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 ☆ SPRING ☆  
 ☆ 2005 ☆  
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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY



## RMMMHS NEWSLETTER

A non-profit Museum located in the Fort Missoula Historic District

RMMMHS  
 PO Box 7263  
 Missoula MT 59807

(406) 549-5346  
 website:  
[www.fortmissoula.org](http://www.fortmissoula.org)

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Hours:  
 Winter-Spring – Sat. & Sundays 12-5  
 June 1 thru Labor day- daily 12-5  
 Other times by appointment

### RMMMHS Officers 2004-05

President: Chairman  
 Brig. Gen. M Y (Bo) Foster AUS(Ret.)  
 (406) 543-6806

Vice-President:  
 Maj. Gary Lancaster USAR Ret.

Secretary:  
 Lt. Col. Glenn Parmeter USA Ret.  
 (406) 543-5002

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 Maj. Walt Briggs USAR Ret.  
 (406) 728-9155

Exec. Director: Tate Jones  
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### RMMMHS PLANS OPENING OF NEW FRONTIER GALLERY

The Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History is working toward the third phase of its building restoration, which will incorporate the story of the U.S. Army in the West in the new Frontier Gallery. The new room will examine the history of struggle for the American West ranging from Ohio's Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1795 to the Mexican Punitive Expedition of 1917; in between a variety of artifacts and presentations will allow visitors a sense of perspective on our region's military heritage.

Exhibits are planned that will specially emphasize Montana's major Indian battles the Little Big Horn fight of 1876 and the Big Hole clash of 1877. The latter required Fort Missoula's only combat deployment during the Indian Wars; two companies of the 7th Infantry under Major Charles Rawn were at both the Fort Fizzle confrontation in Lolo Canyon, and the Big Hole battle near Wisdom in August of 1877.

...There will also be information on Fort Missoula's role in escorting Indian hunting parties past the territorial mining camps in the 1880's to the buffalo grounds in the east; this fascinating topic was recently featured in Montana magazine.

This year also marks the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, as national events are held across the West to commemorate the journey of the Corps of Discovery. The Frontier Gallery will have a Lewis and Clark display, and the Museum plans a special program later in the summer.

Of interest too will be several color-tinted prints from the L.A. Huffman collection of Eastern Montana during the late frontier era; Huffman was Fort Keogh's post photographer for a time during the 1880's, and took several views of Custer battle participants and Fort Keogh's daily life. Huffman was also interested in portraits of Native Americans, which will also be featured.

Descriptions of inter-tribal warfare are also planned, and period recollections of military encounters between Montana's frontier soldiers and the First Nations that inhabited the land prior to the Louisiana Purchase

Construction of the gallery will take place this summer; please watch the local media for news of the formal opening. We might even have some special visitor from the 19<sup>th</sup> century that day!

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### LOCAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES AND EVENTS MAY 30th

VFW POST 209 BREAKFAST 245 W MAIN 7 to 11 a.m.

CARAS PARK CEREMONY 10 to 10:30 a.m.

MISSOULA COURTHOUSE CEREMONY 11 to 11:45 a.m.

CEMETERY CEREMONIES Noon to 4 p.m.

ROSE MEMORIAL PARK SERVICE 3 to 4 p.m.

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HISTORY OF THE ROCKY MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

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.By M.Y. (Bo) Foster

The concept of a Military Museum in Missoula Montana dates to the months when veterans began returning from WWII. Their awards, records, uniforms, photographs, various military artifacts, and personal accounts of combat experiences, were significant reminders of the part those men and women played in an historic event.

Parents exhibited mementos with pride for the accomplishments of their sons or daughters, sometimes with sadness for ones who did not survive.

Gradually it was recognized that these items represented and illustrated that era of our history and should be preserved. A glass case in the National Guard Armory at Fort Missoula served this purpose. The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, and schools, had exhibits. As collections expanded, the need for display space became obvious.

The RMMMh officially opened in a rented space in Quarters No. 30, Officers Row, at Fort Missoula.

The present Museum building, T-316, also at Fort Missoula, was later made available, and is being restored with volunteer labor and donated funds. It is a monument to all who have served this country throughout its history.

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WINDOWS AVAILABLE.

There are still some windows available. Dedication of a window would make a nice present for a loved one.

\*\*\*\*\*

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

The Museum accepts donations of Military Artifacts from any era, for our permanent collection. If you have items you would like to donate, call us at 549-5346 or 549-6280. Or e-mail us at: info@fortmissoula.org. We will arrange to pick them up.

RMMMh RECEIVES NEW SILVER FOUNDATION GRANT

The Museum recently was awarded a new grant of \$6500 by the F. Morris and Helen Silver Foundation, which will be applied to construction of the Frontier Gallery.

President M.Y. "Bo" Foster thanked the Foundation for the grant, and noted "This is the second time that the Silver Foundation has awarded us capital construction money, and we are very thankful. We are honored by their confidence in our operation and intend to continue the standard of operation that warrants their interest."

The money will be used in conjunction with last year's grant from the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula to complete the Frontier Gallery project; donors interested in underwriting the Museum's next phase of restoration are encouraged to contact the Executive Director.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

We wish to thank the following people for their generous donations to the museum collection.

- Rachel Hayes, WW II films from Pacific Theatre
Michael Schulte, World War I Army manual and sewing kit
Vernon and Rose Gotcher - WW II mess kit and savings bond booklet
John and William Coffee - John B. Catlin Civil War items and 1884 Salish Indian photograph
Dale Thompson - WW I knife and manual
Claude Simms - door hinges from Fort Maginnis, Mt.
Charles Hall - "Polaris" magazine archive
Larry and Evelyn Keogh - 1991 Saddam Hussein poster
Nancy Eik - WW II and American Legion items
Myrtle Grossman - Col. Emmett Wytenbach USAF uniform
Kermit Edmonds - 1930's military china
Gary and Gail Lancaster - General MacArthur statue, WW II Navy life dinghy, World War I and II items.
George Sherry- Soviet medals, uniform items and photos.

