

The RECORDER

The Newsletter for the Greater Kent Historical Society

**Taste of History:
Holiday Greetings of Christmas Past**
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Annual General Meeting

Featuring a Vintage Fashion Show, 1900-1920

January 29 @ 1 p.m.

Kent Commons Kent Memorial Park Building

850 Central Ave. N

From our President:



Here we go into another full year with GKHS!

Last year (2010) we experimented with several "new-to-us" events to raise funds—the attendance surprised us!

Please consider attending Kent Chronicles, the monthly history discussion group at the Museum. The group meets the first Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. and attendance is free. Right now we are discussing the 1940s.

Due to the changes made recently in our staff we are submitting a rollover of our Executive Board. If you know of someone who may consider running, please let us know as soon as possible.

Our annual general meeting is Saturday, January 29 at 1 p.m. at the Kent Commons Kent Memorial Park Building, 850 Central Ave. N. This year we will get to view a historical fashion show featuring clothing from 1900-1920. Hope to see you there!

Charlene Shaw
President
Greater Kent Historical Society

Don't Forget:

Renew your GKHS Membership!
We appreciate and need your support—send in your dues and membership renewal in the enclosed envelope or bring to the General Meeting on January 29.

Here's looking forward to another great year with the Greater Kent Historical Society!

- 2011 GKHS Board Officers:**
 PresidentCharlene Shaw
 Vice PresidentJim Osness
 SecretarySesira Maganty
 TreasurerDave Foltz
 Past PresidentJack Becvar
- Museum Staff:**
 Executive Director & Curator
 Allison Jurgens
 Media & Community Relations
 Rhonda Watts



Want to receive GKHS updates? Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/kentmuseum.

Curator's Corner: Christmas Greetings from the Front Lines



In the Second World War, the 442nd regiment was made up almost entirely of Japanese-American soldiers. The regiment fought in Europe from 1944 to the end of the war. The families of many of its soldiers were subject to internment.

The 442nd became the most highly decorated regiment in the history of the United States armed forces, including 21 Medal of Honor recipients.

This Christmas postcard from the Museum's archives, sent from the 442nd in Italy to the Schaffer family back home, reads, "Merry Christmas" on the front, continuing on the back with "and a Happy New Year" with a red circle around the city of Rome. It is signed "Sincerely, Frank Okimoto." Mr. Okimoto and his family still reside in the Kent area.

For more historical holiday greetings, see the "Taste of History" on page 5.

-Allison

(Additional information courtesy of Lilly Kato)

ELLA MILLER

Died

Feb. 11, 1892

Aged

26 yrs.

Gone but not forgotten

Local Roots: Discovering Kent's Genealogy



Looking for information:

The above epitaph was transcribed from Ms. Miller's headstone in 1979 by the South King County Genealogical Society cemetery committee. As of this writing, her headstone is missing from the cemetery.

Information is extremely scarce for Ms. Miller; she died so young. No birth, marriage, or death records were found. In the 1885, 1887, and 1889

Washington State and Territorial Censuses (1857-1892), an Ella Miller was enumerated in Whatcom County. She was a single woman born in Iowa about 1867. But there is no way to determine if this is the same Ella Miller that is buried in the Saar Pioneer Cemetery, so the epitaph on her headstone is rather sad.

Please contact Karen Bouton with any information.

Submitted by Karen Bouton, South King County Genealogical Society

Stories from the Past:

Old Newspaper Tells Story Of Kent Founding

(Following is an account of Kent and its incorporation, believed to be as complete and accurate as it was possible to make it, which was published in a special edition of a newspaper issued between the years of 1893 and 1897. The name of the newspaper which this article was taken from is unknown, as is its exact date of publication.)

At a meeting of the County Commissioners held May 7th, 1890, a petition from the citizens of Kent was considered, praying for authority to call an election to incorporate and elect officers under an act of the state legislature, entitled "an act providing for the declaring of an emergency." All proceedings up to

that date having been according to law, the election was authorized by the Commissioners and that act was certified by Auditor F. A. Tweechell. At the time the petition was presented for authenticity there were but few candidates in Kent—then Titusville.

