



BOUNDARY COUNTY
Historical Society

P. O. Box 808
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

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Upcoming Events at the Museum

March 10	Board of Trustees meeting 4:00 p.m.
March 11	<i>Shadows of David Thompson</i> movie with film maker George Sibley
March 24	Oral History Workshop with Kathy Hodges
April 14	Board of Trustees meeting 4:00 p.m.
April 28	Annual Membership Meeting
May 28-July 10	Smithsonian Exhibit <i>Journey Stories</i>

You can support your museum by becoming a member and/or donating cash, materials, equipment, or your time.

Spring museum hours are Fridays and Saturdays 10:00am to 4:00pm.

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

7229 Main Street P. O. Box 808 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Membership Levels

- Individual** \$ 15.00
- Family** 25.00
(1-2 adults and all children to age 17 in one household)
- Senior Individual** (65 and +) 10.00
- Senior Couple** (65 and +) 15.00

The benefits of membership include free admission to the museum, a 10% discount at the White Caribou Gift Shop and the quarterly newsletter.

Society Friend Levels

- Donor** \$ 100.00
- Sponsor** 500.00
- Patron** 1,000.00
- Additional gift** \$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Email _____
 Telephone _____

- Check enclosed payable to Boundary County Historical Society \$ _____



Boundary County Historical Society and Boundary County Museum

Time Capsule

Volume II Issue 1 Late winter 2010

Shadows of David Thompson Sibley Film, March 11

Fur trader, surveyor, and explorer David Thompson paddled, rode and walked from Hudson's Bay to the Pacific Ocean, travelled the full length of the Columbia River, and after his 28 years in the west wound up in Montreal, making maps that

were unsurpassed for a hundred years. His journals were some of the earliest descriptions of what is now British Columbia and parts of Montana, Idaho and Washington State, yet most Canadians and Americans know next to nothing about either

the man or his work. Now, 200 years after Thompson's greatest achievements, film maker George Sibley paints a vivid picture of a world on the brink of change and a man who helped change it, filmed on locations where it all took place.

George Sibley will present a showing of his film, followed by discussion Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the museum community events center. A donation of \$10 per person is requested.

Kathy Hodges Oral History Workshop

Leading up to the Smithsonian Journey Stories Exhibit, the Boundary County Historical Society will host an oral history workshop on March 24 from 9-4 by Kathy Hodges, Oral Historian with the Idaho State Historical Society.

The lives of ordinary people can contain romantic moments, frightening incidents, sad tales, breathtaking escapes, and sudden twists of fate. Are you thinking of interviewing your grandmother? Would you like to save community stories for future generations? Kathy Hodges will lead a discussion about memory, story, and history, and explain some of the basics of recording and preserving oral narratives, using

examples from the 2500-plus interviews in the Idaho State Historical Society's collection. The workshop will provide a full day of training for interviewers and community historians.

The workshop fee of \$20 includes a workbook and lunch. Call Gini Woodward at 267-5638 for more information or pre-register at the museum. The workshop is funded in part by the Idaho Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization that serves the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the Boundary County Historical Society.



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The Pathfinder Monument

“to commemorate the first route of travel across what is now the state of Idaho.”



On July 19, 1926, at 8:30 in the morning, a special eighteen car Great Northern Railway train, called the Columbia River Historical Expedition, stopped at the depot at Bonners Ferry. Passengers on the train included railroad officials, three state governors, dignitaries, leading historians, newspaper and magazine writers, forty-three American and French High school students, and twenty-five members of the Blackfoot Indian Tribe from Glacier National Park. The visitors were met by M.D. Pace, E.E. Fry, A.B. Ashby, O.F. Howe, H.J. McCoy, and C.G. Prell, local high school students, and a large group of citizens. After the ceremony, the train left promptly at 11:00am.

The Columbia River Historical Expedition began in Chicago on July 15, with stops in St. Paul, MN, Fort Union, Fort Benton and Great Falls, MT. From Bonners Ferry the expedition continued to Spokane, Wishram, Portland, Seaside, and finally Astoria. Ten other monuments were dedicated on the trip, including the well known 125 foot Astoria Column. According to the Bonners Ferry Herald the Pathfinder Monument was donated by the Franco-American branch of the American Good Will Association. The French and American High School students were winners of a Good Will Oratorical Contest of 1926. Winner

of the Bonners Ferry contest was Walter Keith, who joined the Expedition as it traveled on to Astoria. Members of the Blackfoot Tribe were in full regalia and included 95 year old Blackfoot warrior Chief Many Tails, seen in the photo. Spotted Eagle, a boy of about eight years led the first of several dances given by the members of the Blackfoot Tribe.

The Pathfinder monument was moved from the Great Northern depot to the park by the library in 1974. One can't help but wonder who designed such an elaborate tribute. One sentence in the Bonners Ferry Herald, July 22, 1926, provides a clue. "... was present, as was also E.D. Litchfield, the artist who designed the Bonners Ferry monument." An internet search on E.D. Litchfield (1872-1952) revealed him to be a prominent New York architect and Town Planner, with great interest in history. He designed many public buildings and monuments including the Astoria Column. With a little more internet sleuthing, one learns the photo of the man in the white suit sitting on the monument with his back to us is most likely E.D. Litchfield.

