

THE FORT MISSOULA



RALLY

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Building St. Michael's: Missoula's Early Catholic History

When Father Pierre Jean DeSmet boarded a passenger packet to America in the fall of 1837, he was determined to realize his dream of missionary work among the Indian Tribes of the Northwest. DeSmet first arrived in America in 1821 with idealistic dreams and the energy to match. After several years he found his way to St. Louis where he was ordained in 1833 and played a crucial role in the early history of St. Louis University. Later, an extended illness forced him back to Europe and delayed his aspirations for a period of years. After a nearly two year recovery, DeSmet returned to America more determined than ever.

His first missionary work was among the Potawatomies in the general vicinity of Council Bluffs, Iowa. His initial work was successful, and DeSmet dared to venture further in 1840. Beginning in the 1830's, delegations of Flathead (Salish), Nez Perce, and Iroquois had repeatedly requested the church to send "black robes" into the territory that was to become Montana. Many of the tribes had been terrorized by the warrior Sioux and sought the black robes and their god for protection.

In 1840, Father Pierre Jean DeSmet set out to visit the Northwest tribes and answer their calls. Although his original mission was not a permanent one, Father DeSmet was overwhelmed with the reception he received and vowed to return and preach in the wilderness. Nearly two years after that first trip into the wilds, he returned and established Montana's first mission, St. Mary's, at a site near present day Stevensville.

Upon their arrival, Father DeSmet, with Fathers Adrian Hoecken and Joseph Menetrey, began construction of several buildings. In addition to

their missionary work, the three priests dedicated themselves to instructing the Native Americans in skills like farming. The new mission was also the site of

the first water-powered grist mill in Montana. Despite the practical skills that DeSmet and the others brought to the natives, their way of life was very different than the traditional practices of the tribes. By 1850, Native Americans began to question the Missionary's work and their efforts to root out the traditional practices of the tribes, especially their

long-held spiritual beliefs. DeSmet and the others saw traditional Native American beliefs as "the Devil's work". In addition to the tensions created by their cultural differences, the Indians felt deeply betrayed when the missionaries reached out to the Blackfeet, the sworn enemy of the tribes in the vicinity of St. Mary's. These factors produced a waning interest in St. Mary's Mission, which was abandoned in 1850. The old mission was purchased by John Owen who turned it into a trading post.

Four years later, the region saw a second attempt to build a lasting mission. The St. Ignatius mission was founded at the foot of the Mission Mountains. Surrounded by beautiful views and abundant natural resources, St. Ignatius remains today as a reminder of the missionary era. The local Flathead or Salish Indians granted the missionaries the land with the understanding that their children would have access to the white man's education. In addition to the church and school, missionaries also constructed a flour mill, a saw mill, and set up a cattle outfit. An important feature of the church was a life-sized crucifix carved by Father Anthony Ravalli.

A native of Italy, Father Ravalli was a man of many talents. In addition to being a Jesuit Priest, he was



also a trained as a physician having studied biology and medicine at the University of Rome. Ravalli was Montana's first trained physician and would play an important role in the state's early years.

The St. Ignatius Mission was well established by 1860 when the fledgling settlement of Hellgate was founded to take advantage of the newly completed Mullan Road. Named after the Hellgate Canyon, the settlement was made up of a handful of structures and homes. Key to the establishment of Hellgate were Christopher Higgins and Francis Worden. Both would go on to play crucial roles in the establishment of Missoula Mills a few years later. Missoula Mills was later shortened to Missoula.

With its prime location on the Mullan Road, Father Urban Grassi, the Superior at St. Ignatius, took notice of Hellgate village and proposed building a chapel there. It was the first church built in Montana that catered to white settlers. In 1863, he sent Jesuit Brother William Claessens to construct a fenced log church and rectory at Hellgate. Claessens was a master carpenter and his craftsmanship is evident in the small chapel. Along with Claessens came several wagon loads of supplies from St. Ignatius a little over 30 miles away. Stories passed down claim that Claessens constructed the altar, pews, and flooring for the church from a single pine tree. Much of the church was built without the benefit of nails, instead relying on properly fitted and dovetailed logs and boards. St. Michael's sat about one mile West of Hellgate village on the south side of the Mullan road. Just to the west of the small chapel, was a cemetery.

