

# KIRKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM



THE EXHIBITS AND EVENTS OF 2024

# KIRKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM

214 North Colville Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509-529-4373 • kirkmanhousemuseum.org  
Tours available by appointment.

**Spring hours:** March 16 through May 30, 2024  
Open Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm.

**Summer hours:** May 31 through October 4, 2024  
Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm.

**Fall hours:** October 5 through December 15, 2024  
Open Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm.

**Closed:** December 16, 2024 through March 14, 2025.

**Admission:** \$10 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per child (7 through 17), \$25 per household. Admission is free to children 6 and younger, members of the Kirkman House Museum, NARM, and US military veterans.



**Visit one of Walla Walla's grandest mansions** and learn how a young textile salesman from England and his wife made their fortune in America's Wild West. William and Isabella Kirkman completed this elegant home in 1880, and it served as the Kirkman family's residence for almost 40 years.

Today Kirkman House is a place that shares their story and those of the early days of Walla Walla through exhibits, programs and events. The home is furnished with family heirlooms and period pieces illustrating daily Victorian life.

In 1919 the family deeded the house to Whitman College. The college used it as a freshman men's dormitory called Kirkman Hall. In 1924 Whitman sold the house to a private party who then converted it into 12 apartments.

The home's use as an apartment house for more than 70 years came at a high price. Rooms were divided, ceilings were lowered, and some of the unique architectural enhancements were damaged or removed. By the mid-1970s, its future looked bleak.

In 1974, Historic Architecture Development, a local preservation organization, helped the Kirkman House become listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Three years later, HAD purchased the house, wound down its rental business and began a long but steady march to restore the original beauty and grace of the home.

During the 1980s and 1990s, dozens of restoration projects transformed the home's 10 major rooms, its exterior and the grounds into showpieces.

A mysteriously missing widow's walk was found and replaced on the home's roof. All rooms were restored to their original dimensions. Many room decorations and furnishings are original to the house or were replaced with treatments and pieces of the Victorian era. Walking through the front doors today turns time back to an age of elegance.

Come see the difference almost 50 years of care and love have made to this grand home. It is a proud testament to the vision of both the Kirkman family and the hundreds of dedicated individuals who have served as leaders of Kirkman House Museum.

## WHEN YOU VISIT

**Kirkman House Museum** is located just three blocks from Main Street at 214 North Colville. It is within easy walking distance from many downtown hotels, motels, wine shops and restaurants. On-street parking is plentiful, and the museum is easy to find.

Volunteer docents are available for guided tours of the house and to describe the engaging life of the Kirkmans and early Walla Walla. Guests are also free to explore the house and grounds on their own. Guided tours are usually one-hour long, provide much more information than self-guided tours and are available at no cost beyond the admission fee.

The museum has something for everyone. History buffs, lovers of fine architecture and those with curious minds all find Kirkman House fascinating. It's also very popular with children and young adults. This is a museum you and your entire family will enjoy.



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues help pay for special exhibits and programs at the museum that enhance the cultural spirit of our community. Review the membership levels below and become a member today.

### Membership Benefits

- Free admission to the museum for one year
- Kirkman House Museum newsletter
- Invitations to “members only” events
- Recognition in the Kirkman House newsletter
- Tax deduction on membership
- Access to the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program. NARM is an association of arts and cultural institutions that offers select benefits to each institution's premier members
- Knowledge that you are helping to save the Kirkman House for future generations

### Annual Membership Types

*Young Adult* - \$50: All membership benefits for one person under the age of 30.

*Individual/Dual* - \$100: All membership benefits for two people plus two guest passes.

*Family* - \$250: All membership benefits for family members in one household plus four guest passes.

*Patron* - \$500: All family membership benefits plus eight guest passes.

*Benefactor* - \$1,000: All family membership benefits plus ten guest passes and one gift Family Membership.

**For more information on the benefits of membership** and to join us, please visit [kirkmanhousemuseum.org](http://kirkmanhousemuseum.org) and press **Join**.

Many thanks to our season sponsors:

**Walla Walla Union-Bulletin** and **Port of Walla Walla**.

Photos: Gary Tetz and Rick Tuttle

Design: Tim Copeland



## THE NEW WOMAN

Saturday, March 16 to Sunday, August 18, 2024

### **The New Woman: Fashion from 1910 to 1929**

The early 20th century was a period of gradual yet profound change for American women. In 1920, after decades of struggle, women secured the right to vote. This era also witnessed a broadening of career options for women, as traditional barriers began to erode.

Fashion served as a vivid reflection of these societal changes, with women's clothing evolving dramatically in response to the era's newfound freedoms and opportunities.

