

# The RECORDER

The Newsletter for the Greater Kent Historical Society



## School's Out: A Century of High School Memories

*Kent High School Class of 1908*

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### **Reminder:**

Annual Dinner Auction Fundraiser

**"History of Kent:**

**Past, Present & Future"**

Saturday, October 1st

5:30 p.m.

Kent Senior Activity Center



**From our President:**



I'm writing this and the sun is actually shining! This may be all of summer we have so I'll need to get out in it! However, I'm not a heat fan so I won't complain too much.

Tim Clark's presentation with former police chief Ed Crawford was well-attended and appreciated by all. More special events like that are in the planning stages-do come.

Our Saar Cemetery Living History is on Thursday, July 14. Be sure to come! We won an award for last year's presentation.

The sun is calling and the idea of a lake is there also. Signing off 'til fall.

Charlene Shaw  
President  
Greater Kent Historical Society

*The purpose of the Greater Kent Historical Society (GKHS) is to promote the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the greater Kent area. GKHS operates the Kent Historical Museum.*

**KentHistoricalMuseum.org**



Want to receive GKHS updates? Find us on Facebook: Greater Kent Historical Society and Museum, and follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/kentmuseum](http://twitter.com/kentmuseum).

*1955 Price Sheet*

**GAFFNEY'S  
LAKE WILDERNESS RESORT**  
Maple Valley, Wash. — Phone 2-4444

**GATE ADMISSION:** Adults 50c—Children 15c  
(No car charge)

**BOATS (Week Days):**  
50c per hour—\$2.00 per day  
(Sundays and Holidays, 50c per hour)

**CANOES:** \$1.00 per hour

**BIKE BOATS:** 50c per person per hour

**SURF BOARDS:** 50c per hour

**ROLLER SKATING:** 75c each  
(skates furnished)

**SADDLE HORSES:** \$1.50 per hour

**DANCING:** Saturday and Sunday with orchestra.  
Week days with nickelodeon.

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**CABINS:** These cabins are priced unfurnished. Bedding may be rented. Cooking utensils and dishes, etc. are not available.

	DAY	WEEK
1 Double Bed .....	\$ 5.50	\$ 20.00
2 Double Beds .....	8.00	
3 Double Beds .....	10.00	
4 Double Beds .....	12.00	
Single Rollaway Bed.....	2.00	
Double Rollaway Bed....	3.00	
Bedding Rental .....	1.50	

*Do you remember Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Resort?*

**2011 GKHS Board Officers:**

President ..... Charlene Shaw  
Vice President ..... Jim Osness  
Secretary ..... Sesira Maganty  
Treasurer ..... Dave Foltz  
Past President ..... Jack Becvar

**Museum Staff:**

Executive Director & Curator ..... Allison Jurgens  
Media & Community Relations..... Rhonda Watts

**Curator's Corner:**



***Kids' Bedroom  
Finally Finished!***

Staff and volunteers have worked hard to recreate a child's bedroom circa 1908, and it looks fantastic! We have some great artifacts, including this 1890s doll, plus other toys and books, period brass beds and authentic linens.

The elementary students who came for field trips got to see the room right after it was finished, and they loved it! Everyone should come check it out!

***Past***

***The History of Kent:  
Present***

***Future...***

It's time once again to support the Greater Kent Historical Society at our annual dinner auction fundraiser. Please join us for this gala evening out on the town!

Begin your evening by bidding on silent auction items! Enjoy your complimentary drink at the wine bar as you visit with friends. Additional drinks will be available throughout the evening for \$4.00. Water, soda, coffee and tea will be complimentary.

Join Master of Ceremonies Brad Bell and members of the GKHS Board in the dining room for a dinner buffet catered by Jim and Suzanne Berrios of the Golden Steer. Dinner includes a choice of prime rib or salmon entrée, roasted vegetables, salad and rolls. Don't forget to save room for dessert! You'll want to explore the assortment of desserts on display and be ready to join your table companions in bidding on your favorite treat during the Dessert Dash conducted by auctioneer Fergus Prestbye.