The monument tribute to the early explorers includes David Thompson, Finnan McDonald, William Kittson, Sir George

Simpson, Red River Emigrants, Peter Skene Ogden, Warre and Vavours, and Father Desmet. The inscription on the reverse side reads "Down the Kootenai, Thence to the Pend d'Orielle and Spokane, the Railway Follows the Route of the Explorer, Trader, and Missionary, which From Time Immemorial Was the Highway of the Indian."

One of the events during the traveling Smithsonian Journey Stories exhibit will include a rededication of the monument which is a reminder that Bonners Ferry has always been a friendly stop along the way.

Kudos to Volunteers!

Don Morice has been busy renovating the windows on the second floor of the museum and is also Mr. Fix-it for exhibits and the new community events center at the south end of the museum complex.

Debbie Ackley used her skills to return the rug loom to working condition, warped and ready to weave.

Terry Howe diligently identifies old photos of people, places, and things. As field researcher he has unearthed hidden treasures and found lost ovens and graves.

Vicky Dauber and Deb Wood continue the process of cataloging artifacts and photos into the Past Perfect system.

Dottie Gray and Donna Kent prepare outreach to the schools for the Journey Stories exhibit, while Howard Kent researches local lore.

Behind the scenes, Mary Ann Kruger provides lay-out graphics for museum posters, brochures, and newsletter.

These are just a few of the many volunteer projects which are the heartbeat of our community museum. Thanks to all the volunteers!

Current Board Members

President, Jill Nystrom
Vice President, Mike Sloan
Secretary, Gini Woodward
Treasurer, Orrin Everhart
LaMar Olsen
John Standal

From the President

Hello members,

Being born and raised in Bonners Ferry, I have a great curiosity in the history of our county. Both my mother and fathers families have deep roots here, leaving me with many questions of when, where, and how. This being so, I find a great importance in preserving our history for the generations yet to come. Your Museum is a great tool for unearthing family history. Did you know we have a reading and research room, now dedicated to the late Paul Flinn? I invite you to come and discover your history.

Jill Nystrom, *President*

From the Curator

Our community museum is a fun gathering place; a place where we enjoy sharing our Boundary County history with each other and with the people who visit. Daily we are learning history by researching, then telling and listening to interesting stories about the people who lived here before us.

We have continued our exciting job of inventorying the objects in our museum. We find new treasures every day. We've added to our growing collection and exhibits many artifacts, writings, and photographs in an attempt to preserve Boundary County history.

The Museum could not operate without all the wonderful Volunteers who spend so many hours keeping history alive. I personally would like to thank each one of them.

Our winter hours are Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 to 4:00. Come on down to the museum to visit or volunteer. Help us research Boundary County history and share in all the fun.

Sue Kemmis, *Museum Curator*

Membership

The Boundary County Historical Society (Museum) is expanding and improving, with new displays both in and outside. It has truly become something that every resident of Boundary County can be proud of. A new and expanding reference library that is available and useful to individuals and organizations alike. Improvement and growth is a very important part of any institution and the museum is no different. Part of that growth depends on membership and the museum is at the stage where membership is important. Members become involved and help to spread the word to others in the community as well as the visiting public. Many might ask – what is in it for me? In terms of dollars – NOTHING! In terms of helping to bring the community together and making Boundary County a better place to live – A LOT! The small annual dues do help with operating the facility, but the real value comes from participation in the various functions held throughout the year. You may also find that you might have a special skill that could be used in making the museum a success. Family membership dues are just \$25 per year and one of the benefits is free admission to the museum. Help show the pride that we have in our community – become a member of the Boundary County Historical Society.

Mike Sloan

Collection Committee

Your Board of Trustees adopted for the first time, a Collection Policy for the Boundary County Museum in July, 2009. The Policy provides guidelines for the acquisition, care, and development of our Museum collection, and to insure that our Museum displays reflect the history and culture of Boundary County. The new policy provides for a Collection Committee composed of three members of the Board of Trustees who are responsible for implementing the Policy. Items offered for donation are reviewed by the committee to insure that they meet the goals of our Museum, and that we can properly care for them. All actions are coordinated with the Board of Trustees and Curator Sue Kemmis. Committee members are Jill Nystrom, John Standal, and Gini Woodward, and meet at least monthly to review activities. The Museum is always seeking donations of artifacts, books, photos, and papers that help tell our community story.

John Standal

Volunteers: You Make a Difference!

While you may never be able to climb Mt. Everest or write a bestselling novel, you are capable of making a positive difference in your community. You prove that fact each time you share your talents, and your smile, as a volunteer. Celebrate the gifts you have and share them with the Boundary County Historical Society. Giving back to the community will give you a feeling of accomplishment and joy.

Whether you are a brand new or veteran volunteer and would like to volunteer a few hours of your time weekly or monthly at the Museum call Sue 267-7720 or Lillie 267-2775

