

POST FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

From the President's Desk:

As we enter the month of May, we are excited to share that the Post Falls Historical Society is preparing to open the museum for our **18th year** in the historic Chapin Building.

As a new president of the Post Falls Historical Society—and a new member of the Post Falls community—I've been receiving a wonderful crash course in "all things Post Falls." I have spent many hours learning about our organization, exploring the archives, and becoming familiar with the rich history of our city. I've truly enjoyed getting to know our board members and working together to make **2026 our best year yet.**

Like many organizations, we do face challenges. The City of Post Falls has requested that we submit a **Request for Proposal (RFP) by July 2** in order to continue operating the museum in the Chapin Building. This will require gathering and presenting a significant amount of information, and we are committed to preparing a strong proposal that reflects the value our museum brings to the community.

I'm also pleased to ask you to mark your calendars for the **America250 Post Falls Historical Food Festival** on May 30th. (See flyer on page 5.) The Histori-

cal Society will be handing out **root beer floats**, and the museum will be open to residents attending events at the City Hall Complex. During the festival, we will sponsor a **"Past to Present Parade" for kids**, with prizes awarded for *Most Creative*, *Most Patriotic*, and *Most Historic* entries. Join us as we celebrate the **250th anniversary of our great country!**

We also have additional summer events in the planning stages, so please look for more announcements in the coming months.

Finally, for the Post Falls Historical Society to continue to thrive, we need your support. Becoming a member, attending our events, and encouraging others to get involved makes a real difference. When the museum moved into the Chapin Building in 2009, civic, business, and community supporters envisioned the Historical Society as an integral part of the city complex. With your continued involvement, we can ensure it remains so for years to come.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at the museum this season.

Warm regards,
Kris King
President, Post Falls Historical Society



Pictured: Kara and Keelan Dickson

Kara and Keelan Dickson are avid Society supporters and owners of Rosemary Manor, a Post Falls winery named for Keelan's grandmother, Rosemary Dickson. This year they labeled one of their wines with an historic photo of the old Pleasant View School. Keelan's recent participation in the Mr. North Idaho non-profit fundraiser brought in a donation of \$287.50 to the Post Falls Historical Society. Thank you Kara and Keelan!

Museum opens May 14th!

Learn all about our activities at postfallsmuseum.org or on our Facebook page!

All contents ©2026 Post Falls Historical Society



PIONEER POST FAMILY CONNECTIONS RUN DEEP IN POST FALLS **AND KOOTENAI COUNTY!**

by Kimberly Rice Brown

The name Post and the falls at Post's Falls have connected families for years. In the case of Sally Post Higgins Barlow, a recent new member of the Post Falls Historical Society, the family connections from Germany to Illinois to Rathdrum and Post Falls run deep on both sides of her family.

Each year, Sally goes to Falls Park to mark her grandson's birthday, noting his growth year by year. Her son, Ryan Post Higgins, and his wife, Michele, became engaged at OUR FALLS. One of their sons, Austin, has "Post" for a middle name and attended Frederick Post Elementary school in Post Falls when it was a grade school.



Adolph William Post, Rathdrum pioneer, nephew of Frederick Post arrived in 1884. He lived from May 19, 1845 to April 23, 1912.

(Photo courtesy of Sally Post Barlow)

As the country was being settled, some of our earliest immigrants, including German immigrant, Frederick Post recognized the power of the Spokane River falls, both the upper (little falls) and the bigger ones at Spokane. He and family members lived in early Spokane, Rathdrum and Post Falls. Post first lived in Kendall County, Illinois, about 50 miles southwest of Chicago. He farmed there for about 20 years damming the tributaries of the Fox River with early gristmill and lumber operations. Post came to the Inland Northwest in 1871 and began utilizing the power of the water for development.

As he surveyed the Inland Northwest, Post built the first flour mill in Spokane, and later picked up squatter's rights near Rathdrum, which were located along the proposed northern railroad route to the Pacific Ocean. He developed a gristmill and sawmill there and a large ranch. Frederick Post lived on the Spokane Prairie, now known as the Rathdrum Prairie there in 1880 along with daughter, Sarah. By this time, Post had developed a gravity flow water supply to the town by 1883.

In 1880 also in addition to Sarah, his other daughter, Mary, was living with her husband, Charles Wesley Wood, an early mail carrier. They had started their family with a son, Milton,

and a baby girl, named Mamie. Unfortunately, infant Mamie died in 1881 and Mary in 1883. Both are buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Post Falls.

After her death, by 1884, Frederick Post had invited his nephew, Adolph (A.W.) son of his brother, William Post to Rathdrum. A.W. continued Frederick Post's early efforts there. He also became a magistrate, a land commissioner, and a notary public in Rathdrum. During the early days, Rathdrum was the county seat of Kootenai County. Many early businessmen traveled to Rathdrum to conduct business. Travel included horse and buggy and wagon travel. In turn, Adolph and his family traveled often to Post Falls for family gatherings and holidays.



Sally Post Higgins Barlow with son, Ryan Post Higgins and wife, Michele at the Frederick Post Display in the City of Post Falls rotunda.

(Pioneer Post Family.....continued from page 2.)