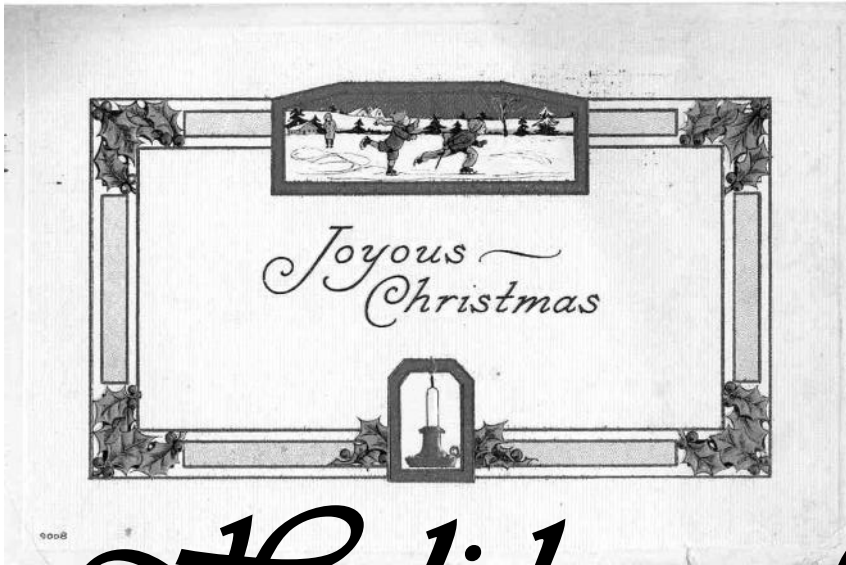
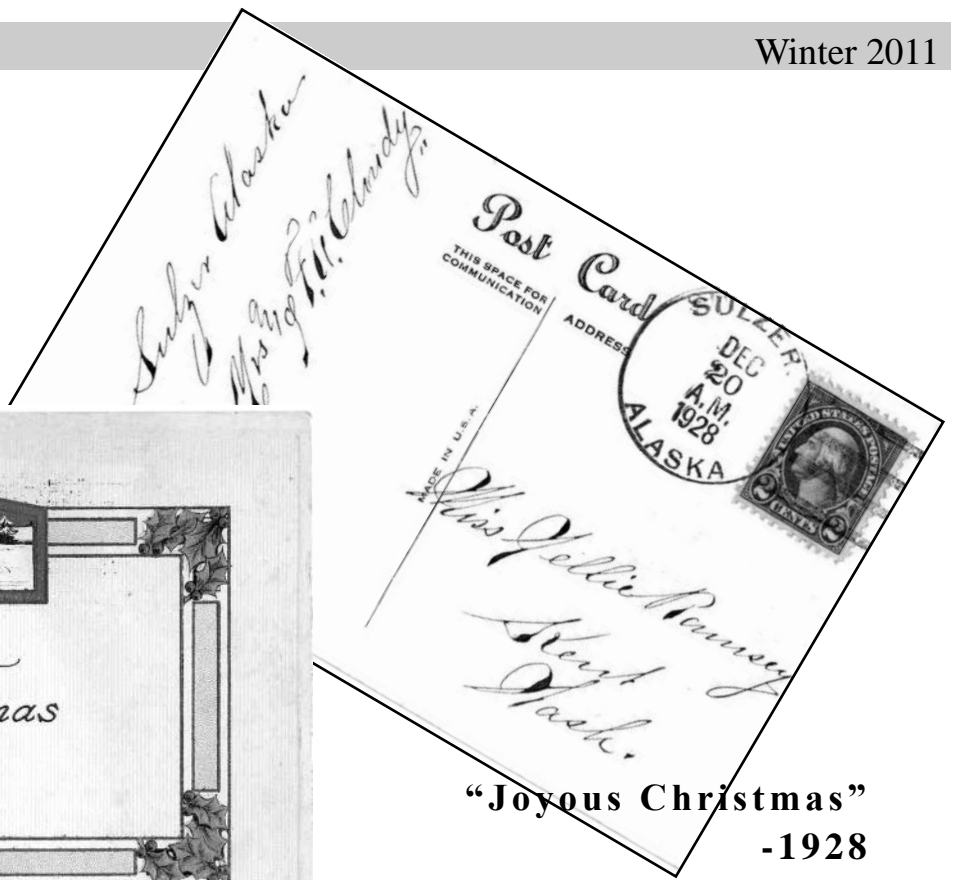
The boundaries ordered were as follows: Beginning at a point 80 rods east of the southeast corner of Section 24, Township 22 North, Range 4 East, W. M., running thence south one mile, thence east one mile to place of beginning (said territory being less than one square mile.

The election was duly held on the 22nd day of May, 1890, at the office of Crow & Shill, J. H. Titus acting as inspector, and J. W. Clark and A. Tilley as judges. According to the official canvas there were one hundred and seven votes for incorporation and twenty-two against. The following officers were elected: Mayor, A. T. Van De Vanter; Treasurer, Raymond Moore; Councilmen, W. C. Faulkner, C. E. Guiberson, J. C. Merrifield, Robert Ramsay and Julian Soule. Two informal meetings of the council were held prior to the first regular meeting on May 28th, 1890, at which F. Allan was elected Town Clerk; Thomas Simmons, Town Attorney, and C. H. Guiberson, Marshall.