Despite the efforts of men like Father Anthony Ravalli, who served as the site's priest, the construction of a church at Frenchtown and the decline of Hellgate Village diminished the importance of St. Michael's. Hellgate suffered from the lack of a reliable water source for powering a mill. After the establishment of Missoula Mills, Hellgate diminished in importance and was eventually abandoned.

The little chapel too would be nearly forgotten until a land dispute in 1874 brought it back to the attention of the Church. As part of the dispute, it was found that St. Michael's sat on the land of settler, George White. After promising to allow the church to remain, White changed his mind. He began to clear off the property with the fence and outbuildings being broken up for firewood. The only portion of St. Michael's that remained to be saved was the original chapel.

The chapel was moved to the site of St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula where it was reconstructed and put to use as a boarding school for boys. Later it would be known as St. Joseph's School. The group most responsible for the rescue and eventual preservation of St. Michael's Church were the Sisters of Providence. The Sisters, led by Mother Caron, had only recently arrived in Missoula in 1873. Dedicated to service of the poor, homeless, mentally ill, and orphans, the Sisters occupied a once abandoned building. The building, sitting just off of downtown Missoula, was converted into a school for orphaned children and a hospital.

Over the years the Sisters of Providence never lost sight of the importance of the small chapel and its place in Missoula's early history. Despite their care, in 1960, the local fire inspector declared that the building was a "decided fire hazard". With the help of the local Missoula Exchange Club the building was moved back to near its original location in 1962. Unfortunately, the structure wasn't able to remain there as the expansion of local residential neighborhoods again threatened it in 1981. That year St. Michael's made what many hope is its last move. It was transported to the grounds of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. At Fort Missoula, the chapel is lovingly cared for and has even become a popular location for local couples to marry.

On May 2, 2015, the Historical Museum will re-open St. Michael's with a brand new exhibit that tells the fascinating story of Missoula's first church.



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Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
3400 Captain Rawn Way • Missoula, MT 59804 • (406) 728-3476

Archaeology Day at Fort Missoula

Saturday April 11, 2015 • 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

In partnership with graduate students from the University of Montana Department of Anthropology, the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula will be hosting a “Hands-On Archaeology” Day at the Fort, as part of the Montana Archaeological Society’s Archaeology Month in April. Students will bring artifacts and other archaeology related items for the public to see, and will be available to answer questions and discuss archaeology topics from 10 AM – 12 PM on Saturday, April 11. In addition, kids and the young at heart will have the opportunity to get a little dirty learning archaeology skills through hands-on activities provided by the museum.



New Exhibits Coming Soon!

Come this late spring, the exhibits department will be a very busy place! From May to August this year the museum will be featuring one new exhibit a month- that’s four exhibits in four months! We’re excited to update some of our old exhibits, as well as create and open spaces that visitors have never been able to go before. Here is a little teaser of the upcoming displays:

St. Michael’s Church

The month of May will feature a new exhibit in St. Michael’s Church. This new exhibit highlights the eclectic history of the St. Michael’s log cabin. From its use as a church in the early Hellgate community, to its various uses by the Sisters of Providence on the Catholic block of Missoula, to land and ownership disputes over the building- this seemingly simple one-room log cabin actually has quite the adventurous story. The interior of the cabin will reflect the original use with a newly built altar and an example of a nun habit for visitors to view. The museum is also very lucky to feature two reproduction murals from local artist Hadley Ferguson that are currently hanging within the auditorium of Loyola Sacred Heart High School. These murals colorfully illustrate the rich history of Catholicism in Missoula.

