

FRENCHTOWN NEWS

NEW FRENCHTOWN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We welcome two new members to the board of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation and several new committee members.

- Susan Allen

— A new board member, Susan is also a new neighbor to the Frenchtown Historic Site. She is a co-owner of the Northwest Ag Information Network and has a strong interest in regional history, especially as it pertains to Native Americans. Her husband Kelly was raised in Athena and she notes that her family tree includes Comanche Chief Quana Parker. Susan also serves on our public relations committee.
- Rich Monacelli

— Another new board member, Rich is a small business consultant, musician, and former manager of the Walla Walla Small Business Center. He enjoys his role as a living history player at Frenchtown and Fort Walla Walla Museum. Rich also serves on our events committee and is coordinating FHF’s strategic planning efforts
- Matt Ozuna

— Member of our public relations and events committees and grandson of Dan and Orpha Oliver of Lowden, Matt is currently serving as the Interim Director of Intercultural Programs and Services at Whitman College. Though relatively new to FHF, he has always been interested in local history, culture, and politics.

We also have new members serving on our Frenchtown Rendezvous committee; we’ll introduce these members in our next issue.

JOIN FRENCHTOWN HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

You are invited to join the Frenchtown Historical Foundation to promote a better understanding of our history and diversity. Please mail your annual membership to Frenchtown Historical Foundation (address located top left) for one of the following categories: Individual \$25; Couple \$35; Immediate Family \$45; Advocate \$100; Sustainer \$250; Patron \$500; Sponsor \$1000; Benefactor \$5000. Please also include your name, address, email, and telephone number.

Thank you.

“Because of your efforts and generosity we continue to work to create a lasting monument that pays tribute to the unique history of this region that will be enjoyed and treasured by generations to come.” —FHF Board

Frenchtown News

June 2013

Frenchtown Historical Foundation

No. 2

ST. JEAN-BAPTISTE DAY CELEBRATION AT THREE RIVERS WINERY SHELTER DEDICATION & CABIN TOUR, JUNE 22



St. Jean-Baptiste Day Celebration

The second annual St. Jean-Baptiste Day Celebration, sponsored by the Frenchtown Historical Foundation, will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2013.

The traditional celebration of French-Canadian culture will begin at the Frenchtown Historical Site at 3:30 p.m. with an automobile tour of area Frenchtown cabin sites, followed by the dedication of the new Frenchtown Interpretive Shelter at five o’clock and a variety of evening activities at nearby Three Rivers Winery from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

This celebration of French-Canadian culture has been observed annually since 1834 throughout Canada and in some northern parts of the U.S. around the birthday of Quebec’s patron saint, Jean-Baptiste.

The evening event at Three Rivers Winery will feature music, dancing, food, drink, and more! Hudson’s Bay Company chief trader and Frenchtown resident William McBean will perform and lead songs of the fur trade era, along with early Frenchtown settler Louis Tellier and others. In addition, the Frenchtown Dance Troupe will be teaching and performing traditional French-Canadian and Metis circles, squares, reels, and waltzes.

Catered food from the Dog House Grill will be available for purchase along with Three Rivers wines. Admis-

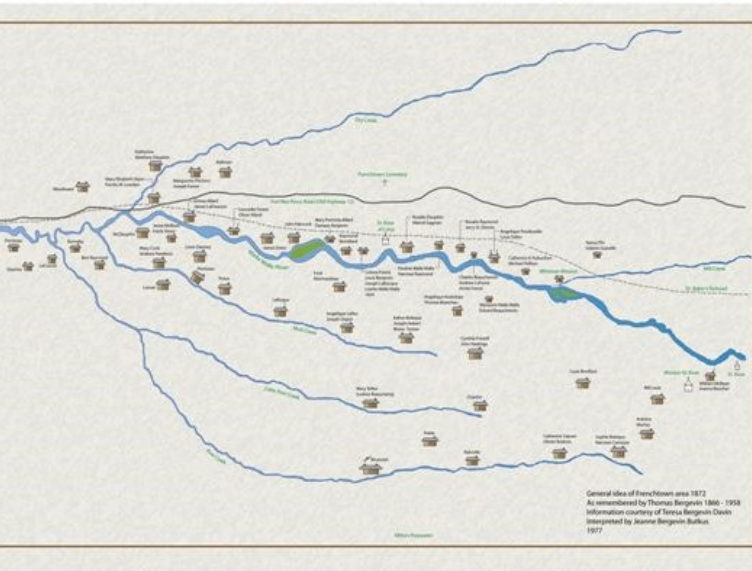
sion for the evening event is \$10 which will be dedicated to maintaining the Frenchtown Historic Site.

As the sun goes down, come celebrate this French-Canadian equivalent of St. Patrick’s Day at a beautiful location overlooking the Walla Walla River Valley, where Metis families held such celebrations over 150 years ago.

Cabin Site Tour on June 22

This year’s Cabin Site Tour will kick off our Jean-Baptiste Day Celebration. The tour will begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Frenchtown Historic Site and will visit the original sites of four cabins, including the Allard and Rainville homesteads, along with two cabins of French-Canadian construction built for local tribesmen—the Illa Poot Mii cabin on the McCaw place, known as the Umapine Cabin at Fort Walla Walla Museum, and the Prince’s cabin on the Peterson place.

We will discuss the history of the cabin occupants at each site and end at the Frenchtown site for the five o’clock shelter dedication. The tour is free of charge.