Women embraced flapper dresses, with their dropped waists and rising hemlines. The iconic cloche hats and bobbed haircuts further symbolized this break from tradition. Through their sartorial choices, women of this era boldly asserted their newfound role in a rapidly changing world.

## WHITMAN TIES

Friday, August 23 to Sunday, November 17, 2024

### **The Kirkmans and Whitman College**

In a significant act of philanthropy, Isabella Kirkman bequeathed her home to Whitman College in 1919, reinforcing her family's enduring commitment to the institution. This gesture aligned with Whitman's drive to amass funds for a new dormitory on campus, subsequently named Lyman Hall.

From 1920 until 1924, the former Kirkman residence served as a dormitory for male students, one of whom was Walter Brattain, Class of 1924. Brattain was one of three physicists awarded the 1956 Nobel Prize for Physics for research on semiconductors and the discovery of the transistor effect,

This exhibit illuminates the story of Kirkman Hall and other surprising connections between Whitman College and the Kirkman family.





## SOMEWHERE IN TIME

Sunday, April 28, 2024  
1 pm to 3 pm

**Return to a more gracious time** and join us for an intimate, delicious experience in our beautifully furnished Victorian home. This year we offer a Spring Victorian Tea.

Cozy tables are set with china and silver. Fruit, sandwich, and dessert courses are served by Kirkman staff. While guests sip tea, they will be entertained by a program featuring vintage fashions.

Come on your own or invite your mother, daughter or friends to Spring Victorian Tea at Kirkman House Museum. Advanced reservations are required. Tickets can be purchased at the museum or by calling 509-529-4373.

## SHEEP TO SHAWL

Saturday, October 5, 2024  
10 am to 2 pm

**Sheep to Shawl** is an annual family festival that explores how our ancestors made their clothing from wool. This free event will delight the entire family.

Children will love seeing the sheep. Visitors will also enjoy demonstrations of wool carding, dyeing, spinning and weaving. Lace making and knitting on a vintage sock machine will also be demonstrated.

Handmade items from local and regional vendors will be available for purchase. They will include a wide variety of woolen and fiber clothing, raw and ready to spin fiber, hand-spun and hand-dyed yarns, and spinning and weaving equipment.





## VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 14, 2024  
10 am to 2 pm  
Free admission

**Join our annual Victorian Christmas celebration** and be entertained by good cheer, holiday music, Living History characters, Christmas carolers, and more. Santa will be on hand to delight guests, young and old alike.

Highlighting festive colors and traditional decor of the Victorian era, the museum will be decked out in holiday style. Glad tidings abound as volunteers in period attire welcome visitors to a wonderful afternoon of entertainment and celebration.

Light refreshments will be served throughout the day. Tour the museum for free and enjoy the lively festivities.

## KIDS FIRST

**Kids First** is a series of exciting programs that bring the past to life for children. We will explore fun, historical topics with hands-on projects. Be sure to bring your own lunch. Drinks will be furnished.

**Wednesday, April 3** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., come and learn about the history of gardening and learn to plant and transplant the world's smallest tomatoes, chocolate sunflowers, and the fascinating peanut plant.

**Wednesday, July 10** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. will be the history of textiles. You will learn how to weave and use a knitting loom. Take home the t-shirt you will dye using ice cubes and powdered dyes.

**Wednesday, August 7** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., try your hand at gold panning and learn about the gold found in the Pacific Northwest. You will also learn about different types of rocks and geodes and take home a geode and some other fun rocks.

See you at the Kirkman House Museum Kids Camp.



# ADAM WEST

Kirkman House Museum is excited to present **Adam West** as we celebrate the life of the TV hero and the hometown boy Bill Anderson.

Journey with us as we learn the history and background of the man who would become Batman. The son of a farmer-father and an entertainer-mother, Bill attended Green Park Elementary, Walla Walla High School and Lakeside in Seattle. He returned to the valley in 1946 to attend Whitman College.

Explore Bill's path after Whitman to his early days in Hollywood when he adopted the name Adam West and won the role that would define his career. See replicas of Batman's famous cowl, the red Bat Phone, and Shakespeare's bust.

This interactive exhibit places you in Bruce Wayne's den where you can receive a call from Commissioner Gordon on the screen accurate Bat Phone and then try to figure out how to reveal the Bat Poles. View clips from Adam's career on the Bat Viewer, styled after the Bat Computers in the Bat Cave. Discover the



pride that Walla Wallans feel for their own superhero through personal photos, articles and memorabilia.

Adam West's Batman, the role for which he is known around the world, was a unique spin on a classic character. From Batman's early days in the comics of old to the modern blockbusters that have come to define a new generation of hero, the history of the character and the man will be connected in the hearts and minds of fans forever.

