

Board Members

President/WebmasterMike Kahler
Vice PresidentCraig O'Brien
Treasurer.....David Hartze
Newsletter EditorRuth Danielson
AdvisorDoug Hammond
AdvisorKal Klass
AdvisorCary Thielen
AdvisorDaryl Jacobson



Welcome to September MCPA members and friends,

Even though the days are getting shorter, it appears summer has finally arrived with its clear and warm days. As can be expected though, the threat of wildfires is also upon us, with several occurring in Western Washington over the Labor Day weekend. No matter what your outdoor activities are over the next few weeks, please be sure to take all precautions possible to prevent fires. It won't be long before the days turn to fall rains and seasonal floods, followed by those first hints of snow in October.

Our work parties this year have been somewhat subdued by COVID restrictions, however we've had excellent turnout and hence have kept the maintenance of the townsite area well intact. Larger projects on Forest Service land have been put on hold, as the FS requires the MCPA follow the same procedures as Forest Service employees are bound to. Thank you to all the volunteers at our work parties these past few months; our presence in the townsite is always appreciated by the 100's of visitors we meet, and they're always thankful for the service and hospitality we provide.

At our August work party, in addition to much trail brushing and drainage work, we put a fresh coat of paint on the Barlow Pass County gate. The county road department provided new "No Parking" signs, so the gate now looks as new as it did in the 1980's when it was first installed.

Kal Klass and Craig O'Brien also volunteered on a weekday to transport and install the first of many interpretive signboards near the townsite; these signs have long been a part of the plans for the MCPA "Interpretive Site" and provide a wealth amount of information about the town and the railroad, in addition to several dozen period photographs. These signs will certainly help townsite visitors imagine and comprehend the magnitude of the operation that was present over 100 years ago. A big thanks also to Craig O'Brien and Daryl Jacobson for authoring the content, overseeing the layout and interfacing with a not-so-pleasant-to-work-with sign manufacturer on the East Coast.

Our [probably] second to last work party of the year will be September 19th – meet as usual at the Barlow Pass gate at 9:00AM. We may concentrate on much needed brush and limb removal along the county road, and may also have some work destined for the townsite area. Weather permitting.

Stay safe and be well,

Mike Kahler

MCPA President



B
E
F
O
R
E
&
A
F
T
E
R

Historical Essay

As we have welcomed a number of new members since I first wrote about Donald Trump's grandfather's ties to Monte Cristo, for your information here is a repeat of my 2016 column (with couple minor changes for clarity). At first glance it may appear that virtually no 2016 presidential candidate has any direct or even indirect ties to the Pacific Northwest and Monte Cristo in particular. Of course that's been normal since the late Senator Jackson of Everett passed from the scene in 1983. We have the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area as a remembrance. Yet not so fast! Have you been following Fox News and other outlets of their conservative Republican persuasion? Then you have heard and perhaps seen that "The Donald" Trump suddenly has emerged as front runner in GOP preference polls and frequently is quoted for his forthright statements. These have ranged from undesirable Mexican immigrants to questioning the heroism of Senator John McCain of Arizona, who as a downed U.S. Air Force pilot survived imprisonment in a North Vietnamese POW cell.

This is Trump's second try at the nomination, as in the last campaign he appeared before the Iowa gathering of conservative Republican Party faithful and let it be known that he considered himself presidential material for 2012. He didn't win that early Iowa straw poll though, which went to Congressman Ron Paul, and he quickly faded. This time might be different.

That's not a bad rise for a fellow whose young grandfather emigrated from a village in the Palatinate region of imperial Germany to seek a better financial future in New York City. He was a teenaged barber from an impoverished, fatherless family when he arrived in the Lower East Side in 1885, staying with relatives in tenements and gradually moving to better locations as together they improved their lot.

Donald's grandfather was named Friedrich, but went by the Americanized "Fred" instead. Searching for better and faster opportunity, he struck out again, this time for downtown Seattle and its Pioneer Square neighborhood. It was bustling in the aftermath of the Great Seattle Fire of June 6, 1889. Taking advantage of the customs of the time when men started their day with a straight razor shave and socializing at the barber's, he expanded his operation from a simple shop into serving meals, liquor, and since this was Seattle's red light neighborhood, female companionship. It was a winning combination, and Fred a dedicated, hard working man. In 1892 he became a naturalized citizen.