The highlight of the evening will be the live auction! Bid on local and regional dining, entertainment, travel, and service items for you and your family! Your support will help us celebrate our historical past; honor the accomplishments of the Greater Kent Historical Society; and look to the future of our community!


  
***Saturday, October 1, 2011***  
***Kent Senior Activity Center***  
***600 East Smith Street***  
***Doors open at 5:30 PM***  
  
***Registration is now open!***  
***Tickets are \$50.00 Per***  
***Person or Reserve a Table***  
***of 8 for \$400***

## Local Roots: Discovering Kent's Genealogy

### JAMES, Johnnie

A tragic crushing by a railroad train one mile south of Kent, King County, Washington is how Johnnie James died on 21 December 1907. He was about 60 years old at the time of his death and was born in Washington, as were his parents. Johnnie's father was Doctor James; both were Native American. Johnnie was a farmer in the Orillia area of King County. The place of burial or removal indicated on the death certificate was 'Orillia, Wn' on 30 December 1907.

There is no headstone for Johnnie in the Saar Pioneer Cemetery or any other cemetery in the Orillia area. His father, Dr. J. James was buried in the Mess Cemetery, King County, in 1885 and then reinterred to Mt. Olivet in Renton, King County, Washington in November of 1964. His headstone reads: "In Remembrance of Dr. J. James Died 1885 Was a nephew to the Great Chief Seattle, and Whilst living was friendly to the Whites. May the Almighty God have mercy on his Soul."

Earlier in 1964 two articles were published in Seattle's *Post-Intelligencer*, one of which reads:

Seven Indian graves, one belonging to the nephew of Chief Seattle, were desecrated over the weekend in an old cemetery east of the Seattle-Tacoma Airport...

DEPUTIES reported some of the remains of Dr. J. James, Sealth's nephew, were stolen. A tombstone marked James' death as 1885.

Post-Intelligencer files revealed the abandoned graveyard belonged to the Muckleshoot tribe.

In May, 1958, the late Frank Lynch, Post-Intelligencer columnist, wrote about



vandalism at the same cemetery and quoted Mrs. Annie Garrison of the Muckleshoot tribe as saying that there had been vandalism at the old graveyard over "a long, long time."

THE INDIAN woman said that 'white people must have done it because Indians are afraid of the dead.'

And then in 1968 this article was published about Dr. James in the *Kent News-Journal* dated 5 June 1968:

The headstone of Dr. J. James, nephew of Chief Seattle, may not be in the old Mess Cemetery of Kent now, but it is not lost according to Mrs. Harry Arnold of Kent.

Mrs. Arnold... reported that on Memorial Day, as she 'called on old friends' in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery of Renton, she noticed that Dr. J. James's headstone is there next to the headstone of the Chief of the Duwamish Indian Tribe.

Ed Reiten of the White River Historical Society, who wrote the history of the old cemeteries of the Valley for this newspaper last week, had reported that Dr. James's stone had disappeared from the old Mess Cemetery, sometime between 1962 and this date. He feared that vandals had taken it.

A spokesman for Mt. Olivet Cemetery reported that Indian groups rescued the headstone from the abandoned Mess Cemetery and moved it to its present place of honor in the Indian plot at Mt. Olivet.

No probate records were filed for either Dr. James or his son Johnnie. A search of the area newspapers for the death of Johnnie James revealed nothing. His exact resting place is unknown.

Submitted by Karen Bouton, South King County Genealogical Society

Founded in Kent in 1899, the Carnation Milk Company (originally the Pacific Coast Condensed Milk Company) has employed some creative advertising strategies over the years.

## Taste of History

# From Carnation, With Love



This Carnation Milk Company advertisement from 1905 is shaped like a can and contains six pages of recipes that use Carnation cream.

