



Westward Barriers

Monthly Newsletter of the Travelers' Rest Chapter
of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

PO Box 447 – Lolo, MT 59847

www.travelersrestchapter.org

Keepers of the Travelers' Rest Story – Stewards of the Lolo Trail

Meeting Date & Time: First Thursday, January 5th at 7pm

Meeting Location: Lolo Community Center

Meeting Program: Video on the Hudson's Bay Company

The Video Details: Imagine a trading network that encompassed nearly three million square miles of North America, from the Arctic Ocean to San Francisco, from Labrador to Hawaii. It was here, in this mostly northern wilderness, that the foundation of modern Canada was laid.

The official name of this empire, given its Royal Charter in 1670, was the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson Bay -- but better known as The Hudson's Bay Company.

The story of this empire spans three centuries of wars and spoils, of exploration and exploitation, of intrigue and sheer human endurance. This is the story of how its merchants and employees tamed a wilderness and opened up the heart of a continent.

The Hudson's Bay Company was built by Englishmen, Frenchmen, Irishmen, Scottish Highlanders and Native Americans. They were princes and paupers, explorers and bureaucrats. Admirals and indigenous leaders, Quebec voyageurs and Jesuit priests, Huron trappers and brave young men from the wind-swept Orkney isles.

Today, the Hudson's Bay Company (now "The Bay") is the oldest continuous commercial enterprise still in existence anywhere in the world. For the greater part of three and a half centuries, York Factory [in Manitoba] remained its headquarters and chief base of operations in North America. Its doors would finally close in 1957. Now, this great building is little more than a haunted memorial to the fur trade and to a great empire that began here.

- PLEASE JOIN US FOR A 90 MINUTE FULL-FEATURE VIDEO PRESENTATION -

Hudson's Bay Company in Montana

Excerpts from: www.montanatrappers.org/history/hudson.htm

The Hudson's Bay Company was founded May 2, 1670, by charter from the British crown. The regal charter granted the Company absolute proprietorship, supreme jurisdiction in all civil and military affairs, the power to make and interpret laws, and even the power to declare war against "pagan" peoples. The charter granted the Company access to all lands drained by the rivers that entered Hudson's Bay, called Rupert Land, and included territory in what is now Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana.

In the autumn of 1810, Hudson's Bay trader Joseph Howse built a small fur fort [Trading Post] on the north end of Flathead Lake. (Nobody knows for sure where this post was located.) Howse House or Fort Howse has the distinction of being the only fort built by the Hudson's Bay Company west of the Rocky Mountains until consolidation with the North West Company [Previously a British competitor] in 1821.

Between 1811 and 1824 the Hudson's Bay Company kept an active presence in northwest Montana. Flathead Post (also called the second Salish House) was established in 1823 by Alexander Ross about five miles east of Thompson Falls.

John Work, in charge of the Snake River brigade from 1831 until 1834, set out from Fort Nez Perce (Walla Walla, Washington) on September 11, 1831. His objective was trade with the Salish and Blackfoot Indians. Work and his party traveled east following the Clearwater River in part, over Lolo Pass, and ended up at Lolo Hot Springs, Montana, on October 13, 1831. Work reported many beaver taken, as well as deer, elk, bear and sheep. The party met the Bitterroot River near the present town of Lolo and followed it to Hell Gate Valley (Missoula) where they spent the night of October 20.

Trapping generally was productive in spite of the harassment by the Blackfoot Indians. The number of animal pelts grew steadily until 1837, when one source lists the Hudson's Bay Company's harvest at 26,735 pelts. Then, the number of beaver in the region steadily declined because of the heavy trapping pressure. In spite of many areas being trapped out, exciting trapping forays continued.

The Americans were invading the region in greater numbers and were claiming the territory as their own with greater frequency and enthusiasm. In the Flathead country, vigorous measures were taken to overcome American aggressiveness. Flathead Post was moved farther east to ward off American ventures and ultimately was moved to Post Creek near Ronan and renamed **Fort Connah**.

In 1847, Angus McDonald completed construction of **Fort Connah**, which has the distinction of being the last Hudson's Bay Company post to be constructed in what is now the United States. In 1871 **Fort Connah** was closed by Duncan McDonald, son of old Angus who had opened it twenty-five years before.

The day of the beaver-fur trade had begun to close in western Montana by the early 1850s. Silk had replaced beaver in its value for hats, and buffalo had become the fur of choice.

* To learn more about the unique and colorful history of **Fort Connah** and many of its key players, we will be selling the book... ***FORT CONNAH – A Page In Montana's History***. Written locally by Jeanne O'Neill and Riga Winthrop, illustrated locally by Diann Ladd and Jean Clary and published locally by Dale Burk of Stoneydale Press... www.stoneydale.com. \$14 Softback. \$19 Hardback.

