

FRENCHTOWN NEWS

New Website!

The Frenchtown Historical Foundation has a shiny new website! This spring, **Scott Keller**, volunteer, and **Shanley Miller**, a junior in History at Whitman College and our first FHF intern, gave the website a makeover. Check it out at www.frenchtownwa.org. Content from the old website is still there but rearranged, and new content is being added as available. For breaking news, however, **follow us on Facebook**. Suggestions, information, and corrections are welcome - contact us at frenchtownhistoricfoundation@gmail.com.

From the Guest Book

“Wonderful.” “Interesting.” “Thank you!” Hancock from Richland, WA said “Thank you for all the hard work of maintaining such a piece of history.” Tim described his joy in visiting the site after waiting for 50 years to see this history being recognized and appreciated. Our Frenchtown Site visitors come from all over the region, the country, and the world, from Ireland, Austria, France, from Canada and Korea, and from Kansas, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Texas, Oregon, and Washington.

Kirkman House brochure

If you happen to find yourself touring about downtown Walla Walla, pick up a copy of the **Kirkman House Museum Exhibits and Events** brochure for 2016, and turn to the last page. Frenchtown and other historic organizations in the area are partnering with Kirkman house to spread the word about the many sites of historic interest in the valley.

Cabin Report

Thanks to the **Wildhorse Foundation** for a grant of \$3,000.00 towards completion of the cabin, and with

matching funds from FHF, we were able to replace the old metal roof on the cabin with cedar shakes this spring. **Allan Gillespie roofing** saved our venerable volunteers from broken bones, and **Ross Osborn**, without whom we would all be lost, handled the scaffolding and finished the fascia and the soffits. There's just a few bits left to do to complete this tremendous project. We'll be displaying mockups of the new signage on Saint-Jean-Baptiste day, and raising money for their installation.

Whitman Comes to Work

What a day! Sixteen Whitman College student volunteers and another dozen Frenchtown Historical Foundation board members and their families braved the rain on Saturday, March 5 to clear kochia and



Russian thistle. The site is planted to native rye grass, which has taken well over much of the central area, but these invasive species still have a firm grip on the margins. Thank you for your help, students!

Educational Outreach and Living History

Educational outreach is one of the core values of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation mission statement. Our efforts are timely—in 2015, Washington state made indigenous history a required subject. This year, we partnered with the Whitman

Mission National Park to host our first on-site field trip to the Frenchtown site on April 28.

Students from **Assumption Elementary school** heard living history presentations and participated in hands-on discovery of artifacts and short hikes to the Price's Cabin and St. Rose cemetery. We are developing materials and relationships with Walla Walla Public schools and hope that this visit will be the first of many.

William McBean (FHF president **Rich Monacelli**) is a busy fellow. On April 24th, he was out at Fort Walla Walla. Then on April 27 he was spotted at Sharpstein school presenting to **Mrs. Gilbert's 4th and 5th grade students**. In addition to learning how to say "T'was" and "new-fangled", Mrs. Gilbert's students wrote that they particularly enjoyed the hands-on introduction to the material culture of the era—beaver pelt, bison horn, snapping turtle carrying case, coral snake necklace, moccasins and their beading, shell belt, teeth necklace and a 3 sister



Assumption elementary students get a hands-on look at the cultural heritage of Frenchtown.

May 16, along with board member **Charles Saranto** and volunteer **Dan Clark** and Barbara Clark. If you haven't had a chance to see these important figures from Frenchtown history come to life, check out the schedule for Frenchtown characters below:

- Apr 24:** William McBean, Hudson Bay Company trader—Rich Monacelli
- Jun 4 :** Suzanne Cayuse Dauphin, Cayuse Tribe, Frenchtown wife—Judy Fortney
- Jun 25 :** *Town Meeting on the Yakima-Walla Walla Indian War, 1855-1858*—full company
- Jul 10 :** Fr. J.B.A. Brouillet, Catholic missionary—Jeannot Poirot
- Jul 16 :** Pierre Pambrun, Hudson's Bay Company chief trader—Sam Pambrun
- Aug 6 :** Fr. Eugene Chirouse, Catholic missionary—Jean-Paul Grimaud
- Aug14 :** *Frenchtown Reunion*—JBA Brouillet, Louis Tellier, A.D. Pambrun, Wm. McBean, Sam Black—J. Poirot, Jean-Paul Grimaud, S. Pambrun, R. Monacelli, T. Williams
- Aug 20 :** Joseph LaRocque, Frenchtown pioneer—Jehannot Poirot
- Oct 2 :** Louis Tellier, Frenchtown pioneer—Jean-Paul Grimaud



Rich Monacelli as William McBean at the dedication of the Wallula site.

gourd rattle. On April 30, McBean was back in the saddle again at the Walla Walla 20/20 dedication ceremony at Wallula gap.

Frenchtown at Fort Walla Walla

Mr. McBean isn't the only show in town, however. **Suzanne Cayuse Dauphin** (FHF Treasurer **Judy Fortney**) starred at the Gesa Powerhouse Theater on

This summer will be the FIFTH annual Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day Celebration! Saturday, June 25, 2015 at the Frenchtown Historic Site.

