



P. O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

Current Board Members

The Boundary County Museum is operated by the Boundary County Historical Society, Inc., a 501c(3) non-profit organization. The current Board of Trustees is composed of:

- Cal Russell, President
- Dave Gray, Vice President
- Stephanie Tucker, Treasurer
- Dottie Gray, Secretary
- David Koon, Trustee
- Marj Pinkerton, Trustee
- Vic White, Trustee
- Sue Kemmis, Curator

The Board of Trustees meets at 5:30pm at the Museum on the second Tuesday of each month. The public is invited to attend.

The Museum is now open to the public from 10am to 4pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays and will continue through October 1, 2016, at which time winter hours will resume. Stop by and see the changes in your Museum.

NRA Foundation Grant

A grant was written last fall to the National Rifle Association Foundation to fund the



building of a second firearms case to safely and securely display the Ross McCall Estate firearms. The case, built by Brad Hanson of Selkirk Craftsman Furniture, is a twin of the cabinet also funded by the NRA Foundation from three years ago. This is a very popular exhibit, and has many very positive comments attributed to it. Ross had a number of unusual firearms in his collection, and we are pleased to be able to display many of these for everyone to enjoy. If you have not seen the pieces in this collection, you must stop in and have a look. The display area contains a mannequin attired in a 1953 Junior Rifleman's jacket. Local Young people competed in a competition held in Seattle, and word is they took third place.

Calendars

If you have enjoyed the 2015 and 2016 Boundary County Museum Calendars, just wait until you see the 2017 edition! Every date has a bit or a byte of historical trivia, and photos to highlight one event per month. This has been a successful project for the Museum, and has had a good return. What we need now are sponsors for the pages which pays for the cost of printing the calendars. For \$25.00, an individual or a business can help sponsor this project. A business card allows you to advertise, and we have been known to create cards for individuals wishing to sponsor. Please call the Museum (267-7720) if you wish to participate. We will be going to press very soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Saturdays

October 22 ~ Fundraising Dinner (watch for details)

Boundary County Historical Society, Inc.
7229 Main Street P.O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805
208-267-7720
bcmuseum@meadowcrk.com
www.bonnersferrymuseum.org Like Us on Facebook

Free Saturdays Continue in 2016

Thank you to the following sponsors for funding the "Free Days", so visitors can enjoy an admission free visit to the Museum

May 7 ~ Dan and Ann Hartman

June 4 ~ The Kootenai Kid

July 2 ~ Vic and Donna White

August 6 ~ Cal and Barbara Russell

September 3 ~ Dave and Dottie Gray

October 1 ~ Marj Pinkerton

Time Capsule

Volume VIII Issue I Summer 2016

J.F. Cook, Pharmacist



John Francis Cook III, an African American, attended Howard University a private, historically black university in Washington, D.C. obtaining a degree in Pharmacology in 1888.

In 1892, J.F. Cook arrived in Bonners Ferry on the Great Northern Railway. He quickly realized he was the only man of color in town. Not to be discouraged, he opened a drug store on Main Street in August of that year, giving H.W. Gate's Drug Store some competition. Within the year, he moved to a different location on the northwest corner of Main and Bonner.

J.F., well liked and accepted in the community, was elected in 1893 to the board of trustees for the part of town known as Bonnerport. He returned to Washington, D.C. in 1894, to visit his family; while back east, he traveled to Philadelphia where he married Elizabeth Rebecca Abele on December 4th. Upon returning to Bonnerport with his new bride, they were given an unexpected charivari by the

town people. When the train pulled in at the station, they were met by a crowd of 100 cheering men and boys. They were conducted to a waiting sleigh and literally pulled by the crowd to the International Hotel for a celebration! The Cooks attended the New Year dance in town. During 1895, J.F. and Elizabeth had an addition built on their home (the location of which is unknown to historians). By October, she was missing her family in Philadelphia, so she went home to spend the winter with them. Elizabeth informed J.F. she was with child and decided to stay in Philly for her pregnancy. J.F. departed from Bonnerport in May, 1896 for a six week trip after which he returned with his wife and new 12 pound baby girl.

