

# POST FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2019

### Society members spend summer getting the word out

**T**here's never a bad time to let the community know more about the importance of supporting the Post Falls Historical Society, but summer is when things become especially enjoyable.

Members, supporters and board members of the Post Falls Historical Society have been spending summer 2019 building all sorts of partnerships and growing support.

Sometimes these efforts have taken the form of activities which we've done for several years like greeting guests and offering tours at the Museum. Other times, it's doing something new, or beginning to lay the foundations for new community events and launching the planning for future exciting programs in the next few months.

Here's our 'summer summary' of some of the exciting activities society members have been involved in over the last few months.

**Street Dance. The fun started in June with a street dance, block party and all-class reunion organized by Keva**

**Wilhem Wolfe. More than 1,500 people showed up and had a good time, and donations were given to the society as well as the Post Falls Lions Club.**

**Parade.** We love Post Falls Festival! Board Treasurer Carol Yost drove her truck in our city's annual parade, spreading the word about the society and museum.

**Ice cream.** Volunteers outside the museum scooped up free ice cream for anyone who came to this part of downtown after the parade. It was a great cool treat, and some people followed up with a trip to the museum. Thanks to the Royal Neighbors for helping with ice cream costs!

**Museum.** The museum is officially open until fall and ready for anyone to come visit for the first time or come again!

**Planning planning planning!** Continue reading this newsletter for the details of many of the exciting events and projects in the works — including the first-ever Duck Races in September as part of our Spaghetti



**Photos: Society events included, top, more than 1,500 community residents enjoyed a street party in June. (Keva Wolfe photo). Bottom, Carol Yost drove in the Post Falls Festival parade. (Joe Doellefeld photo). Center, society volunteers offered ice cream to anyone who stopped by after the parade. (Joe Butler photo)**

#### ***Street Dance support appreciated***

The Street Dance (left) wasn't just fun but led to what's believed to be the largest single cash donation to the Post Falls Historical Society:

Thanks to Keva Wilhelm Wolfe for organizing all the details and logistics for this enjoyable community event which resulted in **\$1,300 to the society!**

Some members of the Wilhelm family were charter members and long-time supporters of society efforts.

Keva, a Post Falls native, is always happy to share historic photos or help connect people to their community.

**We have visitors from near and far and we receive many comments of how they enjoyed their visit to our Museum. Plan a visit yourself this year!**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Hello friends!

Spring and summer are always busy and exciting times: reunions, parades, festivals, picnics, visitors, and much more. During these fun, but often hectic months, think of touring our museum! Come alone, with friends, with family, and maybe some young ones.

Walk down memory lane or introduce others to the unique history of Post Falls. Our museum is quiet and cool, full of exhibits and photos pertaining to our specific area and the good folks who live here or once lived in this beautiful location.

The museum is now open, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or other days and times by appointment -- call (208) 262-9642 if you want access! Visitors are welcome to come and browse on their own, ask questions as they wish, or enjoy a guided tour provided by one of our friendly volunteers.

Speaking of friendly volunteers, several of us have been learning about and training to use the new museum-specific software called Past Perfect. **Catherine McClintick, Jane Robertson, Judy Cowan, Carol Yost, Kim Brown and myself** found out how to use it to scan photos and documents into the computer, creating a very useful library of historical data.

If you'd like to be involved in this ongoing, long-term archiving project, please give us a call at the museum. We will be delighted to teach you this process if you'd like to learn. Or we'd also be happy to quickly scan your family photos, area snapshots, or historical documents so we can add them into our permanent database. That way you can hang onto them while future generations can also enjoy them!

Wishing you pleasant and peaceful days ahead!

*Shelley Stoddard Ruff, PFHS President*

## Volunteers learn archiving process, seek more photos

The Post Falls Historical Society has been begun collecting historic photographs and inventorying their current collections with support from the Idaho Humanities Council.

Society volunteers worked with Angie Conrow, a recent master's degree graduate of San Jose State University, to implement artifact and photographic collections to the Society's Past Perfect Museum software program. If area residents, society members or businesses may

have Post Falls-area photographs of family members, businesses, school days, recreation or veteran history, please bring them to the museum at 101 E. 4th Avenue in Post Falls.

Society members will scan and collect donor texts of each photograph. The original photos will be returned to the donor.

Grant coordinator Kim Brown plans to share some of these collected photographs in the Society's upcoming newsletters.