This year's celebration will feature site tours of the newly restored Prince's cabin, a presentation of plans for further restoration of the St Rose of Lima cemetery (the oldest Catholic cemetery in the area) and a tour of the Hudson Bay farm. A free tour bus will leave from the Frenchtown Site at 10 am for the farm tour, returning to the site by noon. Events at the site will go from noon to 4 pm and include a free potato bar lunch, historical demonstrations, site tours, children's activities and music and entertainment. Questions? Contact us at frenchtownhistoricfoundation@gmail.com or call Rich Monacelli, President, at 509-522-3763.

History Committee

Judy Fortney of the **History Committee** put in long hours this winter researching a complete list of the burials at the Frenchtown cemeteries, including the lost cemetery on Yellowhawk and the burials moved from the flooded cemetery on the river. This document is at the heart of our cemetery restoration project. Research continues, but you can view our progress on our our website at <http://www.frenchtownwa.org/cemetery/>.

YOU are the the History! Frenchtown Historical Foundation continues to gather information about our ancestors, be they Cayuse, Walla Walla, French Canadian, Scottish, English or other. We tell the stories of how they lived here, and why they came. This is valuable information that will be lost if not shared. Please contact **Gerald Reed & Judith Fortney**, History Committee Co-Chairs, jafortney@q.com, 509-529-8210 with any info, stories, pictures, etc. We would like to add whatever you have to our site and website.

21st-century Frenchtown?

We've taken to the internet for fundraising outreach, beginning with our proposal for cemetery restoration. Online fundraisers help small organizations like ours to reach friends and supporters in our member base and beyond. Case in point – the cemetery contains 62 graves, and our first donation for the cemetery project was for 62\$, from a woman who saw the project on the Facebook wall of Great Lakes French Canadian and Métis. Thank you **Rejean!**

To see our progress or contribute to the fundraiser, go to the new "Support" page on our website at <http://www.frenchtownwa.org/support/>.

Rendezvous Report

2015 Rendezvous: Frenchtown Family Album

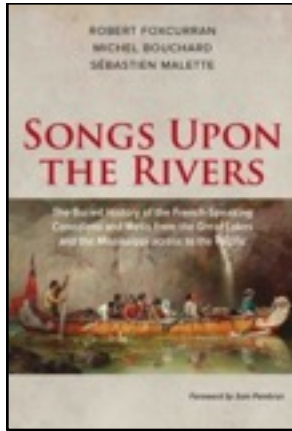
This year's Rendezvous starred the Frenchtown families. Attendees brought pictures and stories of early Walla Walla history to share with others. **Helen and Lou Ladouceur** came over from Tri-cities, and



Donna Cummins brought her research on early photographers. Other family albums included the **Morrisette / Reed / Farrons**, the **Bergevins**, the **Gagnons**, the **Sams**, and the **Dauphins**. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the generosity of our members, the event raised \$4,520.00 for the upkeep and outreach of the Frenchtown Historic Site.

2016 Rendezvous - Songs Upon the Rivers

The **2016 Rendezvous** promises to be better than ever. Our speakers will be **Michel Bouchard** and **Rob Foxcurran**, who will talk about their book “Songs Upon the Rivers,” forthcoming from Baraka Books on October 1. “In this seminal work, authors Foxcurran, Bouchard, and Malette uncover the important but buried history of French-speaking *Canadien*, Créole and Métis who inhabited the lands of North America before borders were drawn [... proposing] an alternative model for the emergence of a Métis national identity in a continental framework.” Rob and Michel have been to Rendezvous before in the context of their research, and we are excited to welcome them back to hear about their results.



We are also excited to announce a change of venue - **this year's Rendezvous will be held at Assumption Church Parish Hall**, at 2098 E. Alder street in Walla Walla. We leave the Frenchtown hall in Lowden with regret, but Assumption's facilities are handicap accessible and climate controlled, and we believe that these features will better meet the changing needs of our membership. Tickets for this year's Rendezvous are 35\$ and may be purchased from any FHF board member or online at <http://tinyurl.com/frenchtownrv>. **We will also have a one-day special offer - Rendezvous tickets purchased in cash at the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day Celebration are only 30\$.**

We are always on the lookout for **new board members**. If you or someone you know would be interesting in participating in the research,

preservation or outreach goals of the foundation, please contact us.

News from the Board

Current Frenchtown Board officers:

President : Rich Monacelli

Vice President : Mari Tester

Secretary : Sarah Hurlburt

Treasurer : Judy Fortney

Ross Osborn and **Margie Benson** are in charge of the site committee and **Gerald Reed** and **Judy Fortney** lead the history committee.

We are excited to welcome new board member **Stephanie Martin** this year. Stephanie is a ranger at the Whitman Mission. She brings significant skills and experience to our efforts to increase our educational outreach, as well as sending many visitors our way after their tour of the Whitman Mission. She sees Frenchtown as an essential piece of the narrative of the valley's history, and an important element of dialogue with the Whitman story. As an added bonus, she was trained as a botanist, with expertise on native plants!

Our Thanks to...

