

Greetings MCPA Members!

We hope everyone is having a nice summer so far; after a wet Spring, the recent warm and dry weather has been a welcome change, for sure.

Our work parties this year (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month through October) will concentrate on two big items: 1. maintenance of the road and Town site and 2. transporting and then beginning installation of signs at the interpretive site. We have most of the new signs in the final stages of fabrication. A lot of thanks go out to Louise Lindgren and Craig O'Brien who have designed and followed through with the companies working on these signs. Hundreds of hours have been invested in this project. And the cost has been significant due to the high quality of vandal proof material needed. Financing has been provided by individual private donations as well as a large donation from the estate of Courtney Bell.

Our first work party this year accomplished some heavy work on the County road. We removed a large root wad with a couple good sized trees from the road just prior to the clay slide. Then we moved our efforts to a portion of the road/trail close to the log crossing, prior to the outhouse. Doug Hammond guided a small crew of us in this area to install a short bypass route where the present trail was dropping off a steep bank due to recent flooding and downfalls. Some of these down falls had taken part of the trail with them unfortunately. But it looks good again now. The log crossing, still the easiest way to cross the Sauk river in this area, looks more like a log jam, as many other trees have piled up over the original log. This makes the route here more of a scramble and is more challenging for hikers and, especially, mountain bikers who have to carry their bikes over this area. Please be very careful when using this section of the access into Monte.

For future work parties, we hope to find volunteers who can help carry in the material for the new signs at the interpretive site. We also have one sign already up at the Town site, ready to be installed, for whoever can help with this. Now that we and all property owners are prohibited/not allowed to drive on any kind of access route, doing this work has become much more challenging, as you might imagine.

Our next work party is on July 16; we meet as usual at the Barlow gate, 9 am. A board member will unlock the gate for anyone without a key so all volunteers can safely park inside the gate for the duration of the work party. For those interested in road maintenance, even the initial sections of the County road, between Barlow and the clay slide, need some brushing with a brush cutter, as the drivable portion is becoming quite narrow. We also hope to have a couple of volunteers hike in to install the finished sign already stored at the Town site. This is significant since it will be the first sign placed on the interpretive site. It was carried in last year by one of the boy scout troupes and locked inside the MCPA cabin. The only tool necessary to bring in for placing the signs is a shovel and we will provide the material needed for filling in holes for the supporting posts.

Last of all, please send in your membership with dues for this year, our website [www.mcpa.us](http://www.mcpa.us) provides the necessary forms. If you still have a key to the gate at Barlow, that continues to work just fine. Our treasurer, David Hartze, has been maintaining that for everyone and it is in great condition. The County has even replaced the signage at the gate so that is new and improved!

The picture included with this article shows a pretty large tree which came down over the trail, close to our new bypass, constructed during the work party. For scale, the bar on a saw brought in for other work wasn't big enough, only 32 inches! 😊 Fortunately, the tree was already bucked up, with the rounds rolled away from the trail.



Cheers everyone!  
Kal Klass, Board Member



### Board Members

President/Webmaster.....	Mike Kahler
Vice President .....	Craig O'Brien
Treasurer .....	David Hartze
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Newsletter Editor .....	Ruth Danielson
Advisor.....	Doug Hammond
Advisor.....	Kal Klass
Advisor.....	Ted Taft

## HISTORICAL ESSAY

Here is part two of Elizabeth Kyes' account of the years she and her family spent at Monte Cristo, where her husband Jim managed the Monte Cristo Mercantile business on upper Dumas Street, just down from the Royal Hotel. At her father's suggestion she and her two children, son Leo and baby Velma, joined him on the 1902 Grand Army of the Republic's excursion from Everett to see the town and scenery and at the same time visit Jim, who had accepted an offer to manage the store. I have edited what she wrote years later.

Jim did not know we were coming but walked down to to see the train come in. He was very happy to see all of us and took us upstairs to his living quarters above the store. I had fixed up a nice lunch for all of us, but it was not touched for a long time. Baby Velma, usually good but still recovering from pneumonia, began to cry and continued for about two hours. Jim went down to the store's drug department and returned with some peppermint, which we gave her in warm water. She finally fell into a restless sleep. Leo, who had been running around to see things, also came upstairs and said he was so tired, still feeling the effects of his earlier case of the same sickness. I had him eat a little, and then he went to bed and immediately fell asleep.

It was almost time for the people to start back to Everett, so it was decided that I had better stay over until the next day and return home on the one o'clock passenger train. Jim went down to see if they would honor my excursion ticket, and the agent said I could.

The children were both sick all night, so we did not get much sleep. I did get a chance to run downstairs and take a look at the magnificent peaks all around us. The weather was wonderful.

The next day we came home. I took Leo to the doctor and told him about our trip to the mountains. He replied that it would be a good place for the boy to spend the summer and recover fully. The doctor said to keep him outdoors, sleep outside if possible, eat vegetables and fruits, and drink a quart of milk a day, along with having twelve hours of sleep at nights. So it finally was decided by us all that we pack our suit cases and some boxes – and go to the mountains for the summer.

So in July 1902 we went again to Monte Cristo to have a wonderful summer. Leo improved in health, and we all felt fine.

I took my first trip up to Glacier Basin. My father said he would take care of the baby. She was about four months old, so I went with one of the ladies from town. We hiked up the old rocky trail, and it was hard going, almost straight up in places. When we came around the last bend we looked at those glorious peaks looming up ahead of us, and there were both the cook and the bunk house of the Pride of the Mountains mine across the creek. There was a nice cabin down in the valley, where we went and introduced ourselves to the lady of the house. She was very nice, made tea for us, and gave some bacon, beans and dried apple sauce. Her husband was shift boss at the Pride of the Mountains mine.

(To be continued) David A. Cameron



Interior of the Monte Cristo Mercantile Company, located on lots 27 and 28 on the north side of Dumas Street and in 1902 owned by Jim Kyes' employer Sound Produce Company. Jim is the man on the right. Photo courtesy of David A. Cameron.

## MCPA Membership Form

Membership Year: \_\_\_\_\_ (membership runs Jan to 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 + A New Barlow Pass Gate Key \***  
(\* keys from 2010 to now are still valid)

- Download "MCPA Waiver/Release" form at [www.mcpc.us](http://www.mcpc.us) (MEMBERSHIP)
- Sign and Notarize the "MCPA Waiver/Release" form
- Mail the Notarized Form, this Form, and \$50 to MCPA
- A new 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 (~24 MB in size).

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](mailto:hartze4@gmail.com)



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.  
PO Box 471  
Everett, WA 98206  
[www.mcpa.us](http://www.mcpa.us)

**Next Work Party is Sat. July 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am  
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate**

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