The ACM Library Car

The ACM Library Car will have a new exhibit opening in June. For the first time the library car will be open to the public with a brand new exhibit. The display will explore the history of this unique Anaconda Copper Mining Company library car, from its establishment by local librarians to its journeys across Montana delivering books to work camps. The librarian’s quarters will be set up as if there was still a librarian there to re-shelve the books and stock the newspapers. When docents are available, visitors will be able to sit at the tables and take a look in historic books just like the work camp patrons used to do. Come out in June to learn more about this truly one-of-a-kind library car.

The North Gallery: “The Place We Live: The History of Missoula’s Neighborhoods”

During our big Fourth of July event a new exhibit will open titled “The Place We Live”. It will explore the history and development of Missoula’s beloved neighborhoods. Nestled in the upstairs North Gallery will be the history of Missoula’s neighborhood districts including the West Side, North Side, South Side, East Side, Rattlesnake and University districts. Also integrated into the exhibit will be fascinating stories about historic Missoula mansions and early Missoula pioneer farms. The exhibit will take a look at vernacular architecture and how it reflects the development of Missoula over time, while highlighting stories of Missoulians’ past. Do you drive by that big house on the corner every day on your way home from work and wonder who used to live in it? This is the exhibit for you!

The Alien Detention Center Barracks

Finally, the month of August will feature the new National Park Service grant funded exhibit in our World War II Alien Detention Center barrack building. The new exhibit begins by discussing the role that Fort Missoula played even before the US joined World War II and continues with the changes that occurred at Fort Missoula in preparation for the over 2,000 internees that would be imprisoned at the Fort. The exhibit takes an in depth look at what life was like for the Japanese and Italian men that lived here at the camp. It will also examine Fort Missoula’s unique role in the larger context of what was going on in the US at the time. We look forward to featuring a new touch screen technology that will allow visitors to watch video clips and answer questions along with the movie.

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE
WESTERN MONTANA EDITION
VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2015



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All offers are two-for-one or better!*



**Making Fun Affordable
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Historical Museum Partners with Amusement Gold

The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula is proud to announce that it will partner with Amusement Gold on a fundraising opportunity. Amusement Gold publishes Western Montana's only coupon book. Their popular Amusement Book is published locally, and contains discounts for over 60 local businesses. They include local favorites like the Laughing Grizzly, the Staggering Ox, the Walking Mustache, Lolo Hot Springs, a Carousel for Missoula, and of course the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. In addition to local favorites, a number of national franchises are also participating. Whether you are interested in a dinner out, fast food, skiing, or taking in a show at the Stevensville Playhouse, the Amusement book has something for you.

For a limited time only, the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula will be selling Amusement Books for the special price of \$15.00 or \$4.95 less than the cover price. You may purchase books by stopping into the Historical Museum anytime during regular hours, Tuesday through Sunday Noon to 5pm. The Historical Museum is closed Mondays.

Please join us in this win-win situation. You save money by enjoying all your favorite local businesses and the Historical Museum benefits by this unique fundraiser.

Please contact the Historical Museum at 728-3476 ext. 1 with any questions.

Fresh Eyes and Enthusiasm at the Museum

If you've walked into the museum, visited our 4th of July festivities or purchased fried cheese at the Western Montana Fair, you may already have noticed how important volunteers are to the Museum. In addition to the volunteers that help with the day to day operations of the museum or at special events, each year college and graduate students from many different universities apply to complete internships with us. They are responsible for creating exhibits, cataloguing artifacts, creating programs and other special projects.

Our fall 2014 education intern, Callison Stratton, came to us from New York City by way of Dublin, Ireland and most recently Butte. As she was finishing her master's program in Public History at Trinity College she contacted us to see if we could put her interest in museums and visitor experience to use. She made a big impact on our understanding of the visitor experience at the Fort and we were glad to have her!

