

Frenchtown Online

Are you looking for greater detail, more information, several hours of fascinating reading? Check out our **website** at <http://www.frenchtownwa.org>

The Frenchtown Historic Site is on **TripAdvisor**, with two reviews so far. Please go and leave us some love! <http://tinyurl.com/yayozld8>

Finally, be sure to like us on **Facebook** for updates on FHF and for details about upcoming events: <http://tinyurl.com/ydemnyqs>

From the Guest Book

“Wow!!” “Commendable!” “Thank you!” Our Frenchtown Site visitors come from all over the country and the world, from Florida to France, from Arkansas to Vietnam, and many more. Former Washington Secretary of State Ralph Munro visited in June 2016. One young visitor brought their family to the site after learning about Frenchtown in history class. Many comments are summarized by Margaret and Dan Comstock from Seattle, who wrote, “Thanks for all you are doing to make history real for us!”

Work Day

What a day! A group of over 30 volunteers, including members from **Life Church**, Frenchtown neighbors **John Reed** and **Gary Aichele**, and Frenchtown board members and their families, came to the site on Saturday, March 11 to launch this year’s battle against kochia and Russian thistle. The site is planted with 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. Volunteers burned weeds, planted flowers, and landscaped with wood chips. **Charles Saranto** and

his family also cooked up a feast for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to the **Walla Walla Union Bulletin** for helping to get the word out, and thanks to all our wonderful volunteers. The site is looking better than ever!



Weed Report

Some members may have noticed a kerfuffle about the weeds at Frenchtown in the Walla Walla Union Bulletin last December. We’re happy to report that following our work day, and with a generous donation by the **Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Board**, the whole site has been sprayed once for broadleaf. We hope to spray the entire site once more before the end of the year. Alas, this complicates our efforts at the cemetery, since flowers are broadleaf plants, but we will keep working on it!

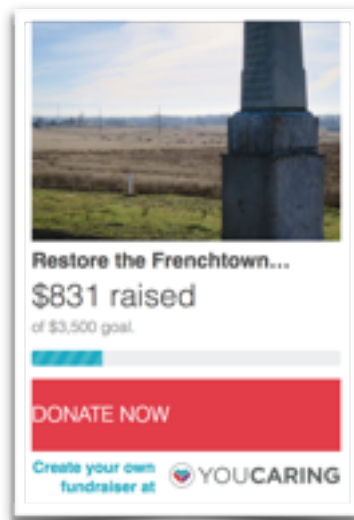
Kirkman House brochure

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 2017. They saved the best for last— turn to the last page to find Frenchtown Historic Site.

Cemetery Update

We’re making slow but steady progress on the restoration of the St. Rose of Lima cemetery. **Judith**

Fortney of the **History Committee** has been working with **Jessie Day-Lucore** to compile a complete list of the burials at Frenchtown cemeteries. This summer we plan to complete new



signage that will commemorate these names as well as provide historical and contextual information.

Online fundraisers help us reach friends and supporters in our member base and beyond. So far we've raised \$831 for the cemetery restoration

from all types of donors—members, descendants, and others inspired to donate by the cause or by a visit to the site!

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

History Committee

YOU are the the History Committee! 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 came here, why they came, and how they lived. This is valuable information that will be lost if not shared. Please contact us with any info, stories, pictures, etc.

Judith Fortney, History Committee Chair — jafortney@q.com 509-529-8210

New Signs at the Frenchtown Site

Thanks to donations made at the Saint-Jean-Baptiste day celebration in June 2016, we were able to fund six informational signs describing the history and construction of the **Prince's Cabin** in December.

Thanks also go out to former board members **Sam Pambrun** and **Dan Clark**, and to **Donny Weaver** at the Department of Corrections for their assistance. Be sure to take a look next time you visit the Frenchtown site!



Biography Posters

At last year's Rendezvous, we unveiled several posters sharing the history of prominent Frenchtown women of the 19th century. Afterwards, the posters were put up at the Frenchtown site. Unfortunately, as some may have noticed, the ink faded rapidly in the sun and the wear and tear of the weather got to the posters, making them difficult to read. Happily, Frenchtown board member **Charles Saranto** has found a way to print the posters on a vinyl board that will be more durable! We also plan to print a travel set of posters to take to events.



Coming soon: the Bellique family!

Educational Outreach and Living History

Educational outreach is one of the core values of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation mission statement. Dedicated members of the Frenchtown board and community give their time to bring history to life in performances at schools and at Fort Walla Walla. Last year, Frenchtown fur trader **William McBean** (FHF President **Rich Monacelli**) put in 63.5 hours presenting to students about Frenchtown, visiting schools and museums, and hosting school visits to the Frenchtown site! Other Frenchtown members did similar work, appearing as **Suzanne Cayuse Dauphin** (FHF Treasurer **Judy Fortney**), **Pierre Pambrun** (Frenchtown volunteer **Sam Pambrun**) as part of Fort Walla Walla's Living History Program.