In 1896, J.F. was appointed chairman of the board of trustees of Bonnerport. He had applied for a position as Postmaster and in 1897 was appointed to that position. He opened the post office in his drug store, moving to a larger location on Main Street (present site of Youngwirth Accounting). J.F. and Elizabeth had a total of four children, the last three being born in Spokane as that is where she appeared to be residing while J.F. remained in Bonners Ferry. J. F. over-extended himself financially: a 1902 endeavor to provide power

by building a power plant at the Moyie Falls and possibly the cost of maintaining two residences, caused marital problems. Elizabeth left J.F. in 1906 taking the four children and moved back to Philadelphia.

J.F. was reappointed Postmaster of Bonners Ferry in 1906; but his problems seemed to continue. The Herald reported that Cook had been giving poor service and by 1910 a new postmaster was appointed. J.F. refused to turn over the post office to the new postmaster. The problem was eventually resolved with the new Postmaster buying the building. J.F. kept a room in the rear of the building until 1911 at which time he leased the Albert building and reestab-



lished his pharmacy (present site of optometry office). In 1912, Elizabeth filed for divorce, and J.F.'s pharmacy stock and fixtures were put up for auction to satisfy the \$6,000 settlement. At the request of his mother, J.F.'s brother, Fred, bought the stock back for \$500. J.F. then moved the pharmacy stock into a

(continued inside)

Pack Stories

“What was that man’s name? The one who came from New York back in the 1860’s, started a store in Walla Walla, WA and then decided to travel to the gold fields of Wild Horse Creek? Was it Ethan, or Edward, or Edwin?” After learning about Edward L. Bonner and how he came to Chelempa and negotiated river crossing rights with Chief Abraham of the Kootenai Tribe, fourth graders become very adamant that his name was Edward, not Edwin as was written in the history books and text books in Idaho for many, many years. “How many have ever been to Senacateen?” “Ever been to Chelempa?” These questions also spur lively discussion and lots of hand waving, and some map reading skills to learn the early names for Sandpoint/Laclede and Bonners Ferry. In April, Sue, Howard, Dave, Audrey, and Dottie took the “Bonner Pack Story” to all the fourth graders at Mt. Hall, Naples, and Valley View, sharing artifacts and oral history with more than 100 students. The students were given “authentic” 1864 maps, and copies of “The Faces of History,” as part of this program. Because of the building repairs and the time needed to clean and restore exhibit

areas, we were unable to visit the McCormick School, the private schools and Church schools this spring. We will be back on full schedule next spring, however. This educational program is an opportunity for the museum to become involved in the social studies curriculum, presenting information that is not recorded in curriculum materials. ~~~~~
 “Can you bring stories to make ladies laugh?” This prompted taking another pack story to the Sunset Home residents in June. Such articles as a flat iron, ice tongs, glass washboard, pointed-toed shoes and a wooden cheese box inspired many residents to share their stories from years past. Sue had highlighted a number of fun stories from the writings of Lawrence Unruh, whose wife Rachel was among the smiling ladies and who lent even more fun details than were written in Lawrence’s book. Howard kept all the ladies laughing, and the staff as well, as he told many local stories of early days in Boundary County. Dave added a few stories of his own, and Dottie stepped in for Sue who was not feeling well enough to attend. It appears the stories were so well received, we will undoubtedly be asked for a return performance!



Come see Clyde Stone’s 1966 Crestliner with dual Johnson outboard motors which he purchased new while working at Lindsay-Helmer Hardware.

The gift shop has had a “face lift, (thank you, Marj P) and contains a number of new items for purchase. Far North Logo supplied a variety of colors of hats, t-shirts, sweat shirt hoodies, and long-sleeved shirts. The Museum’s logo was tweaked ever so slightly, and so you will have the newest design when you come in to purchase. There are also a variety of rag rugs woven from the loom that is still producing, thanks to Deb Ackley. Books, videos, CDs, and other items are also available.

Museum Tours

The Kootenai Kid, the Hickory Dickory Dock mouse, the Whimshurst Machine, and the typewriters were the delight of the fourth graders coming to the museum for their annual tour in May. A generous gift from the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho several years ago, makes funding available for these bus trips to bring Mt. Hall, Naples, and Valley View students to visit the Museum. Sue and Howard highlight a number of exhibits including “The White Caribou Bar,” the Teddy Roosevelt story and the head mount of his caribou, the Mary Hawkins story, complete with tales of cat food sandwiches, Dr. Fry and the wedding cake tin are all featured stops on the tour. The Kootenai Tribe exhibit story teaches about the Fish Chief, the Duck Chief, and the Deer Chief, and students learn how fish were trapped in a weir, how ducks were caught in a mat wall, and how to play the Stick Game, which continues on today. The hour goes by very quickly, and the children are kept intrigued by stories and artifacts. Note: We see a number of students return to the Museum with parents or family members during the summer. Mission accomplished!