One of the fantastic things about having interns

is that they come to us with fresh eyes and new skill sets. Callison quickly immersed herself in our exhibits and programs and developed several projects to evaluate visitor experience and to encourage audience engagement. First she worked on our social media strategy, creating Foursquare and Instagram accounts in addition to our Facebook and Twitter. She developed a visitor questionnaire, interviewed visitors and scoured the guestbook to see who our visitors are, where they come from, what they like and how we could improve their experience. Deciding we needed some concrete data to analyze and a way to visualize this information, Callison documented all of the visitor information collected in the guestbook from our busy summer months. You can see her results in the Visitor's Register Report for Summer 2014.

Recognizing the need for activities geared towards families and casual visitors (as opposed to organized school groups), Callison developed an Explorer's Guide

for Fort Missoula. Callison created several versions as we tested them out on small groups and gained feedback from visitors. Next time you visit the museum make sure you grab one of the new guides from the front desk! As you explore the exhibits you'll find supplemental activity sheets in each gallery to inspire you and the children in your lives to think more about the photos, artifacts, and text on the walls. Each question answered gets the visitor a certain number of points and before you leave the museum you can show the front desk volunteer your efforts to earn a prize! The young and young at heart are welcome to play.

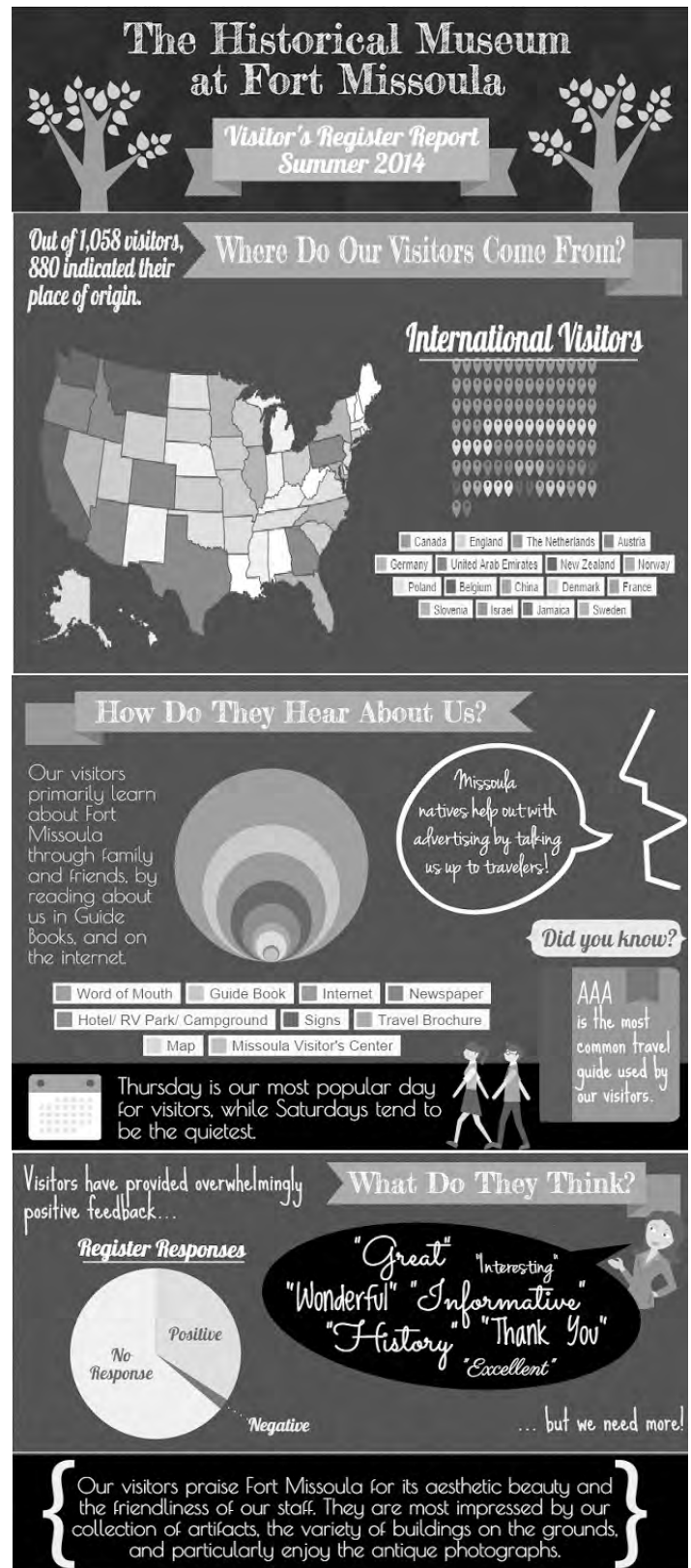
We were so lucky to have had Callison as a part of our team this year; we hope she finds her way back to Missoula in the spring when the drive over from Butte is less arduous. If you know a high school or college student who is interested in history, museums, education and/or working with people, encourage them to apply for an internship at the Fort. This summer we will once again be offering our Living History Internship, keep an eye on the website for more information or email Kristjana@montana.com.