\$5.00 from each book sold will go to... The Fort Connah Restoration Society

ANNOUNCEMENT – ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FORT CONNAH RESTORATION SOCIETY

Wednesday, January 25th at **LEON HALL** opposite the Fort Connah turn-off from Hwy 93

5:30pm – Potluck Dinner...7:00pm – Auction & Elections

Donations of Auction Items and/or Cash are Welcome!!!

Contact: Scott Cameron: 381-0759 or George Knapp: 549-4431

Travelers' Rest State Park Update – Martha Lindsey, Program Director

We here at the park hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season! With the new year comes the kickoff of our **Annual Winter Storytelling Series**. This year we are excited to bring you a few new speakers, as well as a few of our beloved favorites for 2012. In previous years, our audience would have liked more time with our speakers to ask questions and engage in conversation. To honor this request we have scheduled all our speakers for an extra 30 minutes, specifically to answer audience questions. We look forward to seeing all of you this winter!

2012 Winter Storytelling Schedule

Every Saturday from January – March, 11am - 12:30pm.

Fee: \$4 Per Person, Travelers' Rest Preservation & Heritage Association Members are FREE (Annual Membership = 35)

January 7th, 2012	Frances Vanderburg, Winter Stories
January 14th, 2012	Louis Adams, Salish Stories
January 21st, 2012	Vernon Finley, Kootenai Stories
January 28th, 2012	Jack Puckett, Place Names
February 4th, 2012	Amber Greymorning, Arapaho Stories
February 11th, 2012	TBD
February 18th, 2012	Bernadette Sweeney, Irish Oral Histories
February 25th, 2012	Hal Stearns, Hidden Gems of Lewis & Clark
March 3rd, 2012	Tom Schenarts, Campfire Stories
March 10th, 2012	Richard Ellis, Charles M Russell (Humanities MT Speakers Bureau)
March 17th, 2012	Kae Chatham, Northern Plains Lifestyle In and Before the 18th Century (Humanities MT Speakers Bureau)
March 24th, 2012	TBD
March 31 st , 2012	Final Panel: Oral History & Language

Travelers' Rest Preservation & Heritage Association - 2012 Dinner & Auction

Friday, February 10th, 2012... 6pm -10pm... Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula

Event Schedule: 6pm – Social Hour... 7pm – Steak or Vegetarian Dinner Served
8pm – Dessert Auction... 8:30 Live Auction... 9:30 Raffle Drawing


Come out and enjoy a Great Dinner, Good Friends and a Fun Evening while helping a Great Organization

- Donated Auction Items are very much Appreciated (273-4253) -

The Travelers' Rest Chapter [organized in 1987] and Member Volunteers were instrumental in the discovery of the Lewis & Clark Expedition's 1805 & 1806 Travelers' Rest campsite in Lolo, Montana, and the eventual establishment of Travelers' Rest State Park [TRSP]. The Chapter Board and Officers enthusiastically encourage our members and the public to support TRSP as often as possible, invite family and friends to attend some of the many unique and high-quality programs offered there, and support or join TRPHA [the Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association] a mostly Volunteer Interpretive Organization located at TRSP that funds and coordinates many of the fine programs and activities. Go to www.travelersrest.org for all Travelers' Rest State Park and TRPHA related events, activities, information and announcements. You can also follow TRSP & TRPHA on Facebook!

Travelers' Rest Chapter
 c/o Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
 PO Box 3434
 Great Falls, MT 59405
 www.lewisandclark.org

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HUDSON'S BAY CO.

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 Video Presentation on
The Hudson's Bay Company
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 Lolo Community Center

→ Westward Barriers ←

Travelers' Rest Chapter – Membership Information

Please provide the requested information listed below and make your check payable to the Travelers' Rest Chapter:

Send Payments To: Travelers' Rest Chapter · PO Box 447 · Lolo, MT · 59847

New Member Renewal Address Change **2012.01**

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Scout (Student) \$5 Private (Individual) \$10 Platoon (Family) \$15

Interpreter \$25 Corporal \$50 Sergeant \$75

Captain \$100 General \$500 Jefferson (Lifetime) \$1,000

☺ ☺ ☺ **Please check your mailing label to determine if it is time for you to RENEW your Membership**

Travelers' Rest Chapter Board: Scott Sproull [President]; Jack Puckett [Secretary]; Jean Belangie-Nye [Treasurer]; Scott Cameron, Ritchie Doyle; Jack Fisher; Norm Jacobson; George Knapp; Earl Reinsel; Tom Schenarts; Chuck Sundstrom. Newsletter Coordinator – Scott Sproull [scottsproull@gmail.com]