

The MOR You Know

Museum of the Rockies Volunteer Newsletter

CALENDAR

- ❖ Monday, May 6th, 10am, Boardroom, Volunteer Board Meeting
- ❖ Tuesday, May 7th, 12:30pm, Classroom, Docent Listening Session: 'School Group Reservations'
- ❖ Tuesday, May 7th, 2:30pm, Computer Museum, Guided Tour, all volunteers welcome to join. RSVP to Blair before May 6th. (blair.speed@montana.edu or 406.994.6611)
- ❖ Tuesday, May 14th, 6pm, Hager, "Childbirth in Montana, 1864-1921" Lecture by Jennifer Hill
- ❖ Thursday, May 16th, Hager, "Leprosy in MT: Story of Orville Willet" Lecture
- ❖ Monday, May 20th, 12pm, Hager Auditorium, Volunteer Meeting with retired NASA Astronaut, Loren Acton
- ❖ Tuesday, May 21, 9:30am-12pm, Hager, Docent Training: *Space: A Journey to Our Future*. All Volunteers welcome to attend.
- ❖ Thursday, May 23, 6-8pm, Members Only Exhibit Opening: *Space: A Journey to Our Future*.

Museum of the Rockies 406.994.6611, Merry Shyne, Newsletter Editor
www.museumoftherockies.org

Pat Roath, MOR Registrar and Collections Manager

How to describe Pat – she is tall and elegant, funny and entertaining and a total professional! We all love our museum's exhibits and artifacts and fossils. Someone must inspect, conserve and keep records on the almost 370,000 historic artifacts and natural history specimens under the care of the Museum of the Rockies. Pat has done this since January of 2005.

MOR research and exhibits depend on retrievable, useable objects and information and Pat as Registrar keeps the collections well cared for and accessible. Registrars and collection managers use many legal and ethical standards as checks to ensure that the museum meets its obligations in the care of historic, natural and artistic works and to donors. Registrars must be familiar with:

- state and federal loan, copyright and nonprofit law
- information management systems
- object conservation and preservation principles and methods
- shipping and transportation

- requirements and systems
- exhibit and storage techniques
- museum ethics, professional practice and policy standards and requirements

Pat says the favorite parts of her job include checking on the condition of incoming exhibits (she is often the first to see objects in new exhibits and finds this a "great break from the routine"). And, she enjoys "solving the many tentacled riddles in our collections records". She explains that the museum has not always had a professional registrar and the first 30 years or so of object and donations records are rather challenging. Pat finds it very satisfying to "straighten these out".

Although she loves her work, Pat says the least-liked part of her job is budgeting – it takes away from hiking and floating time!

As a child she thought of being an artist or a cowgirl. She has never owned a horse or a cow so the cowgirl thing didn't work



out. Although art would not support her family, Pat worked for a while designing clothes and making reproductions of historic garments for museums. She still "draws and plays with color some".

In elementary school, Pat attended Whittier and Monforton schools in Bozeman. She received her undergraduate degree in education and history and MS degree in textile science and several histories (art, American, costume and theater) from North Dakota State University in Fargo.

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She worked in museums in North Carolina, Indiana and several in Montana. Before coming to MOR, she was Curator of Collections for the state of Montana in Virginia City.

The position of Registrar & Collections Manager for the Museum of the Rockies is one of the most challenging she has ever held. With nearly 100 active loans, researchers, students & curators actively using our collections every day, an aging building with lots of problems that affect collections objects, and most of our records still waiting to be converted to electronic format, "there is enough work to keep a half dozen of me busy!"

Written by: Meredith Lewis, Co-Editor Newsletter

Jean Thorson keeps MOR history alive



"The historian is a prophet in reverse." This statement, made by German Philosopher Friedrich von Schlegel back in the 1700s, reminds us of the importance of remembering where we have been, where we are today, and where we plan to be tomorrow.

The task of preserving evidence of the Museum's accomplishments, both past and present, was undertaken by Jean Thorson some time ago. Along with her other volunteer duties she collects stories concerning the Museum which have appeared in the Bozeman Chronicle and Belgrade papers. She welcomes other such material from staff and volunteers.

Written by: Merry Shyne, Newsletter Editor

The Sewing Academy comes to MOR

The Sewing Academy, led by Elizabeth Stewart Clark is coming back to Bozeman June 7-9, 2013, hosted by the Museum of the Rockies.

Elizabeth will be exploring the 1890-1900 era on Friday, June 7th. June 8th and June 9th will be primarily looking at the 1850-1860 era, but will also feature hands-on participation as we learn to hand sew common seams and seam finishes.