Development Report ANNUAL FUND REPORT

Each year Friends of the Historical Museum give an extra gift to support a special project. This year, we asked for your help make the Anaconda Copper Mining Company Library Car ready to exhibit - painting and building an accessible ramp – and wow! the Friends really stepped up. We raised \$3,880. Thank you!

Stewardship Fund - Contributors to this fund pledge to donate \$1,000 or more each year for three years, helping to ensure the sustainability of the Friends budget, and supporting special projects. The Friends board annually designates the Stewardship Fund to a special project. This year, Stewardship Fund contributions will match the Annual Fund, and we'll finish the Library Car.

Living History Internship Fund – This fund was established last year by Dale and Coby Johnson, in honor of Dr. Robert. M. Brown, to support a seasonal internship program for high school and college students. Interns conduct research, develop programming and deliver public history talks and tours while in costume. A donation to the Internship Fund goes toward intern stipends and training, costumes and supplies.



In Commemoration of an Important Anniversary for Montana

The year 2014 marked an important anniversary for the citizens of Montana. One hundred years earlier, on November 3, 1914, voters granted women the vote. This important moment predates the 19th Amendment by six years and placed Montana at the precipice of granting equal right to all its citizens. Two years later, the Treasure State would again establish itself at the forefront of equality when it elected Maggie Smith Hathaway and Emma Ingalls to the State Legislature, and Jeanette Rankin to Congress. Rankin was the first woman to serve as a member of Congress.

The address that follows was written by Historical Museum Trustee Coby Johnson. Coby delivered the speech in the character of a suffragist as part of our Annual Fourth at the Fort Celebration. Drawing on primary sources, Johnson pieced together the speech to be representative of those delivered throughout the state in 1914.

For more information on Women's Suffrage and other great women's history topics in Montana, please visit Women's History Matters at www.montanawomenshistory.org.

On this beautiful July 4, 1914, I wish to speak on an issue of great importance to all and to the great future of Montana.

That issue is suffrage for the women of Montana. The only Constitutional Amendment on the ballot on November 3rd is the issue of suffrage for women.

Women are voting on all questions in 10 states – Wyoming since 1869, Colorado since 1893, Utah and Idaho since 1896, Washington since 1910, California since 1911, Oregon, Arizona and Kansas since 1912, and the Territory of Alaska since 1913. Women in Illinois may vote for presidential electors and municipal questions since 1913.



You will note the vast majority of states where women have full suffrage rights are western states. These states have given woman the ballot because they know her worth and trustworthiness. Women in a state, a new state like Montana have helped to build up the state through its pioneer days and establish its homes and when prosperity comes it brings outside influences, but the woman ballot keeps the balance of power in the hands of those who helped build the state.

The following reasons were given by a man from the country as to why women should be given the right to vote.