Submitted by Jack Becvar, City Historian

Taste of History



“Joyous Christmas”
-1928

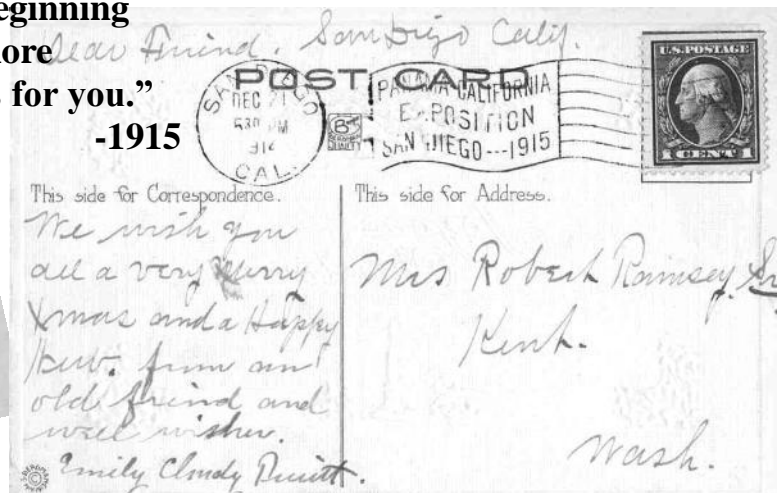
Holiday Greetings

Notice that the postcards are addressed without house numbers or street names, the post marks are much simpler than today's, and note the pioneer family names: Cloudy and Ramsey.



“Many, many more.
May this be the beginning
of a long line of more
Happy New Years for you.”

-1915



Norm Turner Memorial Scholarship

The GKHS Board of Trustees has authorized the granting of a \$500 Norm Turner Memorial Scholarship for a 2011 Kent School District graduating senior.

Last year, three scholarships honoring Norm, the Society's president between 2006 and 2008, were awarded. One of the recipients, Nezy Tewolde, is now attending Western Washington University. She is taking Intro to Political Science, Intro to Western History and Environmental Science.

Recently, she wrote "I have enjoyed my time here a lot. College has been very exciting, and I love WWU so far."

Nezy was a frequent volunteer at the museum prior to graduating from Kentridge High School.

Unfortunately, we're currently under funded for a full scholarship. Donations would be greatly appreciated, so that we can continue to honor Norm's memory. Thank you.

Submitted by Jim Osness

Business Member Spotlight

The staff have been working on business and corporate memberships for 2011. There are some all-new features and benefits that business members of GKHS will receive by joining for the new year, such as:

- A window placard for the office or storefront, similar to the example on the right, showing your support of GKHS
- Complimentary use of photos from the Museum's archives
- Designation of membership funds—support what *you* care about
- A profile story in the Recorder, telling all of our members and readers about your business
- Plus much more!



If you or someone you know owns a business that would like to be a GKHS Business Member for 2011, be sure to tell the Museum staff. We could use your help with recruiting new members!



We don't have a lot information on this photo from the Museum archives—we don't know the woman's name or the location, or even the exact date, though based on the clothing and décor, we believe it was taken in the 1930s—but we love the simple charm of this cozy winter scene.

What's New at the Museum?

First of all, me!

Hi, I'm Rhonda and I'm the new hire at the Museum. I have a degree in English and I love to write; you may have seen my Kent History article in the December issue of the Kent Magazine. I also have some experience in PR and marketing, so I've been working with Allison to spread the word in the community about the Museum. We have lunch every Monday at the Kent Senior Activity Center; maybe we'll see you there!

Beginning in January, we will have a new exhibit in the rotating display room (topic to be announced). We've also been researching and planning a new exhibit for the small room next to the rotating display room, which was the top of the servants' staircase when the house was built. The exhibit will display artifacts and information on the topic of servant life in 1908.

If I haven't met you yet, I hope to soon—stop by the Museum and say hi!

Winter Calendar*

January

6: Kent Chronicles
11 a.m.
Board Meeting
7 p.m.
12: Little Explorers
2:30 p.m.
29: General Meeting
KMP Building,
850 Central Ave. N
1 p.m.

February

3: Kent Chronicles
11 a.m.
Board Meeting
7 p.m.
9: Little Explorers
2:30 p.m.

March

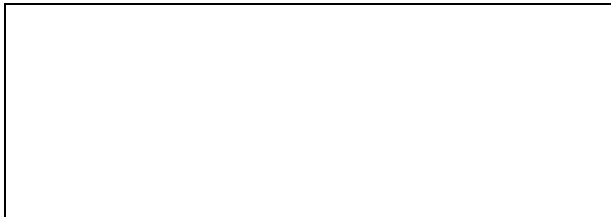
3: Kent Chronicles
11 a.m.
Board Meeting
7 p.m.
9: Little Explorers
2:30 p.m.

*Be sure to check the website, Facebook and Twitter for additional events and updates. Kent Chronicles is our discussion group for 3rd grade up and adults. Little Explorers is our preschool/Kindergarten program.

Greater Kent Historical Society & Museum
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Kent, WA 98030

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KentHistoricalMuseum@gmail.com

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