### ORANGE SHERBET

1 lemon  
1 orange

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar  
2 cups Carnation Milk

2 egg whites

Grate rinds of lemon and orange, squeeze out juice. Add grated rind and sugar to Carnation; then add gradually the lemon and orange juice, stirring constantly. The milk may have a slightly curdled appearance after this but it disappears in the freezing. Freeze partially, then add the egg whites beaten stiff, and continue freezing. Serves 5.

This orange sherbet recipe from the Carnation Milk Company's 1931 promotional cookbook *100 Glorified Recipes* is perfect to try on a hot summer day!

## Stories from the Past



*This 1927 article tells the story of Kent National Bank, which originally stood on the southwest corner of Meeker Street and First Avenue. A Wells Fargo Bank now stands in this location.*

# KENT NATIONAL BANK HAS OPERATED 21 YEARS

The Kent National Bank began business in Kent in June 1906 in its present location (204 West Meeker) as the State Bank of Kent. It was organized by the late W. H. Overlock and his brother L. Overlock, W. J. Shinn and Chas. Otey.

Its first officers were W. H. Overlock, president; W. J. Shinn, vice president; and Chas. R. Otey, cashier. It functioned under the leadership of these officers as a State Bank until 1923, at which time it became a National Bank, and has operated since that time as the Kent National Bank.

A short time after becoming a national institution, it remodeled its old quarters, making a very beautiful banking room, modern and up-to-date in every respect.

In 1925, due to the illness of Chas. R. Otey, cashier, Mr. J. A. Oliver became cashier of the bank, but... he remained only a few months... He remained, however, on the board of directors.

Succeeding Mr. Oliver as cashier was W. A. Bartee, of Dexter Horton National Bank of Seattle. In November, 1926, Mr. Overlock was stricken with apoplexy and... a reorganization among the officers took place.

Mr. Oliver returned to his first love as president; Mr. W. H. Overlock, Jr. as vice president; Mr. W. A. Harn, cashier; and Miss F. H. Mullen, assistant cashier. Incidentally it might be remembered that Miss Mullen has been associated with this institution for the past eleven years. Previous to her position as cashier she was employed as a teller; there has always been a Mullen in its employment.

The present board of directors includes Mr. J. A. Oliver, president; Mr. W. H. Overlock, vice president; Mr. W. A. Harn, cashier; L. J. Overlock, broker and banker of Bisbee, Arizona; and Mrs. B. M. Overlock of Kent, Washington.

The Kent National Bank since its first day of business, has seen a steady substantial growth and its resources now exceed \$700,000.00.

The Kent National Bank has all the faith in the world in the future of Kent and the White River Valley, and will bend every effort to help and assist in the future progress of this community.

**Submitted by Jack Becvar, City Historian**

# Elementary School Tours

In the months of May and June, over 150 elementary students from Kent schools toured the Museum as part of their class field trips. One class of second graders from Sunrise Elementary wrote these thank-you notes to the staff after their tour:

Dear Rhonda,

Thank you for guiding me. It was really great! I can't believe there's so much old stuff.

Sincerely,  
Caleb

To Allison

Thank you for showing us the upstairs part of the museum. It is a big one.

From  
Jillian

Dear Alison,  
Thank you for showing the upstairs of the museum!

From,  
Carmina

P.S. Tell Rhonda.