Back wall of the Megquier - Houck Building, 1956



Mural painted on back wall of the Houck - Museum Building, 2007



New Block Wall, 2016

Curator’s Corner

It has been a busy winter and spring with the construction of a new wall to replace the back wall, along with clean up and rebuilding of exhibits in Portrait Hall. Construction is near completion, but there are a few finishing touches to be done. Many hours went into this project and we thank all those faithful volunteers for helping to get the Museum ready for Opening Day in May. We can now be assured that the back wall will hold up the roof of the nearly 100 year old building. Memberships are up this year; we are grateful for the donations to help keep the Museum in operation. Once again, thank you all for your continued support!

cont. ‘J.F. Cook’

corner room in the Bonner Hotel (present site of Mugsys) to reopen his drug business. He was sued for unpaid rent and then lost his entire stock when the Bonner Hotel burned in 1917. Not much more is known about J.F. Cook; he is mentioned several times in the newspaper receiving funds from the county commissioners and the Poor Farm Fund, but the reasons for the payments is unknown. Living in a room in the Casey Hotel (present Boardwalk), J.F. is described as “Sick, impoverished and friendless, except for the kind ministrations of Henry Ferbache, the hotel clerk.”
 On April 7, 1932 John F. Cook

passed away. His body was to be shipped to Washington, D.C. for burial; however, there was a change in plans. J.F. was interned at Grandview Cemetery in Bonners Ferry. There is no record of this burial in the record books at the cemetery, and no grave marker to be found.
 “We never heard the story of how a colored man came to northern Idaho, became the postmaster of the largest and most important town in the north, but such he was, and served faithfully and well for many years. Let us all drop our feelings of racial aloofness, come down to earth and realize that the blood of all mankind is red, and go and visit the old pioneer.” Quote by D.P. Dayton, 1931

“Stories of the Rails” Dedication

The dedication of the railroad interpretive boards in the Museum Railroad Courtyard was held on May 7th. The program began with several retired railroad workers sharing stories of their time spent working on the three rail lines operated in the county. Laughter poured out of Portrait Hall as the crowd enjoyed their remembrances. The crowd then moved out to the Courtyard where Sue Kemmis, Curator, gave a “thank you” speech to all those involved in the creation of the railroad panels; acknowledging the Idaho Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities for the grant which funded the project. Sue also thanked the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation for the grant to complete the structural portion of the Railroad Courtyard, and those local businesses and individuals who help create a beautiful park setting at the rear entrance of the Museum. Howard Kent, Historian, then shared stories on Hoe Boys (Hobos) and the hobo camp he knew of as a child. The crowd watched two “hobos”- Dave Gray and Vic White perform a skit on what really went into the making of a hobo stew. They then gladly shared the hobo stew they made with everyone. The hearty meal was complete with sugar cookies made in the shapes of train cars. After lunch, Howard entertained the crowd with more ‘stories of the rails’.



VOLUNTEERS

Help! We are in need of people to help keep our Museum going. You don’t have to be an expert at everything! There are many ways in which a number of people might offer assistance. We all know that Sue likes to “play with artifacts,” and truly, that is her primary job as Curator. The everyday, nuts and bolts of keeping the building clean and maintained, and the counter manned are jobs that many people are highly qualified to do! Please consider helping out in one or more of these ways:
 1. General Chair for the fundraising dinner coming up this fall and sub-chairs for auction, baskets, entertainment, etc.
 2. Cleaners – cases, floors, bathrooms
 3. Maintenance – light bulbs, furnace filters, battery changes
 4. Computer data entry
 5. Newsletter and correspondence writers and helpers
 6. Special events help
 Come in and find out more about each of these opportunities and what you can do to pitch in and help Sue play with artifacts!



The Boundary County Historical Society is grateful to those who support the Museum and programs. One way is by yearly membership donations. Thus far, support for the 2016 year has come from the following businesses and individuals. Thank you for your continued support!