Our thanks to Jonathan Grant for donating many of the items for the exhibit. As manager of the Marcus Whitman Hotel, Jonathan became friends with Adam West when West stayed at the hotel during his visits to Walla Walla. Adam passed away in 2017. Since his death, Adam West Days have been celebrated in Walla Walla each September near his birthday.

See all of this and more at the Adam West exhibition at the Kirkman House Museum.



## MUSEUM MURDER

**Someone has committed a murder** at the Kirkman family home! And it's up to you and your friends to discover which one of Walla Walla's upstanding citizens did the dastardly deed.

You are all suspects and it is up to you to prove your innocence. You must identify the victim, the murder location, the weapon, the motive and the murderer.

You and four to seven of your friends will read about and choose from a cast of Walla Walla's historical characters. One of you will end the game as the Master Detective.

Call the museum at 509-529-4373 or Pam at 509-520-1570 to book your Murder Mystery game.

## BE SURE TO SEE ...

The Walla Walla Valley played an important role in the development of the Blue Mountain region. Visit these nearby historic sites to learn their stories.

### **Fort Walla Walla Museum**

755 NE Myra Road, Walla Walla  
fwwm.org

### **Whitman Mission National Historic Site**

328 Whitman Mission Road, Walla Walla  
nps.gov/whmi

### **Frenchtown Historic Site**

8364 Old Highway 12, Walla Walla  
frenchtownwa.org

### **Bruce House Museum**

320 Main Street, Waitsburg  
waitsburghistoricalsociety.org

### **Smith Hollow Country School House**

305 N Fourth Avenue, Dayton  
bluemountainheritage.com.

### **Dayton Historic Depot and Boldman House Museums**

222 E Commercial Street, Dayton  
daytonhistoricdepot.org

### **Frazier Farmstead Museum**

1403 Chestnut Street, Milton-Freewater,  
frazierfarmsteadmuseum.org

### **Heritage Station Museum**

108 SW Frazer Avenue, Pendleton  
heritagestationmuseum.org

### **Tamástslikt Cultural Institute**

47106 Wildhorse Boulevard, Pendleton  
tamastslikt.org

### **Pendleton Underground Tours**

37 SW Emigrant Avenue, Pendleton  
pendletonundergroundtours.org





## FORT WALLA WALLA

**Fort Walla Walla Museum** is a must-see for visitors to Walla Walla. With four large exhibit halls housing thousands of artifacts, a pioneer village, a 33-mule team hitched to a wooden combine, and a rotating special exhibit, there's always something new at the old fort.

Our 17-structure outdoor Pioneer Village includes a one-room schoolhouse, train depot, doctor's office, and two pioneer cabins. Visit our website for a full schedule of events—free monthly after-hours presentations, Living History performances from April through October, heritage skills demonstrations/workshops, Ice Cream Social, and Antique Truck Show.

The Museum is located at 755 NE Myra Road in beautiful Fort Walla Walla Park. We are open daily from 10 am to 5pm (10 am to 4 pm in the winter) so visit our website at [fwwm.org](http://fwwm.org) to plan your visit today! For more information, call 509-525-7703 or email [info@fwwm.org](mailto:info@fwwm.org).

## FRENCHTOWN

The scenic **Frenchtown Historic Site** overlooks the location of a mid-19th-century settlement of approximately fifty French-Canadian and Métis families. Points of interest include the St. Rose of Lima cemetery and the 1837 "Prince's Cabin." The site is free and open to the public.

Interpretive signage provides family histories and burial records as well as information on the Oregon trail, the fur trade, and interactions between local tribes and settlers. Amenities include walking trails, a bike rack, a vault toilet, and handicap parking.

Maintenance and development of the site is made possible by contributions to the Frenchtown Historical Foundation, as well as the volunteer efforts of descendants and members of the community.

8364 Old Highway 12  
<http://www.frenchtownwa.org>  
[frenchtown.substack.com](http://frenchtown.substack.com)





## SMITH HOLLOW

Open Saturdays from April to October (or by appointment), the Blue Mountain Heritage Society hosts two free exhibits in Dayton, Washington, at 113 North Front Street.

The **Smith Hollow Country Schoolhouse**, built in 1900, offers hands-on activities.

Visit the **Dodge 1898 Quarantine Cabin** built to house a quarantined son returning from the Spanish-American War.

The **Palus Museum** is at 426 East Main Street. Its collection of locally found Indian Artifacts offers a glimpse of the region's past.

Also at the Palus is the Columbia County Veterans Display with items from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, and more. A life-size bronze Sacajawea Statue by Carol Grande stands on the corner of First Street and Commercial Street.

Visit us at [www.bluemountainheritage.com](http://www.bluemountainheritage.com).