1. Women have the right for the same reason that men have the right. Sex has no bearing on democracy.
2. The suffrage of women will give a balanced representative government.
3. It will increase the power of the common people against dominant selfish interests, for example, Anaconda Company.
4. It will have a beneficial effect upon the women in the home, since it will broaden their interests, causing them to understand more clearly the connection of the home to the conditions outside the home.
5. It will put the relationship between men and women in industry, society, and the home on a higher plane.
6. It will give a common ground of intellectual and moral interest between husband and wife, thus promoting a more satisfying companionship.
7. The home vote will be doubled, thus putting into action the best citizenship, hence fostering a better local government.

8. Women will be active in bettering rural education as the mother is principally interested in the welfare of the children.
9. Because of their interests in the schools, women will have a special interest in the integrity and capability of the county commissioners and will be more apt to choose the county superintendent upon grounds of suitability and efficiency.
10. The country is the "backbone of the nation." Woman suffrage will double the vote of the country.
11. It will help promote the purposes of the country life movement, which tends to remove the present handicaps placed upon country life.
12. You need the votes of your wives and daughters in order to secure better roads, better and cheaper transportation, better mail service, better country schools, better colleges, better business conditions for farm products.
13. Rural communities are becoming more and more interested in cooperative enterprise. The votes of country women will aid substantially the country man to establish of efficiency, growth, and wellbeing, which is the ideal of every American citizen.

Ladies, I now direct my attention to you. Our struggle to attain the ballot has been a 66 year long endeavor . The movement began in Seneca Falls, New York in July 1848 with the publication of the Declaration of Sentiments. The declaration called for woman to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise. It listed many rights to which woman had been deprived, including writing laws in which she had no voice, giving her no rights, particularly if married; depriving her of the rights to her own children, depriving her of the right to her own property if married, plus more.

We have made some progress regarding receiving an equal education and the opportunity to profitable, or not so profitable, employment. Laws have changed to allow us to maintain our own property if married and to have rights in the courts. But we still do not have the fundamental right of the elective franchise.

Therefore,

We Montana women, ask that we, as well as the millions of women of the equal suffrage states be admitted to the right of suffrage for the following reasons.

1. Because suffrage is a duty of such transcendent

importance that it should not be shirked by any patriotic citizen, man or woman.

2. Because of the conditions under which women might claim exemptions from this duty have changed. Impure foods, sweat shops, child labor, polluted water, inadequate schools, poor housing, fire traps, the spread of contagious disease, lack of parks and playgrounds, unequal pay – all these are adequate reasons for the use of direct power by women.
3. Most men do not find the duty of voting burdensome, and neither do women in the suffrage states.
4. Because, while giving the right to vote does not impose upon anyone the obligation to vote, it does arouse in them a sense of civic responsibility and does make them desire the suffrage and regard it as a duty, as proved by experience in equal suffrage states.
5. Because the need of America is for an increased quantity, as well as, quality of the vote, true democracy demands the participation of all people and actual experience proves that giving the vote to women raises the quality of the electorate.
6. Because it is impossible for men to represent women, even the women of their own families. One human, one vote, is the rule of democracy.
7. Because there are 8 million women in industry suffering from injustices that only the ballot can remedy. In 32 states of which Montana is one, women are not legal guardians of their own children. Nothing but law can correct this and nothing but the ballot can elect law makers.
8. Because experience proves that the interest of the state are best served when the special gifts of both men and women are brought to bear upon the business of the state as well as that of the home. Voting is a human function, not a sex function.
9. All women must see that all children are cared for. Women can achieve the efficient performance of their present work only through the best tool yet devised by society – THE BALLOT. The ballot will not divert, but direct the energies of women.