On her website www.thesewingacademy.com Elizabeth states that these workshops are ideal for those new to sewing as well as those more experienced who "wish to upgrade their current wardrobes through common-sense, simple steps".

All workshops include written take-home reference materials; kit classes include material, notions, and other supplies needed for the techniques to be practiced.

Registration closes May 31, 2013. You may register by phone, mail or on-line. The phone number to register is (208)523-3673. Please call between 10 AM and 8 PM Mountain Time. Copies of the printed registration form with much more detailed descriptions of each portion of the workshops are available in the Volunteer Office on the large bulletin board. If you have questions, please call Karen James, 586-4123 or call the presenter, Elizabeth Stewart Clark at the phone number and times given above.

This is a great opportunity to get to know more about the clothing of the era of the Living History Farm and also the years preceding, when Lucy and her sister had a dress making business in Virginia City. Seating at the Museum is limited, so please register early.

Written by: Karen James, Lead Interpreter, LHF

Notes from the Tinsley House



John Marmaduke

Mrs. Ella Pierpoint Spring, who grew up as part of the French speaking community of St. Louis, had been widowed the previous year when her husband, George W. Spring died of the measles epidemic that swept through the city.

In 1863 Missouri was a hotbed of conflict between the Union and Confederate Armies. As we join Mrs. S., she and her companions are trying desperately to avoid being arrested by the Union soldiers from Ft. Benton (AKA Fort Patterson) as they lack the necessary documents to move about freely. Of equal concern is their need to avoid the bands of thieves roaming the countryside ready to relieve this small group of civilians of anything of value. Their hope is to cross the Black River into Arkansas, but recent flooding makes it impossible to ford the river. They must wait for the waters to recede to safely continue this journey.

In addition to Mrs. Spring, this group was comprised of two young boys, engaged as guides, a young mother with two girls, ages 10 & 12; Mrs. Siddal, a widow, travelling with her slave woman, Charity, who carried a basket and a small black and white hen. They had left in a rush and so had only what they could easily carry. Blankets and a small piece of treated canvas served as a bed and unless they came upon an abandoned house or barn, they expected to sleep outdoors for some time. It was spring time, but temperatures were still dipping into the low 30 degrees at night. Inside the bundle of woolen blankets that Mrs. Spring carried was a pair of extra socks, a tin cup, and muslin bags filled with dried foods which they hoped would sustain them. As the days progressed Mrs. S. handed out morsels of dried peaches, plums as well as small bits of dried meat. This last, she cautioned the children to eat slowly over the days march as it would make them very thirsty. They had already run out of water and not knowing these woods well, did not know where they might find another spring.

Dear Readers, you may be interested to know that Mrs. S. and companions fared well. Sunday evening arrived and these hardy folks completed their participation in Marmaduke's Raid as this re-enactment was called. Mrs. S. (AKA Megan Spring) boarded an airplane and returned to her 21st century life here in Montana. Megan is part of the Sunday Family at the Living History Farm. I hope that you will come this summer to visit her and our many other interesting and dedicated volunteers.

Until next time,

Karen James, Staff at the Living History Farm, Museum of the Rockies. If you are interested in more information about this re-enactment, do an internet search for "Marmaduke's Raid."

May Book Club Canceled

Silly Season has struck in a big way, we are happy to say, and our docents are all pulled in the direction of touring students around the various exhibits. As a consequence, the MOR Book Club will not meet in May.

Join us for the June 6 meeting, at noon, in the Board Room, when the book, "Jim Bridger, Mountain Man," by Stanley Vestal, will be discussed.

Written by: Merry Shyne, Newsletter Editor

MOR Important Dates

Tuesday, May 7th, 12:30pm, Classroom – Docent Listening Session: Come discuss School Reservations with the Education Department (feel free to bring sack lunch)

Tuesday, May 7th, 2:30pm, Computer Museum: Come experience a Guided Tour of the Computer Museum! RSVP to Blair (blair.speed@montana.edu or 406.994.6611) before May 6th. All Volunteers and Staff welcome to join!

Monday, May 20th, 12:00pm, Hager Auditorium, Volunteer Meeting: Before *Space: A Journey to Our Future* opens, come hear from Loren Acton, retired NASA Astronaut, as he presents at the next Volunteer Meeting!

Tuesday, May 21, 9:30am-12pm, Hager Auditorium, Docent Training: *Space: A Journey to Our Future* presented by Angie Weikert, Early Education Director. All Docents, Volunteers, and Staff are invited!

Saturday, May 25th, 9am-5pm, Living History Farm, Opening: Come celebrate the opening of our Living History Farm!

**MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

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