See the schedule for Frenchtown characters below, or go to <http://www.fwwm.org/living-history/> for more information:

Jun 10 & 11 : *Fort Walla Walla Days*: William McBean, Hudson's Bay Company trader—Rich Monacelli

Jun 18 : Fr. J.B.A. Brouillet, Catholic missionary—Jehannot Poirot

Jul 1 : Joseph LaRocque, Frenchtown pioneer—Jehannot Poirot

Jul 22 : William McBean—Rich Monacelli

Jul 29 : *Frenchtown Reunion*: J.B.A. Brouillet, Louis Tellier, A.D. Pambrun, Wm. McBean, and Sam Black—J. Poirot, Jean-Paul Grimaud, S. Pambrun, R. Monacelli, T. Williams

Aug 5: Marianne Walla Walla LaRocque, Daughter of Chief Peo Peo Mox Mox, Frenchtown wife—Judy Fortney

Aug 13 : *Town Meeting on the Yakama-Walla Walla Indian War, 1855-1858*—full company

Aug 27 : A.D. Pambrun—Sam Pambrun

Archaeology Report

Thanks to efforts above and beyond the call of duty by **Darby Stapp** of **Northwest Anthropology**, we

now have an archaeology permit to install improved cemetery signage and plant trees at several key locations on the site.

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day 2017: 6th edition

Saturday, June 24, 2017 at the Frenchtown Historic Site.



You're invited! Join us for a free potato bar lunch, historical demonstrations, music, entertainment, and children's activities. The **Walla Walla Gem and Minerals Club** will have a table and be ready to talk rocks with children of all ages throughout the afternoon.

This year's cabin tour will feature an in-depth look at the research process of identification and subsequent restoration of the Prince's Cabin, led by local historian **Sam Pambrun**. The tour will leave from the site at 10 am and drive to Whitman Mission to view the original site(s) of the Prince's Cabin in relation to the Páxapa Village from the top of Narcissa's Monument (bring binoculars). Back in the bus we'll drive to the Peterson Farm, where the cabin stood for over 150 years. We'll continue south on Last Chance Road to the Prince's Cabin interpretive sign and make a loop, past where Colonel Wright crossed the Walla Walla in 1858 and then where Whitman diverted Garrison Creek to create his millrace. From there we'll go back to Frenchtown and spend the rest of our time at the restored Prince's Cabin.

The cabin tour will leave at 10 am from the site. Events at the site will go from noon to 3:30 pm.

Questions? Check our website, or contact us at frenchtownhistoricfoundation@gmail.com or call Rich Monacelli, President, at 509-522-3763.

Interpretive Plan

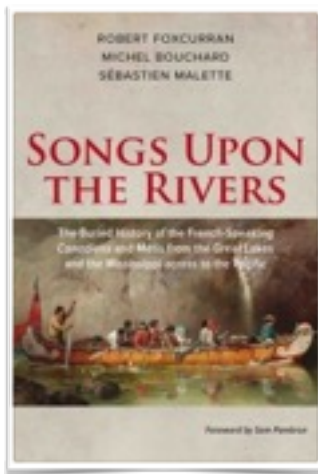
For those of you who met **Nicki Day-Lucore** and **Jessie Day-Lucore**, seniors at Whitman College and Frenchtown interns last summer, they're back! This summer, Nicki and Jessie will wear multiple hats—they will continue their work on Frenchtown family histories and cemetery signage, but in addition they will work with **Stephanie Martin** and **Sarah Hurlburt** to research and compose the first draft of an **interpretive plan for historic sites along the Walla Walla corridor**.

Many stories come together in the history of this land. The Walla Walla valley has been a multi-cultural, multi-lingual point of convergence for centuries. The goal of our interpretive plan will be to facilitate the coordination of interpretive signage by historical organizations and enhance community education and visitor experience from Wallula to Dayton. This project will take place in collaboration with the Whitman Mission and Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, and in coordination with Blue Mountain Region Trails. Jessie and Nicki's work is generously funded by a Louis B. Perry Summer Research Scholarship from Whitman College.