As Trump's business prospered, he heard rumors of a major gold mining discovery in the nearby Cascade Mountains: Monte Cristo. In the spring of 1893, braving deep snow, he packed supplies into the town, hoping to get a jump on the rush and to open a similar operation to mine the miners. Since land prices were sky high and suitable locations exceptionally limited, he filed a tiny placer mining

claim on someone else's property, one Nicholas Rudebeck of Everett and then Index. (Rudebeck's Index home still stands, next to the Bush House hotel.)

On his chosen spot Trump erected a two story wooden frame structure and opened a business based on his Seattle formula. He also sold real estate, filed on two placer claims of questionable value along Sylvan Creek below town, and became agent for the Penn Mining Company at Goat Lake. The legal inconvenience with Rudebeck later was resolved when Fred gave up the dispute and paid him for lots 1-3 of Block 1, Rudebeck's 2nd Addition to Monte Cristo, located on the Anaconda Mill Site to your right when you cross the bridge into town. The 22 by 50 foot boarding house is long gone, with part of Sunday Creek behind the former resort's power house running through where it once stood. At age 24, Fred was into his third setting, and again he did well with his short stay hostelry, along with patenting a tiny triangle of vacant land next to it.

This lasted until heavy snow on Christmas morning in 1895 collapsed his building's roof. He rebuilt it, leased the place, and in April 1896 took a probably needed vacation back to Germany to attend a sister's wedding. Returning to Monte, that November he was elected justice of the peace by a vote of 32 - 5, running as a Democrat favoring William Jennings Bryan.

Trump's good fortune continued. As news of the Klondike gold rush hit the Northwest in the summer of 1897, he decided to join the jam headed north to Lake Bennett and Whitehorse, and there apply his formula in the Yukon Territory. He did so, leaving Monte a few months before the catastrophic November flood, which devastated the region and forced almost everyone to walk out to safety.

Fred's life is a fascinating story, as he returned briefly to Seattle, sold his Northwest properties, and went back to New York City. He married his German girl Elizabeth Christ to start a family, continued in business, but died in the 1918 "Spanish 'flu" pandemic. Grandson Donald (who closely resembles Elizabeth in facial features) would receive a powerful role model.

I am indebted to former MCPA member S. Wayne Derrick of Brooklyn for alerting me to Gwenda Blair's book from which much of this was taken. I had helped her in the 1990s with the research on Monte, but never had seen it published. Check out *The Trumps: Three Generations That Built an Empire*, from Simon and Schuster, c. 2000 (and since retitled and reissued). You might also be interested in her biography of Jessica Savitch, *Almost Golden*. Until her untimely death she was the woman who changed broadcast television news from the straight journalism typified by Edward R. Murrow of Skagit County, WSC, and CBS to its present emphasis on beautiful faces, feature stories, and entertainment.

MCPA Membership Form

Year: _____ (membership runs Jan → Dec)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Area(s) of Interest / Skills: _____

Please select only 1 box below:

☐ **\$25.00 - Annual Membership** (Mail this Form and \$25 to MCPA)

---- or ----

☐ **\$50.00 - Annual Membership + Barlow Pass Gate Key ***

(* keys from 2010 to now are still valid)

- Download "MCPA Waiver/Release" form at www.mcpc.us (MEMBERSHIP)
- Sign and Notarize the "MCPA Waiver/Release" form
- Mail the Notarized Form, this Form, and \$50 to MCPA
- A gate key will be mailed to the above address

MCPA Donation Form (Non-Profit 501(c)(3) EIN: 911230143)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

MCPA Donation - I wish to donate the following amount:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

MCPA Interpretive Center Donation - I wish to donate the following amount:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

Monte Cristo Historic Pictures Order Form

Pictures of Monte Cristo up to 100+ years ago. Pictures will be emailed.

Name: _____ Email: _____

☐ **\$20.00 – Electronic Pictures of Historic Monte Cristo**

Mail Form To: **MCPA**
P.O. Box 471
Everett, WA 98206

email questions to:
hartze4@gmail.com

07/12/20



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.
PO Box 471
Everett, WA 98206
www.mcpa.us

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»