Book reviews

Since this spring marks the 140th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, these two titles may be of interest.

Cooney Ricketts: Child of the Regiment, Jack L. Dickinson, Pictorial Histories Publishing, 2001, \$14.95. A short biography of a Confederate enlisted man. Ricketts served in the 8th Virginia Cavalry and later as a cadet at Virginia Military Institute. While at VMI he participated in the New Market battle of May 15, 1864. That Confederate victory is commemorated by the VMI cadets each spring in an elaborate ceremony and re-enactment.

Ricketts was commemorated "for great gallantry" during the action, and later escaped with his old regiment from the Federal trap at Appomattox Court House before the unit disbanded at hostilities' end. He later served as a lawyer and prosecutor in west Virginia, and became involved in several notorious cases.

A Pictorial History of Civil War Era Musical Instruments and Military Bands. Robert Garofolo and Mark Elrod, PHP, 1985, \$12.95. Do you know what an ophicleide is? Find out on page 6. Visitors to Civil War museums and reenactments often come into contact with that and other period instruments used by replica bands.

This useful reference work details the nature of musical implements during the 1860's, and provides detailed information on how bands were organized and maintained. A multitude of illustrations including several color plates give the era's musical component a strong period flavor.

A "discography" at the end allows readers to compare CD's or tapes of Civil War music for their personal collections. An interesting work for Civil war or general musical enthusiasts, and a good accompaniment piece for the Civil War CD's and tapes sold at the RMMMh.

Both books are available at the museum or by mail. Plus a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee.

THANKS VOLUNTEERS!

The RMMMh again would like to recognize volunteers Tom and June Peterson, Peter Anderson, and Pauline Gordon, for the many hours of service they volunteered for the museum. Many thanks to all of you!!! Your help is greatly appreciated!!

WE STILL HAVE WINDOWS AVAILABLE!! FOR ONLY \$250.00 YOU CAN PURCHASE A "WINDOW TO THE PAST"



If you are interested in dedicating a window in this building for a friend or loved one, there are still some windows available! The new windows that have been installed look great! A 2x3 brass nametag will be placed on the window or an oak plaque with the name of the person you are dedicating the window in honor of.

T/4 LAVERNE PARRISH BUILDING

Please make checks payable to: RMMM H

Enter the following information for your family member or friend, to be placed on the brass name tag

In Honor of: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: (if app.) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: (if app.) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address : \_\_\_\_\_

The RMMM H is a private 501 (c)3 non-profit Institution. Contributions are tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law. Your continued support for our exhibits and programs are most welcome.

The Museum offers memberships on several levels.

**Membership are renewable on an annual basis, on Veterans Day, November 11.**

\_\_\_\_ Youth-under age 18--- \$10.00

\_\_\_\_ Adult-----\$25.00

\_\_\_\_ Family-----\$50.00

\_\_\_\_ Business-----\$100.00

\_\_\_\_ Lifetime -----\$500.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If you are renewing your membership, please check your address for accuracy, and note any corrections on the form.

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: RMMM H PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807

YOUR SUPPORT IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED  
PLEASE HELP THE MUSEUM CONTINUE TO EXPAND  
WE ACCEPT ONE TIME CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, OR GRANTS



**RMMMMH**

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History  
PO Box 7263  
Missoula MT 59807

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit NO. 536  
Missoula MT 59801

We're on the Web  
[www.fortmissoula.org](http://www.fortmissoula.org)

A private non-profit museum promoting the commemoration  
and study of the U.S. armed services from the Frontier  
Period to the War on Terrorism.

LABEL

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**DONATIONS NEEDED!!**

We are accepting donations for our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
COLLECTORS sale!! We would appreciate any antiques,  
collectibles, or good quality items that you no longer want.

All proceeds from the sale of the items will go  
toward building restoration.

We can arrange to have items picked up if necessary.

Give us a call at **549-5346**, or **549-6280**

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**WE WILL NOT ACCEPT MILITARY ITEMS  
FOR THIS SALE.**

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**ANNUAL JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION  
COLLECTORS SALE!**

At the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building at Fort Missoula

Join us between 8-5, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and  
see what bargains are available!

**BARBECUE!!!**

We'll also have our annual barbecue, on the 4<sup>th</sup>,  
so shop till you drop, and grab a dog or burger while  
you are there. Come and enjoy the fun!!

**SPRING AND SUMMER Programs at RMMMMH**

All programs are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon, in the  
Parrish Building, unless otherwise noted.

Calendar of events

- May 30 Monday; Memorial Day; museum open
- July 4 Fourth of July celebration at Fort Missoula
- August 5-7 Annual original Missoula Gun Show,  
Adams Center, UM
- August 14 Program - "V-J Day and the End of World  
War II"
- September 11 Lewis and Clark in Missoula County  
Bicentennial; details TBA
- October 23 Program - "The Battle of Trafalgar, 1815"

**CURRENT MUSEUM EXHIBITS**

- "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Montanans in Battle"
- "Glory Road: The Civil War in the Mid-Atlantic States,  
1862-63"
- "The U.S. Army vs. the Depression: Fort Missoula and  
the Civilian Conservation Corps"
- "The World Conflict, 1914-45"

\*\*\* MUSEUM HOURS MEMORIAL DAY THROUGH LABOR DAY DAILY - 12-5 \*\*\*