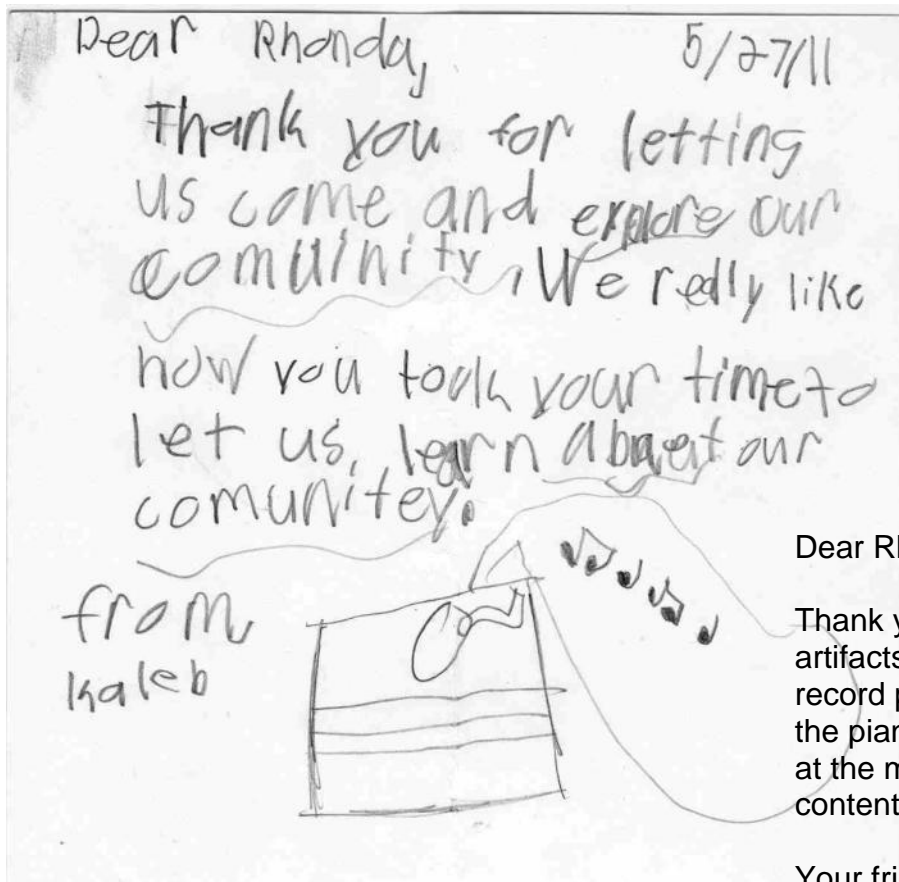


Dear Allison,

Thank you for showing us all that cool stuff. Thank you for being our guide.

Sincerely,  
Ryan

P. S. That bank window thingy was really cool.



Dear Rhonda,

Thank you for showing us all these cool artifacts and my favorite artifacts were the record player and the Lily on the upstairs also the piano was pretty cool I had a fantastic day at the musuem and musuem was one of our content words I hope I can go there again!

Your friend,  
Blake

## Business Member Spotlight:

# All Pro Building Maintenance

**ALL PRO**  
**BUILDING**  
 MAINTENANCE



All Pro Building Maintenance provides “maintenance management services to companies in the greater Puget Sound region that value dependability, quality results and customer care,” and they are based right here in Kent! Their services include maintenance and janitorial services, specialty cleaning and repairs.

All Pro has been a business member of GKHS since March. We appreciate their support! Go to their website at [www.apbldgmaint.com](http://www.apbldgmaint.com) to learn more.

We maintain  
 your building,  
 so you can focus on your  
**Business.**

### Congratulations to the 2011 GKHS Scholarship Recipients!

Norm Turner Memorial Scholarship:

**Michael Cercado**, Kent-Meridian, plans to attend the University of Washington

**Trent Davis**, Kentridge, plans to attend Washington State University

**Laura Nielsen**, Kentwood, plans to attend Brigham Young University

Ralph L. & Elinor J. Osness Scholarship:

**Kelcie Hollingsworth**, Kentridge, plans to attend Washington State University

Many thanks are extended to all those who donated to the scholarship fund. To be awarded the scholarships, Kent high school seniors had to show excellence in academic achievement and involvement in furthering the discovery, preservation and dissemination of the history of the greater Kent area. Best of luck to these graduates in their future endeavors!

Looking for a unique venue for your next party or get-together?



- **Weddings & Receptions**
- **Teas**
- **Garden Parties**
- **Baby & Bridal Showers**
- **Birthday Parties**
- **Company Events**
- **and more...**

Call the Museum for more information or visit [kenthistoricalmuseum.org/get-involved/events](http://kenthistoricalmuseum.org/get-involved/events).

