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 ☆ 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)

E-mail:  
[info@fortmissoula.org](mailto:info@fortmissoula.org)

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

### RMMMHS Officers 2005-06

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

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

Exec. Director: Tate Jones  
 (406) 549-5346

Newsletter Editor: Marcia Porter  
 (406) 728-0594

### MUSEUM AT HALFWAY MARK OF BUILDING T-316 RESTORATION

This summer the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History completed work upon its latest display gallery, the Frontier Room. The new room should be open to the public by press time, offering an overview of Montana and Western military history from 1795 through 1898,

The Museum has now completed about 50% of the Laverne Parrish Building's restoration. Formerly the Fort Missoula District Headquarters of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the 1937 structure was then used as a Battalion Headquarters by Museum President M.Y. "Bo" Foster's National Guard field artillery unit through the 1950's. National Guard use continued through the 1970's, then after a brief tenancy by the National Center for Continuing Education in the early 1980's, the structure was mothballed. Severe damage occurred to the interior and exterior over the next twenty years.

Under special arrangement with the Montana National Guard in 2000, the Museum acquired use of the building rent-free in exchange for improvements and grounds maintenance. Work commenced on the building by Museum volunteers that year, while simultaneous efforts also began toward restoration of T-310, the post caretaker's cottage.

Along the way the Museum also restored the T-312 warehouse guard shack, which had become a tool shed sometime after World War II.

The latter project was accomplished by an Eagle Scout project sponsored by the Keefe family.

To date the Museum's volunteers have permanently rescued the RMMMHS flagship building from a terminal state of decay. New roofing and windows grace the building's exterior, as does a new porch entrance. Electrical service and heat have been restored, and five rooms have been brought back to a state of public use. Display galleries showcasing the Museum's larger items, the World Wars, and the Frontier era are now in operation, as is the Director's office and a reception/sales area. The Museum is indebted to the unfailing efforts of the Dennis Gordon and Ted Kirschmann families, as well as many others, for these accomplishments.

As the Museum moves into the second major restoration phase in the building's restoration, future improvements will enhance the Museum visitor's experience. Now in the planning stage are research and archive rooms for readers and scholars of military history, a Korea/Vietnam gallery, new restrooms, an expanded gift shop, and a gallery surveying American military history from the Revolution through the Civil Wars.

Keep reading the RMMMHS newsletter for further information on your museum's progress.

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### NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE MONTH

Membership renewal is due every  
**VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>.**

We thank our loyal membership for their support over the years. Membership support helps to ensure the Museums growth. Please continue your annual renewal. If you have not been a member in the past, please consider becoming a member by filling in the form on page 3, and send us a check. We sincerely appreciate your support!!!

## AUTHOR ANDREW CARROLL VISITS RMMM

In August the Museum, in conjunction with the Fact and Fiction bookstore, sponsored a talk by author Andrew Carroll. In 2001 Mr. Carroll released *War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars*, a compilation of letters from several generations of American service members and their families. The book became a New York Times bestseller and the basis for a PBS television special.

This year saw the publication of Carroll's *Behind the Lines*, which expanded his area of interest to further American war communications and foreign war letters as well. During his talk at the Museum Mr. Carroll read several selections from his book and detailed his travels in assembling them. Of particular note was his trip to Baghdad in search of Iraq War letters, which included a rather harrowing landing and takeoff from the airport under threat of insurgent fire.

### NEW ACQUISITIONS:

Disabled American Veterans organization flags & ceremonial items- DAV Missoula Chapter 5  
Military Order of the Purple Heart flags and ceremonial items-MOPH Missoula Chapter 645  
World War II USAAF exhibit-Edward Junkert  
WW II and Vietnam uniforms - Joan Parks  
WW II Infantry Field Desk - Frank Rackley  
1930's U.S. Army buttons - Gary Moore  
WWI German officers sword- M.Y. 'Bo' Foster  
WWII European Theater items- Lester Schock  
Civil War /GAR items- Daniel I Tiechnor

## RMMM WEBSITE TO RECEIVE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

During a visit to the RMMM and Fort Missoula in September, Mr. Robert A. Svoboda announced that he will sponsor a major upgrade of the Museum's website. Mr. Svoboda has previously sponsored the extensive Northern Rockies Heritage Center site [nrhc.org](http://nrhc.org), which contains much historical information on Fort Missoula and Montana history.

Improvements to the RMMM site will likely include updated information on buildings and exhibits, more historical Fort photos, inclusion of significant components from the Svoboda Historical Letterhead Collection, and interactive portions allowing for visitor comment and Museum support. The Museum will probably change its Web address as a result, but until further notice the site at [geocities.com/fortmissoula](http://geocities.com/fortmissoula) and the e-mail at [militarymuseum45@hotmail.com](mailto:militarymuseum45@hotmail.com) will remain in effect. Suggestions for the website improvement project are welcome and should be forwarded to the Executive Director, Tate Jones.

### 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: [militarymuseum45@hotmail.com](mailto:militarymuseum45@hotmail.com). We will arrange to pick them up.

