



*Autumn 2020*

**THE SUN RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 155, SUN RIVER, MT 59483**

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/sunrivervalleyhistoricalsociety/> and **website** -- [www.srvhs.info](http://www.srvhs.info)

*Working for forty-three years to keep Valley history and memories alive!*

The Sun River Valley Historical Society is a 501-c-3 non-profit. Please remember that charitable gift giving is tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!

**AUTUMN 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*Note: Unless otherwise noted, ALL meetings take place at 2:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at historic Fort Shaw off Hwy. 200 in Fort Shaw—from Hwy. 200, turn north onto Old Fort Shaw Road, follow the sign markers to the fort. In case of questions, please contact Burnette at 965-3025 or Dianne at 264-5942.*

**Everyone is invited!** Health department recommendations for the safety of all will be followed.

*Monday, September 14, 2020---SRVHS regular meeting – WELCOME BACK! Elections will be held.*

*Monday, October 5, 2020 -- SRVHS regular meeting. **GUEST SPEAKER**, Frank Laliberty at 3:00. He will be speaking about the long and amazing history of St. Peter's Mission by the Birdtail.*

*Monday, November 2, 2020---SRVHS regular meeting*

*No regular meeting in December*

*Monday, January 4, 2021 – SRVHS regular meeting*

*Tuesday, February 1, 2021 – SRVHS regular meeting*

*Please call or check Facebook or the website for updated meeting information or questions.*

**MAKING HISTORY**

What a year! 2020 has impacted the entire world—so many events have had to be cancelled or changed, including SRVHS meetings and events. Even so, work has continued at the fort, donations have been made, and the Memory Tower will have its third wall completed this summer. Plans are now being made for the future. We hope you can join us for a meeting—with masks and social distancing—at historic Fort Shaw. If you cannot join us in person, we hope you can stay in touch on Facebook or the website. Drive out to historic Fort Shaw and see some of the things that are being accomplished! You are welcome to be a part of this important work.

**THANK YOU**

As always, we are grateful for our members. Your continued support through memberships, donations, memorials, purchases of books, t-shirts, ornaments, medallions, and Memory Bricks has allowed the SRVHS to continue its work of preserving and protecting historic Fort Shaw and the Military Cemetery for future generations. Thank you!

A special thank you to **Humanities Montana's CARES** grant program and the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. As a part of the **CARES Act passed by Congress** in March, the SRVHS received one of the grants which has been a great help in keeping work progressing at the fort.

In addition, many wonderful donations for historic Fort Shaw have been received. They will help history to come alive and visitors will enjoy these treasures. Thank you so much!

More photos are on the SRVHS Facebook page and the website but here are some recent donations:



A printing press!



Wonderful photos from about 1915

**Loved one who have passed**

*Wyoma Freeman, Joe LaRocque, Wade Williams, Joan Cornell, Elmer Richards, Myrna Reinhart, Billy DeBolt, Norris Bjork, Linn Stordahl, Walter Savoy, Stanley Stelling. They remain in our hearts and thoughts.*

**Memorials have been received for:**

*Ida Jane Sauke Johnson and Joe LaRocque. What a wonderful way to remember your loved one and honor their love of this special Valley.*

**CAN YOU HELP?**

Your continued support is of vital importance in helping with projects at the fort. In particular, maintenance on the Indian monument, installing correct siding and paint for the buildings, and some rooms need sheetrock. Your memberships, donations, and purchases make this work possible. If you would like your donation to go to a specific purpose, just let us know.



Aurora Bennett, our youngest lifetime member, helping to place flags at historic Fort Shaw Military Cemetery.



Working on the Memory Tower. The Memory Bricks are protected by the blue plastic, August 2020



Doesn't the Memory Tower look great? Do you have your Memory Brick?

**WHAT A DEAL!!**

We are excited to let you know that there is a **Christmas special** on the **Sun River Valley History II** book! It is now available at a price of \$40.00! This is a treasure for anyone who is interested in Valley history or the families who have lived here. There are a few copies of *The Sun River Valley History I* book still available at a price of \$30.00. Please contact the SRVHS for more information.

**SO MANY TO THANK!**

**Don and Burnette Batista, John Bennett, Don Ensley** for hours and hours of planning and work at the fort. **John Turner, Larry & Jan Dobb, Don Ensley, John Bennett, Don and Burnette Batista, Sue & Wad Williams, Lynn Preston and Judy Jackson** for hosting the tours and helping with the rummage sale. Have you seen John Turner in his authentic reproduction uniforms? He helps to make the fort come alive!!  
A special thanks for all who donated to or made purchases at the **August Rummage Sale**. Over \$1200.00 earned!!  
**Superintendent Dave Marzolf and the Fort Shaw Elementary School** for their support of historic Fort Shaw.  
**Chuck and Cari Sheldon** for printing this newsletter and keeping the website and Facebook pages updated.  
**Lynn Preston** for power washing and painting the Memory Tower!  
**Earl Sheldon** for keeping the mailing list updated.  
**For all of the members and volunteers** who come out for work days, meetings, and activities. Donations of time and/or money are the basis of a successful organization. No one can do everything but we can all do something!  
**ALL OF YOU** for your donations and support. Come and see how these donations—including 19<sup>th</sup> century books, vintage clothing, quilts, handwork, furniture, stoves, rugs, help to make historic Fort Shaw come alive! And, of course, your monetary donations have made it possible to purchase the needed supplies to do the repairs and restoration.

**OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President B. Batista	965-3025	Bob Milford	788-0876	Earl Sheldon	965-3487
Vice-President L. Rohrer	970-290-7452	John Bennett	264-5647	Don Ensley	761-4704
Treasurer S. Williams	465-5961	Elerine LaRocque	264-5703	Don Batista	965-3025
Secretary D. Sand	264-5942	Ina Mae Cooper	452-8926	Ken Robison	452-9374

**BECOME A MEMBER AND HELP PRESERVE VALLEY HISTORY**

The membership year for the Sun River Valley Historical Society is from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31. Your continued support for projects and programs is most welcomed and needed. *Donations are always welcome!* For membership, please fill out this form and remit today. Please mail all memberships and donations to the SUN RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 155, Sun River, MT., 59483.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

**Benefactor (Lifetime membership—one vote).....\$200.00**  
**Individual (one vote)..... \$ 25.00**

**Without your continued support, the SRVHS would cease to exist—and much of Valley history would be lost.**

**Thanks for helping to preserve the history of the Sun River Valley!**

*For membership year: September 1, 2020– August 31, 2021*

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_