## DAYTON DEPOT

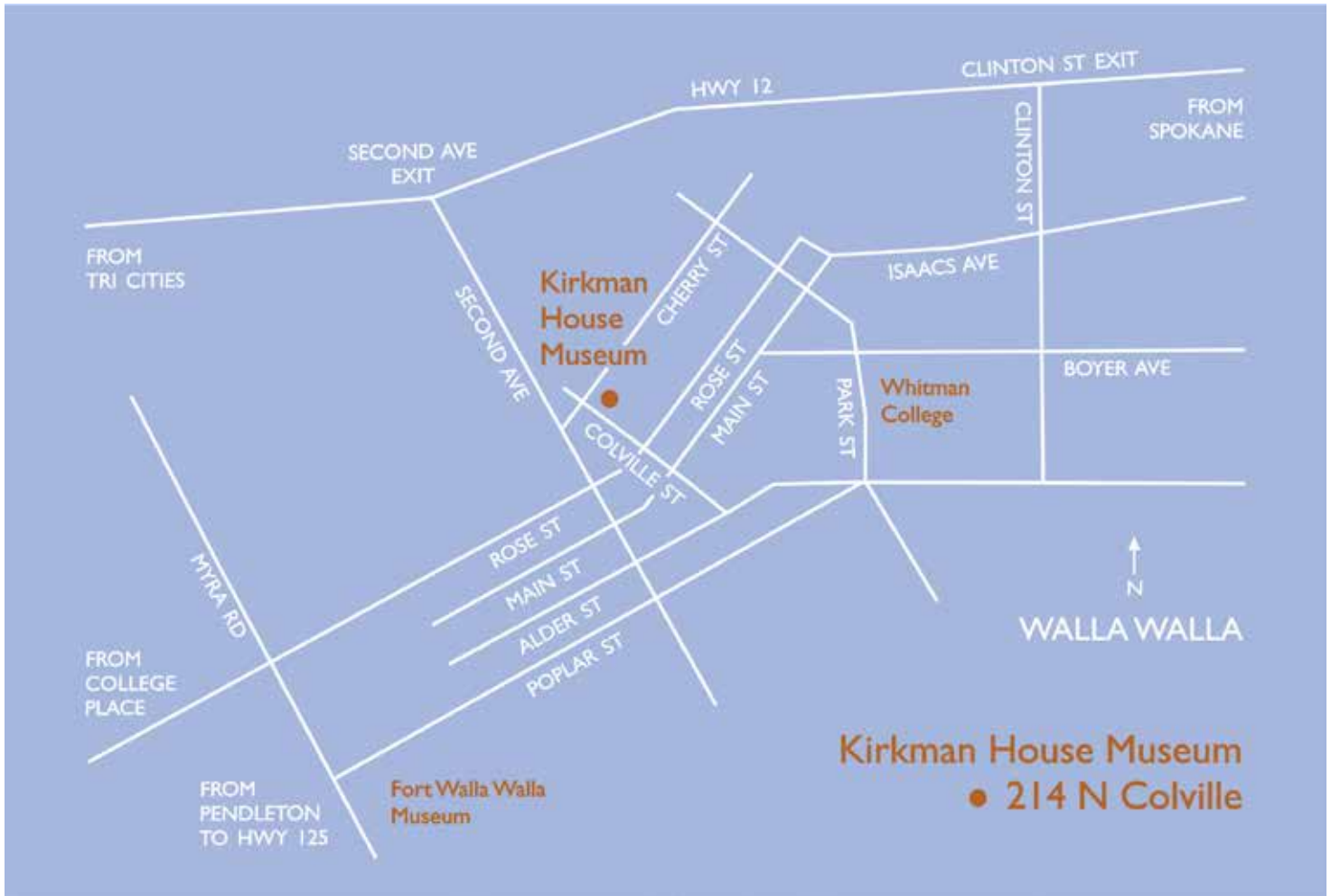
Originally built in 1881, the **Dayton Historic Depot** is the oldest surviving passenger train station in Washington State. The Depot is now a beautifully restored museum; exhibits are the ticket office, the passengers' waiting room, the stationmaster's living quarters, and the freight room with the original freight scale still in working condition.

Dayton's **Boldman House** remains much the same as it was in 1912 and is one of Dayton's significant examples of the Queen Anne style. The house and its contents form an extraordinary time capsule that gives a unique and detailed history of the Boldman family and how they lived and interacted with the community and the changing times.

The two museums serve as cultural hubs, offering exhibits, educational tours, and special events that celebrate the region's rich heritage. Admission is free,

Dayton Historic Depot: Wed-Sat, 10am to 5pm  
Boldman House Museum: Thu-Sat, 10am to 5pm  
[www.daytonhistoricdepot.org](http://www.daytonhistoricdepot.org)





Map: Karen Heinzman