Titusville Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with which he has been identified since its organization in 1886.

The marriage of Mr. Titus was celebrated in Springfield,

Massachusetts, in 1846, when Miss Sarah Ketchum became his wife. She was born in Brownhelm, Lawrence county, Ohio, on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1829. Eight children were born unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Titus, but the family circle has been broken by the hand of death, George Henry, who was born in 1848, having died in California at the age of twenty-two years, while a daughter, Carrie L., born in 1857, died in Whatcom county, Washington, in 1893. The living children are: James Arthur, a resident of Kent; Edward Everett, a farmer near that city; Melvin, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Whatcom county; Edith M., the wife of James T. Jones, also of Kent; Lillie E., the wife of James Shoff, of Christopher and Leroy C., at home."

This article was taken from the *White River Journal* of Kent, Washington, dated Friday, March 16, 1906 on the front page.



James H. Titus, Mayoral Portrait  
1891—1893

## GKHS to Award Scholarships

by Jim Osness

Recently, recipients of the 2010 GKHS Scholarships were announced. Crystal Lian, of Kentwood High School, was awarded the first annual Ralph L. & Elinor Osness GKHS Scholarship. Recipients of the three Norm Turner Memorial GKHS Scholarships were Emily Anguiano and Nezy Teowolde of Kentridge High School and Stefani Paladino of Kentwood High School. The Scholarship Committee, consisting of Jim Osness, Lilly Kato, Jan Mayes, Linda Wagner, and Jack Becvar, were very pleased with the quality of the applications received from ten graduating Kent School District seniors. Each applicant showed academic achievement and were highly



recommended. The four awardees distinguished themselves, by their actions, helping in some way to cultivate Kent's history. Emily assisted in the cleanup of the Saar Cemetery; and Crystal and Nezy have many volunteer hours at the Kent Historical Museum. Stefani helped organize an appearance, which was videotaped for future viewing, by Amy Kato and Lilly Kato at Kentwood High School, where they were able to share their Internment Camp experiences during World War II. Emily and Nezy plan on attending Western Washington University. The University of Washington is Crystal's future destination and Stefani will continue her education at Whitman College.

## Students Visit the Museum

by Jan Mayes

Thanks to generous donations from members of the Greater Kent Historical Society, bus transportation was provided for all fourth grade students from Neely-O'Brien, East Hill, and Scenic Hill Elementary to visit the museum. Thank you to the Education Committee for creating student materials for these visits and for providing museum docents with student-friendly tours. Our wonderful school docents included Carla Loux, Carol Nyseth, Lilly Kato, Nancy Simpson, Linda Van Nest, Susan Doody, Dan and Sandy Ulrey, as well as Amy and Rosie Kato! School and youth group field trips are available any time of the year!



## Events

by Adrienne Rockwell and Carla Loux

On Friday afternoon, May 28th, the Greater Kent Historical Society hosted an open house in honor of the 120th Anniversary of the City of Kent. Director Linda Wagner presented a certificate of appreciation to the City of Kent that was accepted by Mayor Suzette Cooke.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Jim and Suzanne Berrios, who are the owners of the Golden Steer Rib 'N Steak House, for all of the community service they perform. A lifetime business membership was also presented to the Berrios for their many years of generous donations and support of GKHS.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to the Reitan family; accepting was Ed, Eric, Carol, and Allan Reitan. The Reitan family is one of the pioneer families of the area. Rae Reitan was instrumental in starting the Greater Kent Historical Society.

We had about 100 people in attendance during the three hour period and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

During the celebration GKHS signed up one new membership and received \$48 in cash donations.

Carla Loux, Cheri Sayer, and Adrienne Rockwell planned the event. The committee would like to thank all of the members and board members that donated their time and the food that was served. A special thank you to the museum staff for creating the Kent Mayoral display, arranging exhibits representing Kent's history, and all of their many efforts to make this event special.

The Events committee, after discussion with other board members, decided that we would not have a booth at Cornucopia this year. It is so difficult to find volunteers to staff a booth for three days.

As a non-profit charitable organization, GKHS relies on community support from individuals, corporations, foundations and service clubs. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by the IRS.

### You can help GKHS financially by:

Become a benefactor (a financial contributor) or leave a bequest to GKHS in your will

Supporting the GKHS Direct Mail Campaigns

Making an In Memoriam Gift (names will be entered in our Endowment Book located in the front hall.)

Supporting Special Events by buying a ticket, being a sponsor

**Two ways you can donate today. Go to [kenthistoricalmuseum.org](http://kenthistoricalmuseum.org), click on Join which will give you an option for donations through Paypal or fill out the donation form located on page 2.**

## Cultivating Kent's History

Greater Kent Historical  
Society & Museum  
855 E Smith St  
Kent, WA 98030  
(Parking behind museum)  
Hours: 12-4pm, Tues-Sat

Phone: 253-854-4330

E-mail:

ctyofknt@msn.com

Membership:

GKHSMembership@hotmail.com

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KENT, WA 98031

We're on the web:  
[Kenthistoricalmuseum.org](http://Kenthistoricalmuseum.org)

The Greater Kent  
Historical Society is a  
non-profit organization.  
Donations are tax  
deductible according to  
the IRS laws.

## Kent Historical Museum Calendar

### JUNE

**Vintage Movies** Sat, 6/19, 3pm – 5pm

3rd Saturday at 3pm, tickets \$3/\$2(members) Movies the old-fashioned way—see a movie “short”, brief intermission, then our feature film—“**Africa Screams**” (1949). Seating limited. Freshly popped popcorn and other refreshments available.

**Kent Chronicles**

Thu, 6/3, 10:45am June topic—“1901—1918” Intended for 60+ and home schooled students. Are you interested in a lively discussion about history? We'll look at artifacts, watch movie clips and much more!

**GKHS Board Meeting**

Thurs, 6/3, 7:00pm, at the Kent Historical Museum and open to public.

**GKHS Field Trip**

Sat, 6/5, 10:00am, meet at the Kent Historical Museum parking lot—go to Morris Skagen's Museum. Check website for Calendar updates!

**Little Explorers Club**

Wed, 6/23 “Oodles”, 10:30am – 11:30am

Pre-registration required.

**Speaker Series - \$18/(\$15 Members)**

Thurs, 6/24, 6:30pm – 9pm

“David Williams - Kent Hydroplane & Raceboat Museum”

Dinner and dessert served at 7:00pm.

For reservations, call 253-854-4330.

### JULY

**Kent Chronicles**

Thu, 7/1, 10:45am July topic—To be announced.

**GKHS Board Meeting**

Thurs, 7/1, 7:00pm, at the Kent Historical Museum and open to public.

**Little Explorers Club**

Wed, 7/14 “All About Me” & 7/28, “Community”

10:30am – 11:30am

Pre-registration required.

**Speaker Series—Tickets \$18/(\$15 Members)**

Thurs, 7/15, 6:30pm – 9pm

“Saar Pioneer Cemetery—Living History Performance”

Dinner and dessert served at 7:00pm.

**Vintage Movies** - Sat, 7/17, 3pm – 5pm

3rd Saturday at 3pm, tickets \$3 (\$2 Members) Movies the old-fashioned way—see a movie “short”, brief intermission, then our feature film — “**Amos & Andy's Check & Double Check** (1930)”. Seating limited. Freshly popped popcorn and other refreshments available.

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