Rendezvous Report

2016 Rendezvous: Songs Upon the Rivers

Guests stayed on past the end of the event at last year's Rendezvous. They just kept talking - to each other, and to guest speakers **Michel Bouchard** and **Rob Foxcurran**. Bouchard and Foxcurran joined us from Prince George and Seattle to give a talk titled: "Bridging Cultures, Bridging Continents: What the History of the Founders of Frenchtown Can Teach Us About the Ties that Bound Communities in the Pacific Northwest and Beyond." They spoke about their newly-published book, "Songs Upon the Rivers,"



written with co-author **Sébastien Malette**, which explores the emergence of a Métis national identity in North America, and was recently hailed by voyageurheritage.com as "highly recommended" and "refreshing scholarship."

Before the speakers took the floor, everyone had the chance to explore historical displays with pictures and family histories of early Walla Walla. Four new Frenchtown history posters were on display for the first time. The new series focuses on the women of Frenchtown, and how their family ties structured the community. **Jessie** and **Nicki** worked on these all summer, with the help of **Sarah** and **Judy**. They will eventually be printed on vinyl and displayed at the shelter at the Frenchtown site. So far, the series includes bios of the following women:

Catherine "Kitty" Umfreville (1805-1886, m. Pambrun)

Pauline Walla Walla (c.1815-c.1875, m. Raymond)

Jane Boucher (1820-1905, m. McBean)

Suzanne Cayuse (~1824-1875, m. Dauphin)

Leocadie Forest (1834-1884, m. Allard)

Catherine Dauphin (1844-1907, m. Woodward, Wilson, Jordan, Matt)

Rosalie Dauphin (1847-1878, m. Gagnon)

Celina Forest (1855-1922, m. Bergevin)

Mary Parmelia Allard (1855-1922, m. Bergevin)

Julia Raymond (1861-?, m. Gagnon)

The Rendezvous was held at a new venue this year—Assumption Church Parish Hall. Everyone appreciated this lovely space, and we look forward to future events here.

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the generosity of our members and attendees, the event raised \$3,466.52 for the upkeep and outreach of the Frenchtown Historic Site. Board members and sponsors donated items to our silent auction, which raised \$1,506—almost half of our total Rendezvous revenue. If you would like to donate any items to this year's silent auction, please contact an FHF board member.



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 **Judy Fortney** leads the history committee.

We are always on the lookout for **new board members**. If you or someone you know is motivated by the goals of the foundation, please contact us.

We are excited to welcome four members to the Frenchtown Board:

Elaine MacDonald is a volunteer for Fort Walla Walla Museum, where she has dedicated many hundreds of hours. She joined the board in June 2016.

Mary Anne O'Neil is a retired professor at Whitman College, where she taught French and Spanish for 32 years.

Nicki Day-Lucore and **Jessie Day-Lucore** are seniors at Whitman College and Frenchtown interns for the summers of 2016 and 2017.

Rendezvous 2017

Join us again for **Rendezvous!** We will gather on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at Assumption Church Parish Hall (2098 E. Alder St.).

The Frenchtown Rendezvous is the principal fundraiser for Frenchtown Historical Foundation. All proceeds go to the maintenance, preservation, and interpretation of the Frenchtown Historic Site. This year's event will feature a multi-media presentation by the Frenchtown Historical Foundation interpretive plan team. FHF Secretary and Whitman professor **Sarah Hurlburt**, board member and park ranger **Stephanie Martin**, and Frenchtown summer interns and board members **Jessie Day-Lucore** and **Nicki Day-Lucore** will present about the methodology and results of their recent investigations into the Frenchtown community's connections to the valley and region.

Tickets for the Rendezvous are \$35 and may be purchased from any FHF board member or online at <https://frenchtownwa.yapsody.com/event/index/104046/frenchtown-rendezvous-2017>. We will also have a one-day special offer - **Rendezvous tickets purchased in cash at the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day Celebration are only \$30.**

In Memoriam

Frenchtown lost three people this spring:

Joan Patricia Yenney (1930-2017) passed away on March 17 at the age of 86. Pat was the great-granddaughter of Damase and Mary Parmelia Bergevin, and the granddaughter of Eleonie Bergevin and Alfred Remillard and John Meiners and Georgette Gwin. She was endlessly interested in the people and world around her. She was a quilter, a rider, a shameless flirt, and loved music and animals and a good story.

Betty Jean Bergevin (1927-2017) passed away on April 12 at the age of 89. She married Claro Bergevin in 1947 and they raised five children on the farm out by Frenchtown. Betty loved sports and was an avid volunteer in her community. She worked hard, loved hard, and played hard. The McGregor Company has made a generous donation to the St. Rose Cemetery in her memory.

Longterm Frenchtown Board Member **Gerald Reed (1930-2017)** passed away on June 4 at the age of 86. In his lifetime he was involved in local and national politics, and spent many years in Tribal government. Gerald loved outdoor sports and was also passionate about his family history, serving as Co-Chair of the History Committee of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation for a number of years.

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