## Membership Update

As of June 1, 2011, the Society has 135 members, including our 39 Life memberships. We appreciate the renewals that came in during the months of April and May! It isn't too late to support GKHS by renewing your membership. If you aren't sure if your dues are current, just call the Museum at 253-854-4330 and they can easily let you know.

We had one new Organization membership and one new Business membership during the quarter. Thanks to Kiwanis Club of Kent for their membership renewal, and to the Benson Heights Rehabilitation Center for their new membership.

Maintaining our staffing and programs depends partly on membership dues. Active membership also demonstrates to the City of Kent that our organization is viable and vibrant, and helps us justify the portion of our funding received annually from the City budget.

**Submitted by Cheri Sayer,  
Membership Committee Chair**

## Help Expand our Knowledge of Kent's Military Heroes!

The public response to our Memorial Day Recognition program was positive. Visitors were able to view a special photo display of Kent's military heroes, and many expressed a desire for an annual event.

To make next year's event and display even better, we are seeking to enhance and enlarge our photo gallery of the service men and women born in the Kent area. Our

current display includes veterans from the Civil War to Vietnam.

We need your help to expand our archive. Pass the word to family and friends—if you know anyone who was born in the greater Kent area and served in the US Armed Forces, please send the name, branch of service and dates, and include a photo or copy of a photo if available.

All information will be catalogued and available for research to anyone seeking this type of community information. Your help with photos and information will be of great assistance as the museum staff collects the history of Kent and its citizens.



**Submitted by Nancy Simpson**

## About the Cover Photo



This photo is of the Kent High School senior class of 1908.

The Museum does not own any high school yearbooks from this early, although the collection does date to 1911, one century ago. The Kent High School annual (the Criterion) from 1911 contains this rousing school spirit poem:

*Breathes there a Kent student with soul  
so dead  
Who never to himself hath said:  
"This is my own, my dear Kent High!"  
Whose heart has ne'er within him burned  
As 'round the corner he hath turned  
And there beheld an Auburn spy.  
If such there breathless, go shun him all,  
And allow him not to play football;  
High though his credits, proud his name,  
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;  
The wretch, concentered all in self,  
Wont even buy a Criterion;  
Living shall forfeit all renown,  
And doubly dying, shall go down,  
Where no more schools or school room  
spirit  
Is left poor devils to inherit.*

## 1911 Trivia

It's been 100 years since these events took place:

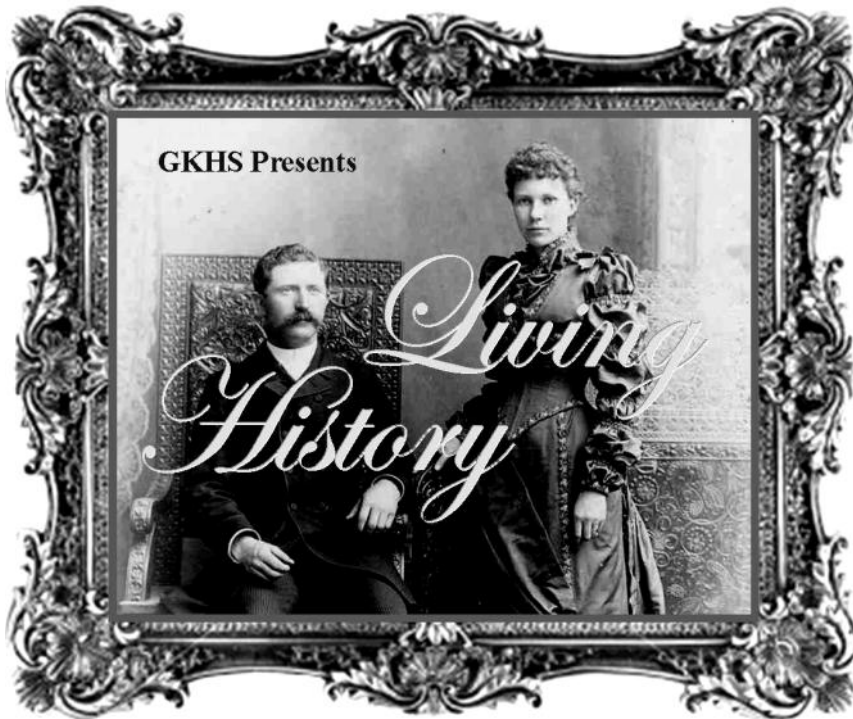
1. This Latin American country engages in a Revolution, eventually producing a new constitution in 1917.
2. Succeeding his father Edward VII, George V is crowned king of this nation.
3. This 15th century Inca site in Peru is discovered by American historian Hiram Bingham.
4. This iconic da Vinci painting is stolen from the Louvre.
5. This Norwegian explorer is the first to successfully lead an expedition to the South Pole, arriving December 14, 1911.