2016 Friends of the Museum * Mountain High Levels

*Fisher Peak (\$1,000) ~

*Roman Nose (\$500) ~ Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

*Burton Peak (\$250) ~ Mountain West Bank * Jack & Shelly Yount

*Mount Clifty (\$100) ~ Dave & Laura Anderson * Dave & Dottie Gray * Idaho Forest Group * Pace-Kerby * John & Ardith Pierce * Brion & Glenda Poston * Cal & Barb Russell * John and Shane Sater * Don Schied * James & Gloria Smith * John & Karen Standal * Katherine Vogel

*Queen Mountain (\$50) ~ Irma F. Clark * Fulton Quality Construction * Dennis & Donna Jo Dirks * Norma Estep * Orrin & Jolen Everhart * Beck's Furniture * Tedde Healey * Wink, Inc. * Jim & Helen Marx * Tom & Shirley Mayo * Dixie Lee Miller * Bill & Fay Morris * Jeff Brubaker & Pro-X * Larry & Alice VanGundy

*2016 Annual Memberships ~ Rick & Jeannie Alonzo * John & Doreen Beck * Leonard & Margie Brant * Dave & Joanne Clovis * Kathy Konek & Don Jordan * Moose Valley Farms * Gary Fujino * David & Eldora Gatchell * Fred & Alice Hendrickson * Stephen & GerryAnn Howlett * Ty & Lisa Iverson * Darrell & Patty Kerby * Jan & Lee Klopfenstein * Sue Larson * Pat Marek * Sarah Richardson & Jerry Jimenez * Susan Stagliano & Mike Starnes * Diana Tombleson & Steve Jamsa * Dave & Jean Wattenbarger * Tim Wilson * John O'Connor & Jennifer Durbin * Janet & Shane Peterson * LeAlan & Missy Pinkerton * Mark Brackebusch & Teresa Shattuck * John & Stephanie Tucker * Patty Burlingame * Denise Crichton * Gary Hicks * Isabell Huff * Emma Ivins * Susan Kemmis * David Koon * Marjorie Pinkerton * Doyle & Dora Brown * Ray & Dawn Danly * Jerry & Judy Everhart * Jack & Violet Flinn * Tom & Cathy Florea * Greg & Kathy Garrison * Bob & Bev Hokanson * Elsie & Richard Hollenbeck * Craig & Carol Jean Hubbard * Shinji & Laura Imoto * Ken & Donna Irons * Georgia & Pete Jimenez * Howard & Donna Kent * Janice & Hartley King * Pete & Kathy Leonard * Don & Veryl Lindsay * Darrell & Marla Mayer * Rege & Carolyn McNeill * Larry & Barb Nelson * Wayne & Marj Nishek * Glen & Beulah Patterson * Richard & Sally Raine * Paul & Barb Rawlings * Jim & Kathie Richardson * Allen & Jan Rose * Hod & Virginia Sanborn * Evelyn & Ron Smith * Bob & Ione Spalding * Jim Thompson & Lila Robinson * Vic & Donna White * Bert & Sandra Wolff * Mel & Deb Wood * Darlene & Bob Young * Valdie Burkholder * Phyllis Collyer * Reba Darling * Jackie Gale * Jerry Garten * Joyce Jenkins * Billie Krause * Grace Leidt * Sharon Manning * Ada McArthur * Beverly Plato * Elene Rock * Janet Sapp * Kathy Sheffler * Dorothy Smith * Robert Clairmont * Merlin Tiede * Tom Weitz

Memberships in the Boundary County Historical Society and Museum provide a significant and necessary source of funding, as well as showing support, for your Museum.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please consider doing so by filling out the form and returning it to the Museum in person or by mail.

Members receive free admission to the Museum, a 10% discount on purchases at the White Caribou Gift Shop and the Museum newsletter. Memberships also make great gifts for relatives and friends.



2016 Friends of the Museum ~ Mountain High Levels

___ Fisher Peak (7,585')	\$1,000.00
___ Roman Nose (7,260')	\$ 500.00
___ Burton Peak (6,844')	\$ 250.00
___ Mount Clifty (6,705')	\$ 100.00
___ Queen Mountain (6,112')	\$ 50.00

2016 Annual Membership Levels (Based on calendar year)

___ Individual	\$ 15.00
___ Basic Family	\$ 25.00
___ Senior Individual (65 and+)	\$ 10.00
___ Senior Couple (65 and+)	\$ 15.00

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____ Telephone _____

Make checks payable to Boundary County Historical Society, Inc. & Museum
 P. O. Box 808 7229 Main Street Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805 208-267-7720

The Boundary County Historical Society, Inc. is a 501 (c)3 organization.

Thank you for your membership donation.

If you have not renewed your membership or would like to become a member, please use this form.