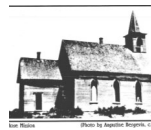


Frenchtown 1872
As remembered by Thomas Bergevin 1866-1958

Update!

Frenchtown Rendezvous, Sept 28

The annual Frenchtown Rendezvous will be held on September 28, 2013. This dinner and cultural gathering serves as our major fundraiser for the Frenchtown Historic Site.



- Local Wine & Beer
- Music & Dancing
- Guest Speaker
- Historical Displays
- Raffle & Silent Auction

Rendezvous
Ticket \$25 pp.
(donation)

**Frenchtown
Hall**



Raffle Ticket \$5
or six for \$25

1—5 p.m.

Lowden, WA

FRENCHTOWN SHELTER PROJECT A SUCCESS — DEDICATION ON JUNE 22

Thanks to all of you who dedicated time or donated funds to the Frenchtown Shelter Project. It is amazing what a relatively few individuals can accomplish when they put their minds and hearts into it. We are thrilled that the shelter has been completed in time for its dedication on St. Jean-Baptiste Day, Saturday June 22.

Not only do we have a beautiful interpretative shelter that is already contributing to Walla Walla's history and heritage, it also came in under budget thanks to the efforts of a diligent and frugal FHF board and committee members. Special recognition and appreciation must also go to contractor Doug Majerus who generously donated some of his own labor and materials to the shelter project.

The shelter is constructed in authentic French-Canadian frontier fashion complete with characteristic dovetail corners and rough-hewn walls on which FHF board member Ross Osborn has installed three large wooden display boards. These are already being used for the posting of educational and interpretive information, with more to come. Thank you Ross!

Neighbor and FHF site committee member Terry Bergevin has mowed the native grasses again this spring to aide in weed and fire control and has provided the assistance of his farm hands to install the shelter's handicap toilet.

NEW DATE for Frenchtown Rendezvous

This is the foundation's major fundraiser of the year for the maintenance and upkeep of the Frenchtown Historic Site. Funds garnered from the Rendezvous will cover insurance, weed control, capital replacement, and other costs. Your help is strongly sought and appreciated. Please sell tickets to friends and family as it is our goal to set a record for this year's attendance. Rendezvous tickets will be available for purchase at the Frenchtown Shelter Dedication on June 22.

An important part of the event is the silent auction for which we need donations as well as bidders. If you have valuable items to donate for the auction or would like to volunteer in any way, please contact Mari Tester (509-525-9428/maritester10@charter.net).

The shelter is part of the Frenchtown Historic Site which includes 27 acres surrounding the Frenchtown Cemetery and another 30 acres along the Walla Walla River that was the site of the St. Rose of Lima Mission Church. The upper portion of the Frenchtown site is open daily from sunrise to sunset with no admission charge.

Please join us at 5:00 p.m. on June 22 at the shelter as we thank our donors, contractors, and volunteers for their contributions to this successful project!



Frenchtown Shelter

2013/03/13

Frenchtown Shorts

Artifacts, Cabin, and Family Histories

The Frenchtown Historical Foundation's History & Artifacts Committee continues to collect information on Frenchtown families and their cabin locations. It plans to include this information on display panels in the new interpretive shelter as well as on the Frenchtown website.

If you have any family information to share—who, when they came, where they lived, where they came from and where they went—please contact either co-chair Judith Fortney (jafortney@q.com/509-529- 8210) or co-chair Gerald Reed (ofgwreed@gmail.com/541-278-4075).

Peterson/Prince's Cabin Committee

President Sam Pambrun continues to coordinate the FHF's Peterson/Prince's Cabin project that includes the arduous process of dealing with (and demystifying) the myriads of archeological documentation required both in transporting the cabin and preparing for its placement on the FHF site.

The Peterson Cabin Committee has staked out a location for the cabin a short distance from the new shelter; we hope to have a move date in late 2013 or early 2014. There is reason to believe the cabin may be the oldest existing structure in the entire state.

Website and Facebook Page

Don't forget to visit Frenchtown Historical Foundation on Facebook! View photos, share comments, and keep up-to-date on all programs and events. Also visit our website, www.frenchtownpartners.org.

Annual Meeting

There will be a brief annual report and discussion for members and friends of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation at 6:30 p.m. on June 22 at Three Rivers Winery.

Frenchtown Dance Troupe

Under the coordination of board member Dan Clark, the Frenchtown Dance Troupe performed at numerous events last year and helped publicize the Frenchtown Historic Site in the local community. See the article on our website, www.frenchtownpartners.org, regarding the group. If you'd like to participate in the troupe, please contact Dan Clark at clarkdn@charter.net.



One such performance occurred during last year's Rendezvous. In the foreground, Barbara Clark and Randy Norheim danced at the event.

Frenchtown Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are always needed to help with site maintenance, events, and other misc. tasks. We are conducting a work party on Friday, June 14 to prepare the site for the shelter dedication and St. Jean Baptiste Day on June 22. We would greatly appreciate your help. Plan to be on site at 1:30 p.m. and bring work gloves to pull weeds. For more information regarding this and other volunteer opportunities, please contact Debbie Beal (debbieb@pocketinet.com/509-386-1500).

Newsletter

If you'd like to receive a color copy of our newsletters and other Frenchtown information from time to time, please send your email address to Frenchtownpartners@charter.net.