**Ted Fredekind, Carol Yost, Cindy Mead, Shelley Ruff, Angie Conrow, Judy Cowan, and Catherine McClintick, seated, recently completed training in Past Perfect. (Kim Brown photo)**

### Board members and officers for 2019:

*President: Shelley Stoddard Ruff*

*Vice President: Judith Cowan*

*Secretary Joe Butler*

*Treasurer: Carol Yost*

### Board Members:

*Ed Adamchak*

*Kim Brown*

*Joe Doellefeld*

*Ted Fredekind, Past Vice President*

*Jane Robertson*

**The board meets at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Kootenai County Fire District Station 2. Anyone is welcome!**

# Martin family continues to share Post memories

**H**eavy snowfall this winter permitted the archiving of cardboard boxes from Julia Mae Martin's collection of bits and pieces of the Martin family and items from her grandfather, Frederick Post.

Among the treasures that longtime society member Kim Brown uncovered was the **1856 naturalization papers of Frederick Post, our city's founder.** What a find!

Thanks to a neighbor of Julia Mae Martin in Spokane, several boxes found their way back to Post Falls to be preserved at the Post Falls Historical Society and Museum.

Julia Mae Martin was the oldest daughter of Alexander Marion (A.M.) Martin and Alice Lillian Post Martin.

She resided in Spokane, and through the years came back to Post Falls with her sister, Alice Martin Williams.

Julia never married and was a prolific writer and music publisher. She worked for *The Spokesman-Review* and lived in Spokane many years.

From these records, we learned more about the Martin family, economic development in Post Falls, along early layouts of subdivisions in the area's residential community.

Frederick and Margaret Post immigrated to the United States from Germany. They lived in Kendall County, Illinois

where Frederick Post put his engineering and millwright skills into water power developments along the Fox River and its tributaries.

Frederick Post came to our area in 1871. He is a pioneer resident of Spokane, Rathdrum and Post Falls and had property and milling operations in all three communities.

As we review the historic concept of immigration, the collection our town's history puts into perspective the importance of source materials as we piece together the ongoing collection of our local history.

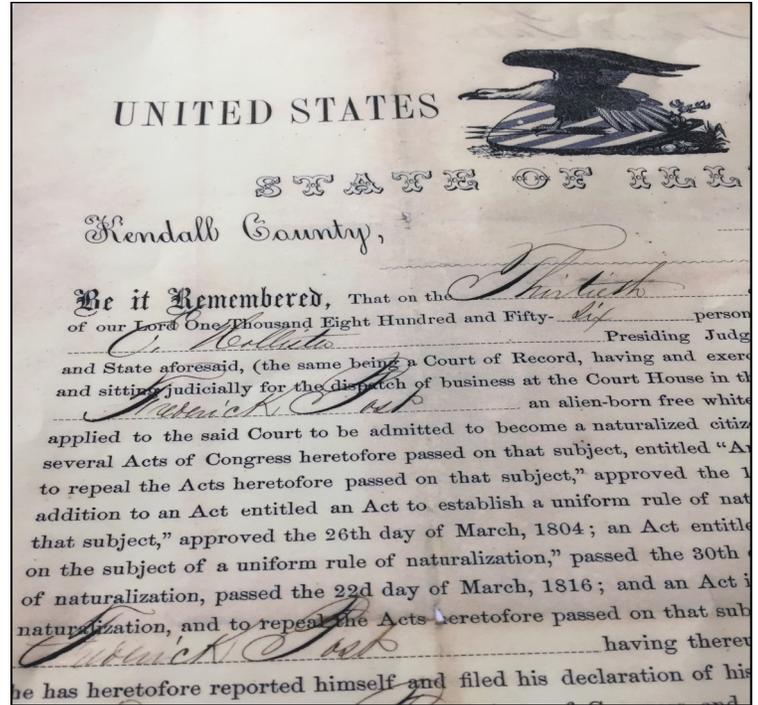
In 1856 what is now Idaho, was part of Washington Territory. Idaho became a territory in 1863, and was admitted as a state in 1890.

Alice Martin Williams, Frederick Post's granddaughter, and Julia Mae Martin's sister, previously shared some of her childhood memories of the students of Frederick Post Elementary School.