On November 3rd, 1914 make the Treasure State a true democracy by voting for the Constitutional Amendment.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Call for Education Volunteers

It may seem like winter will never end, but I promise it'll be spring time before you know it! And with the thaw comes an influx of eager young potential history enthusiasts. Most of Missoula's school children visit the Fort for a field trip at some point during elementary school – in fact, I often meet adults who tell me they remember climbing the Sliderock Lookout or meeting the mean teacher in the Grant Creek School House. In 2014 we served over 3,000 children and adults through our education programs; without our fantastic docents, I wouldn't be able to share the history of the Fort with so many kiddos each year. That's where you come in! Do you like talking to people? Are you interested in history? Join the education volunteer team!

Education Docents

Help with school group tours, lead stations, help create tour scripts, activities and curriculum. Best for those who enjoy working with children and who are available weekday mornings. Training will be provided at the spring docent training and throughout the season as needed. New volunteers will shadow experienced volunteers until they feel comfortable.

Outreach Helpers

Assist with events in the community. We like to keep history alive outside of the Museum too! Throughout the year the Museum is invited to participate in activities around town such as Sunday Streets, Out to Lunch, Downtown Tonight, classroom visits, library programs etc. Best for volunteers who like to interact with children and adults, but aren't available weekday mornings.

Building Hosts

Provide a behind the scenes look at our out-buildings. If you've been to the Fort in the spring you may have peeked through a plexi-glass window to see inside the Homestead Cabin or School house; with building hosts we can offer hours where visitors can enter and explore these buildings. Best for volunteers who enjoy informal chats with visitors of all ages. Training will be provided at the spring docent training and through the season as needed. Hours are flexible.

Want to help, but not sure exactly where you fit? Email or call Kristjana to discuss other options and projects kristjana@montana.com (406) 728-3476 ext. 3

Friends of the Historical Museum to Host Annual Meeting at Holiday Inn Downtown

The Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula are pleased to announce that they will host their Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn Downtown on Wednesday April 1st, 2015. The event will commence at 5:30 with social hour and cash bar. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm with the business meeting scheduled at 7pm and this year's program slated to start at 7:30pm.

The menu for this year's Annual Meeting will be a sautéed breast of chicken served over wilted spinach with a balsamic reduction, roasted tomatoes, and herbed basmati rice. Dinner will be served with a garden salad, seasonal vegetable, rolls and butter. For dessert guests will enjoy New York Style Cheesecake, coffee, decaf, and hot teas. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions as the Holiday Inn staff is happy to provide alternatives.

As part of the business meeting portion of the program, the Historical Museum will be announcing this year's recipients of the Dale and Coby Johnson Award for Volunteer Service and the Lt. Moss Award for Outstanding Service. The Friends of the Historical

Museum will also hear nominations for the Board.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, the Friends of the Historical Museum are proud to present "Mr. and Mrs. Missoula," Ty Robinson and Tommy Lu Worden. They will share some of their stories of a long and extraordinary life in Missoula.

The cost for this year's Annual Meeting is \$25 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting the Historical Museum at (406)-728-3476 ext. 1, or by sending a check to:

Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
Attn: Annual Meeting
3400 Captain Rawn Way
Missoula, MT 59804

The deadline for reservations is Friday March 27th at 5pm. We hope to see everyone for a fun filled evening celebrating the Friends of the Historical Museum, staff, volunteers, board members, and the County Trustees.

Missoula 150 at First Night



As a proud partner in the Missoula 150 Celebration, the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula participated in the annual First Night event. Museum volunteers Jeff and Emily Meyer guided young visitors through a game allowing them to “hop through history”.



Also part of the Missoula First Night celebration was an interview with Missoula’s own C.P. Higgins. Higgins shared insight into the early years of Montana’s history including an explanation of Missoula’s controversial slant streets. Higgins was portrayed by retired Historical Museum Director Dr. Bob Brown.

Apple Days at the Historical Museum



Historical Museum Volunteer Coby Johnson demonstrates cider pressing to a group of eager preschoolers as part of the museum’s Apple Days Celebration. Apple Days honor the Montana tradition of apple cider making and harvest time preparation for the long winter. The Historical Museum offers the Apple Days program to school and pre-school groups throughout the months of September and October.