Thanks to Don Peterson for mowing the Museum grounds this summer.

## Book reviews

Since the colder months are upon us, these two offerings on the Aleutians campaign of WW II seem appropriate: *The Forgotten War: A Pictorial History of World War II in Alaska and Northwestern Canada, Vol. 1*. Stan Cohen, Pictorial Histories Publishing, 1981, 260 pp., maps and photos, \$16.95.

Lost amid battles of the Pacific Theatre, the Alaska Campaign stands out for the difficulty encountered due to the region's terrain and climate. The Japanese invasion of Kiska and Attu islands and the bombing of Dutch Harbor compelled the investment of substantial U.S. and Canadian assets toward repulse of the incursion, although the propaganda value of American soil as a battleground trumped any real military assets the North Pacific region offered. Cohen has again assembled a wide variety of period photos to document the Aleutian expeditions, with important attention paid to the logistical accomplishments of the Alaska Highway and the Canol pipeline.

*The Forgotten War, Vol. 2*. Stan Cohen, PHP, 1988, 254 pp. \$16.95.

This follow-up volume, continues the Alaska Campaign through such topics as the Alaska National Guard, Lend-Lease efforts in support of the USSR and the home front in the North Country. Detailed information on base construction and support units will clearly interest veterans of the theatre and their families

## THANKS TO EVERYONE LISTED BELOW WHO HAVE PURCHASED WINDOWS TO HELP RESTORE THE MUSEUM BUILDING.

We still have windows available. Dedication of a window would make a nice present for a loved one. See page 3 for information.

Rev. Edwina Aker	Vernon & Rose Gotcher	Betty & Sherman Lohn	Lt. Col. Greg & Dr. Kathy Porter
Tom, Laura, Kathy & Rod Alsaker	Ray & Myrt Grossman	Joanne Manchester	Marcia Porter
Am Legion Post 27 -Joe Schrage	Darlene V. Haines	John C. & Carol Martin	Larry Ranieri
Am. Legion Corvallis -Doug Mason	Warren Harris	Thomas D. & Carol Mc Elwain	Jack & Susan Campbell Reneau
Marion F. & Roma Bacon	Thelma Hendricks	Gerald R. Mc Intyre	William Riggert
Robert Banaugh	Warren & Esther Heyer	Andrew C. Moe	Diana Reber Riley
Gerri Billings-Stewart	Kurt, Jeanette & Gertrude Ingold	Dan Moe	Col. Sam & Kathleen Roberts
Harold P. & Adelle C. Branch	Mark Johnson	John Moe	Isobel Sackett
Robert Burke	L.M. 'Linda' & Thula Johnson	John C. Moe	Joe & Vi Schrage
George & Louise Caras	Karen Kemple Jones	Nancy Moe	Dr. Bruce Siever
Col. James D. & Darla Clegg	Gwen Jones	Ed Mosier	Robert W. Small
Donna Coburn	Jean Jones	Ray Murray	Susan Smaus
Dorothy Crues	Joyce, Aye & Wilma Kaufman	Kathy Ogren	Marylee Staedler
Sally Cummins	John J. Keefe	Terrence, Judith & Erin Onslow	Marian A. Stanfeland
Barbara Dahlgren	Patricia J. Kiely	Hayes & Lia Otoupalik	C. Jane Stoutenberg
Dale Dahlgren	Andy Koenig	Glenn Parmeter	The David Sullivan Family
Gerald A. & Ethel Caras Diettert	Barbara Koessler	Tottie Parmeter	Bruce, Susan, Helen Tate
Ron Erickson	Marge Kraabel	Jim & Betty Patten	Ralph & Betty G. Thisted
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald B. (Ellen) Flores	Syd Kraabel	Mrs. John A (Thelma) Peterson	Richard & Carol M. Turner
M.Y. "Bo" Foster	Daniel & Sophia Lambros	Don R Porter	Frances Wells
Mr. & Mrs. Gene French	Warren Little		

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 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: RMMMHS Mail to: PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807

Please print 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

E-mail address : \_\_\_\_\_ # of Windows Purchased \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

The RMMMHS 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 IS 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: RMMMHS**

**Mail to : 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 7<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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Special Thanks go to

SFC Cary L. Monbarren and fellow members of the  
**MONTANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD** stationed at  
Fort Missoula. The crowd went wild when you brought  
the Bradley Fighting Machine to the museum for our  
2005 annual

July 4<sup>th</sup>- Celebration.

You men were absolutely great!!!

**“MONTANANS AT THEIR BEST”**

FALL AND WINTER PROGRAMS AT RMMMMH

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

Calendar of events

October 23: "The Battle of Trafalgar, 1815"

December 11: Annual RMMMMH Holiday Party

February 12: Battle of Verdun, WWI; 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary

April 9: Civil War Soldier equipment demonstration

**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

"Bluecoats in the Big Sky:

Montana, the Army, and the West 1795-1898"

\*\*\* MUSEUM HOURS LABOR DAY THROUGH MEMORIAL DAY 12-5 Saturday and Sunday \*\*\*