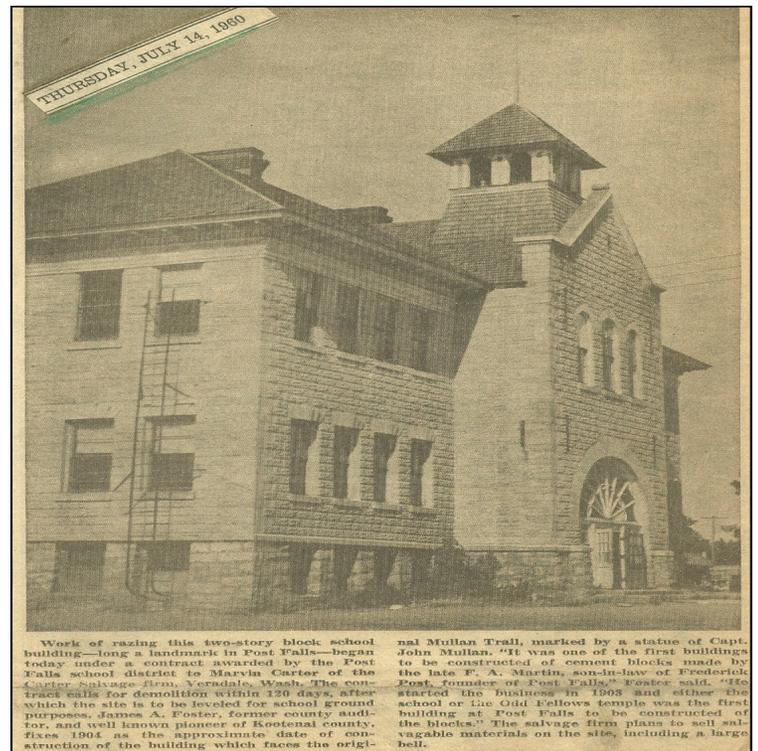
Alice Martin Williams had been invited to be a grand marshal of a fall parade in 1989 and was staying at Templin's Resort Hotel, but she passed away during this visit.

She is buried in the family plot at Evergreen Cemetery. She was a charter member of the newly formed historical society.

Article by Kim Brown



Frederick Post's naturalization form from Kendall County, Illinois.



A.M. Martin and Alice Martin Williams attended the Old School, above. Some of the blocks from it might have been used at the Frederick Post Elementary School. Unfortunately, the Oddfellows Hall and Old School are both gone, but maybe some of the blocks from both buildings may still be in use in buildings around town. Perhaps at the Reynolds garage? Do any members know? Please share!

# Join the Post Falls Historical Society Today!



Membership allows us to keep our museum open and available to the community.

*Invite your friends and neighbors to join as well!*

**Together we can preserve our past for the future.**

Make checks payable to

**Post Falls Historical Society**

Mail to:

**Post Falls Historical Society**

PO Box 57

Post Falls ID 83877

Name:

Address:

Phone

Email:

Membership Level: (Check one)

Individual \$20

Family \$30

Business \$75

Contributor \$100

Contact Information: Museum: (208) 262-9642

[pfhistorical@roadrunner.com](mailto:pfhistorical@roadrunner.com)

# Mark your calendar for upcoming fun events!

**Sept. 21: Second Spaghetti Feed and Cake Walk – plus the first-ever Duck Races.** Joe Doellefeld Kootenai County Fire and Rescue Training Center, 5271 E. Seltice Way. Visit old and new friends while enjoying a delicious Italian dinner. Take part in an old-fashioned cake walk, go home with treats, auction items and other prizes and also raise money for future activities and ongoing efforts.

**Oct. 21 Enjoy dinner at Bardenay.** The restaurant in Riverstone in Coeur d'Alene promises to give the Post Falls Historical Society 20 percent of proceeds from **all food and drinks** sold between 5 and 9 p.m., this night only! Invite friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy a lovely dinner while supporting the Post Falls Historical Society and Museum.

Read future newsletters and our website for information about these and other events. [PostFallsMuseum.weebly.com](http://PostFallsMuseum.weebly.com)

***If you enjoy this newsletter, let us know and make sure we have your current email address! Due to the increasing costs of postage, we will soon begin mailing newsletters only to active members who request it. But we are also excited to send out email newsletters to everyone. This version will also include bonus exclusive content!***

## **SHARE YOUR POST FALLS STORIES IN 2019!**

***We'd love to hear about everyone's summer, fall and winter memories about life in Post Falls, whether it was five years ago or 50 years ago — and see your photos!***

**Do you have fun memories of:**

- A favorite community event?
- Going back to school?
- Helping with the harvest?
- People from your past who made a big impression?
- Trick or treating, pranks or other Halloween fun?

Send your favorite stories, photos, recipes to:

[Pfhistorical@roadrunner.com](mailto:pfhistorical@roadrunner.com)

Or PF Historical Society, attn: Kim  
PO Box 57, Post Falls ID 83877