Wish List

We so appreciate all of the incredible support we get from our friends and volunteers here at HMFM. The many hours of donated time, assistance with special projects, events, and tours, and generous financial contributions all make the museum a very special place.

Occasionally folks will ask us what we need in order to do our jobs better. The staff has put together this wish list:

- A wagon or garden cart to carry supplies to our buildings and grounds during events.
- A gently used tablet/ipad –to be used for educational purposes and by staff.
- A craft supplies organizer- 8 or 12 drawer portable cupboard on wheels.
- A portable tool chest.

- Clear, plastic storage tubs.
- Historical dress up clothing- or someone to mend the items we have.
- Kitchen towels, serving dishes, utensils.
- Clean, metal hangers (ONLY metal, plastic and wood are not appropriate for collections).

Muslin and sewing skills. We have a pattern for padded hangers now we just need someone to make them.

If any of these items pops up in your spring cleaning, let us know, or if you are feeling crafty and want to lend us your sewing skills we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you again for your generous and ongoing support in keeping Missoula's history alive.

Holiday Exhibit and Open House



One of the most popular elements of the “Historic Toys” exhibit was the interactive game on the north wall of the orientation gallery. The game allowed visitors the opportunity to test their knowledge of the toys of yesteryear. Visitors were asked to try and identify various toys with the decades in which they first appeared. There were many surprises and visitors came away with a new appreciation for toymakers of the past.

Santa admires the special holiday exhibit, “Historic Toys”, put together by Historical Museum Curator Nicole Webb. The exhibit featured many classic toys from the museum’s collection. The toys spanned multiple decades and allowed visitors the chance to reminisce and compare our modern toys to their historic counterparts. As part of the museum’s Holiday Open House, Santa made an appearance. Maybe he was getting a few ideas to pass on to the elves for next year.



What is Missoula 150? Throughout 2015, the Museum is coordinating a community-wide commemoration of Missoula's 150th anniversary, with the arts, story-telling and history-themed events.

Why 2015? In 1860, Christopher Higgins and Frank Worden established a trading post in the location that became known as Hellgate, on Mullan Road, about four miles west of what is now downtown Missoula. In late 1864, they moved their operations east to take advantage of water power. They constructed a sawmill and then a flour mill near the confluence of Rattlesnake Creek and the Clark Fork River. From 1865 on, the town of Missoula Mills, soon to be shortened to Missoula, began to grow rapidly.

In 2015, we commemorate the evolution of the Missoula community from these humble beginnings; and celebrate our ever-vibrant city as a place of innovation and growth. For more information, please visit www.missoula150events.com.

2015 Events List

April 2 – Friends of the Historical Museum Annual Meeting

April 11 – Archaeology Day

April 25 – Forestry Day

May 2 – St. Michael's Church Exhibit Opening

June 6 – Library Car Exhibit Opening

July 4 – Annual Fourth at the Fort

July 4 – "The Place we Live" – Missoula Neighborhoods Exhibit Opening

July 20 – 24 – Summer History Camp

August 1 – ADC Barracks Exhibit Opening

August 11-16 – Western Montana Fair (Cheese Booth)

September 19 – Apple Day

November 12-15 – Friends' Book Sale

November 22 – Holiday Open House

December 11-13 – Holiday Lantern Tours



Friends of the Historical Museum
3400 Captain Rawn Way
Missoula, MT 59804
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www.Fortmissoulamuseum.org

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Calendar

February 16th – Museum CLOSED in observance of President's Day

April 1st – Friends of the Historical Meeting Annual Meeting

April 11th – Archaeology Day

April 25th – Museum Outbuildings Open for the Season

April 25th – Forestry Day

May 2nd – St. Michael's Church Exhibit Opening

May 25th – Memorial Day – Summer Hours Begin

June 6th – Library Car Exhibit Opening

July 4th – Annual Fourth at the Fort Celebration