Many volunteers, while not officially members of the board, contribute significantly to the work of the Foundation. **Debbie Bergevin Beal** continues to provide invaluable assistance with the financial records. **Dan Clark** continues to volunteer for legal matters, and **Sam Pambrun** has provided significant research assistance. **Jean-Paul Grimaud** and **Jack Iverson** help with site maintenance. **Cecil Gagnon** has been putting his painting skills to work, and has sold two paintings of the St. Anne Church to raise money for FHF. **Tom Williams** donated time and use of his equipment so that we could accept a load of telephone poles donated by Fort Walla Walla. **Marcie Anderson** and **Paul Franzman** have been working with Rich Monacelli on educational outreach materials, and **Roger Blair** from Pendleton donated a power washer to FHF. Thank you!

Frenchtown has Interns!

For the first time this year, the Frenchtown Historical Foundation has had the opportunity to welcome student researchers from Whitman College under the supervision of Professor of French and board Secretary **Sarah Hurlburt**. This is one area where educational outreach gives back—the Whitman students get a great summer internship opportunity in public history, and the Frenchtown Historical Foundation gets some help!

Hello! I'm **Jordan Miller**

from Boise, ID, and I just finished my second year at Whitman College where I study French Literature and Film & Media Studies. I've been working on 19th century French-Canadian letters (including the Bergevin letters) with Professor Hurlburt since January. It is a thrill to come into direct contact with the spaces and people that keep the historical richness of Walla Walla alive.



Hi! My name is **Jessie Day-Lucore**. I'm from Denver, Colorado and I just finished my second year at Whitman College studying history. This summer, I'll be helping out with the Saint-Jean Baptiste celebration, the continuing work on the

Frenchtown Historical Foundation website and interpretive signage, and the development of educational outreach programs about Frenchtown. I've been familiarizing myself with the history of Frenchtown and getting more and more excited for the work this summer.

Hi everyone! My name is **Nicki Day-Lucore**, and I'm from Denver, Colorado. I just finished my

sophomore year at Whitman College, where I'm studying history. This summer I'll be researching and assisting the Frenchtown Historical Foundation with its outreach and events. I'm looking forward to meeting local historians and families, as well as participating in activities like the Saint-Jean Baptiste Day celebration. I'm grateful for the chance to learn more about the area and the rich history this community has preserved.



(Yes, you guessed it right – Nicki and Jessie are identical twins!)

Sarah Hurlburt presented a paper at the Université de Saint-Boniface in Winnipeg on August 27, 2015. The conference theme was (trans.) “In Their Own Words : Mobility in personal writings and oral histories, XIVE-XXIe centuries.” This two-day conference covered a lot of ground, from the French and French-Canadian miners in the California Gold Rush to narratives of crossing the Atlantic to missionary texts to our own Frenchtown here in Walla Walla. Sarah's presentation was entitled (trans.) “Since we cannot see each other, we will write”: the Bergevin family of Walla Walla, 1880-1922. The presentation analyzed the way the Bergevin letters describe migration as a wound, almost an amputation. Family left behind in Quebec resisted the change that comes with mobility (migration) through letters, insisting upon a shared family identity even between people who never had the chance to meet face to face.

Dorothy Hall and **Sarah Hurlburt** are gathering information about the history of the Rendezvous and of the foundation. Do you know anything about the early Rendezvous, or about the meetings to preserve the cemetery in the 1950s? What about the 1992 gathering with Frank Munns? We'd love to hear from you.

JOIN OR DONATE TO THE FRENCHTOWN HISTORICAL FOUNDATION You are invited to join or donate to the Frenchtown Historical Foundation to promote understanding of our diverse history. Please mail your annual membership to **Frenchtown Historical Foundation, PO Box 1224, Walla Walla WA 99362**, together with your name, address, email, and telephone and the category of membership.


Already a member? Send us the same information along with your renewal so that we can be sure to keep your contact information up to date.

Individual: \$25	Sustainer: \$250
Couple: \$35	Patron: \$500
Immediate Family: \$45	Sponsor: \$1000
Advocate: \$100	Benefactor: \$5000

Please also consider a gift to the Endowment fund or to one of our current projects. Details and donation links may be found on our website at frenchtownwa.org/support-fhf. Thank you for your support!

Do we have your **EMAIL**? Your donation dollars go further if we can send you the newsletter electronically. If you receive a paper copy of this newsletter and would like to sign up for the electronic version, email your information to frenchtownhistoricfoundation@gmail.com

WANTED!
(Alive, not dead)



Are you thinking of upgrading your mower to a fancier lawn tractor? Frenchtown Historic Site is in desperate need of a riding lawnmower. Ross Osborn was out there last week with a push mower for 6 hours to mow the edges of the trails. Site maintenance is all done by volunteers, but it's too big of a job for hand tools. If NPR can ask for cars, we figure why not ask for a mower?

No comment?



Secretary of the FHF: “Noble Leader, there’s a really big hole up by the fence full of kochia, could you drive the mighty truck up there so we don’t have to carry all that down to the fire?”

[5 mins later]

Noble Leader: “Secretary, why didn’t you tell me about that really big hole!?”