Trivia Answers: 1. Mexico 2. United Kingdom 3. Machu Picchu 4. Mona Lisa 5. Roald Amundsen

# Fun for All Ages with GKHS Summer Programs!

*The Museum has a little something for everyone this summer*

If you or someone you know have a preschooler or Kindergartner, make sure to check out our special summer edition of Little Explorers: Dinosaur Day Camp! More information is available on our website.



On Thursday, July 14, GKHS Presents: Living History. The South King County Genealogical Society will return with their presentation featuring professional actors portraying real-life early settlers of the Kent area. The event will be held outdoors on the beautiful Museum grounds, and dessert and cold beverages will be served. Call or email the Museum for reservations.

Also, don't miss our summer sessions of Kent Chronicles, our exciting history discussion group. Beginning Thursday, August 4 we will be discussing the World War One years. Students entering 4th grade and up and adults will discover local and world history through artifacts, photos, music, video clips and much more! Hope to see you there!

### Summer Programs and Events

#### July

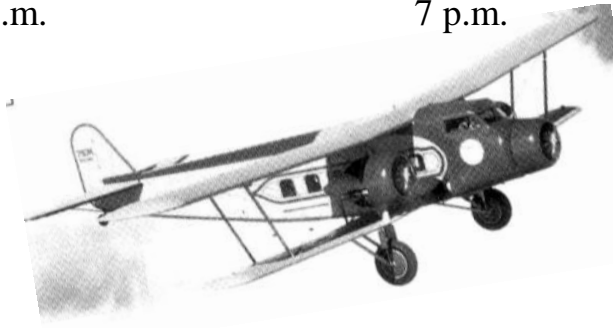
- 7:** Kent Chronicles  
11 a.m.  
Board Meeting  
7 p.m.
- 9:** Exhibit Opening  
Reception  
12 to 4 p.m.
- 14:** GKHS Presents—  
Living History  
7 p.m.
- 20 & 21:** Little Explorers  
10:30 a.m.  
& 2:30 p.m.

#### August

- 4:** Kent Chronicles  
11 a.m.  
Board Meeting  
7 p.m.
- 20:** Kent-Meridian Class of  
1961 50th Reunion  
12 p.m.

#### September

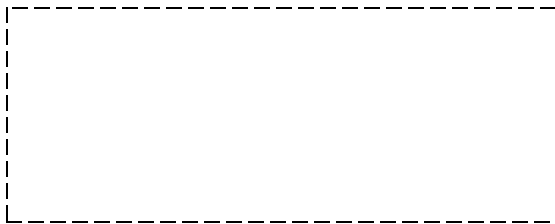
- 1:** Kent Chronicles  
11 a.m.  
Board Meeting  
7 p.m.
- 15:** GKHS Presents—  
Kent's Aviation History  
7 p.m.



Greater Kent Historical Society  
& Museum  
855 E Smith Street  
Kent, WA 98030

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**Museum hours:**  
Tuesday-Saturday, noon-4 p.m.  
**Phone:**  
253-854-4330  
**Email:**  
ctyofknt@msn.com  
**Membership:**  
GKHSMembership@hotmail.com  
**Media Contact:**  
KentHistoricalMuseum@gmail.com

The Greater Kent Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by IRS law.