Adolph's son John continued farming in the Rathdrum area and Sally remembers many Rathdrum area ranching-farming families who continued farming for several generations. Everyone seemed to know one another. Her father Fred, and mother, Martha Schuetz had grown up in the area and later married.

Sally's dad, Fred grew up on the Post farm and had many memories of the area. Sally remembers that her father, Fred, son of John and grandson of A.W. once ran to town to ring the bell because of a 1923 fire that nearly burned the town of Rathdrum down. Fire departments were volunteer and in their infancy.



During the Great Depression, Fred was served in the CCC's near Avery. He later trained in all aspects of telephone installation, digging poles, climbing poles, stringing phone lines at Hanford and other areas of the region. He eventually retired from Pacific Northwest Bell.

As the economy of the region went to war, survived the Depression, and sent their children off to WWII, the economy of the area grew. As it transitioned from timber production and farming, it expanded into diversified businesses and tourism. Population growth has spawned many new business ventures for employment.

Members of the A.W. Post family are buried at the Pine Grove Cemetery, which Fred and Sally's mother, Martha, had inherited from her grandparents, John and Tacie Post. Fred and Martha Post later ceded the cemetery to the City of Rathdrum.

Sally, a Coeur d' Alene High School graduate, remembers many fun times of growing up in Coeur d' Alene when

the town didn't go further than Best Avenue, 3rd Street wasn't paved, and family and friends were secure, supported and connected by family, friends and neighbors.

Sally has retired from the State of Idaho working in the Family Service Division of the Department of Health and Welfare. She has two grandsons, two sons, Ryan and Patrick, along with husband, Bill Barlow, two stepsons, Tye and Tom. She has been involved in the antique business at the Forget Me Not Antique and Rebel Junk in Coeur d' Alene. She enjoys history and heritage, and lots of family memories of growing up and recreating throughout North Idaho.

Sources:

A.W. Post obituary, Friday, Apr. 26, 1912, The Silver Blade, Rathdrum, ID.

Place Names and Geographical Features of Kendall County, Kendall County Genealogy.

History of North Idaho, Western Publishing, 1903.

Personal research files and Post Falls Historical Society Post Family files, KR Brown Family Historical Information and Interviews, Sally Post Barlow.



Michele and Ryan Post Higgins, Post Falls residents, are helping celebrate history and heritage with new Society member, Sally Post Higgins Barlow at the Post Falls Museum.

Grateful appreciation to these 2026 new and renewing members!

Ed & Julie Adamchak
Sally Post Barlow *
Ron & Sally Barnett
Lew & Kim Brown
Bob & Carol Burmeister *
Joe Butler
Judy Cowan
Skip & Vickie Eagle
John & Nancy Frazey
Ted Fredekind
Eric & Nok Hamburg *
Bob & Eileen Ickes
Gus Johnson

Bruce & Liz Jones
Kris King *
Paul & Sharon King *
Catherine McClintick
Lisa McLeod *
Cindy Mead
Warren & Dana Merritt
Charley Mixon
Mary Muth *
Fred & Mary Ostermeyer,
Managed Resources
Marvin Patzer
Louise Paulson

Jeanie Peery
Chief Seltice Mobile Park
LLC
Frank & Jeannie Peugh
Post Falls Community
Ambassadors
Post Falls Community
Volunteers
Rathdrum/Westwood
Historical Society
Debra Raymer
Jane Robertson
Pam Rodkey

RNA Post Falls Chapter
Shelley Ruff
Suzanne Schmidt
Seright's Ace Hardware
Robert & Marilyn Shay
Kaiti Tesar
Sonja Uihlein
Carol Yost

** Welcome new members!
Names in bold indicate Museum
and Board volunteers*

Museum Welcomes Tour Attendees

The museum has welcomed several special group tours before our May 14th opening. On January 14th, board member and museum volunteer Catherine McClintick hosted a tour of 11 visitors. A special tour for Frederick Post's great niece Sally Post Barlow was arranged on March 6th by her daughter-in-law Sheryl and granddaughter Bri. March 26th brought 21 5th graders and adults from Christian Center School (pictured right). A group of 17 young adults came for an early evening tour on April 13th and on April 23rd 5 members of a swimming group looked through the museum.

On May 28th 3rd graders from Seltice Elementary will tour the museum as well as 2 other nearby locations.



Follow us on our new Instagram account:

Post Falls Historical Society & Museum

Would you like to join the Historical Society?

Support from our members allows us to keep the Post Falls Museum open and educate the community. Members also receive free admission to several other museums statewide, plus a great newsletter.

Join or renew today!

The Post Falls Historical Society is a 501(c)3 volunteer non-profit organization sharing and preserving local history since 1988.

The board meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome and attendance is also available by Zoom meeting.

AMERICA
250TM

POST FALLS

- THE EARLY YEARS -

A HISTORICAL FOOD FESTIVAL

MAY 30, 2026 | 12:00PM - 6:00PM

LOCATION: N WILLIAM ST, POST FALLS, ID
83854 (BETWEEN E 4TH AVE. AND E 5TH AVE.)

Ticket Pricing:

- Early Bird: \$25
 - Passport & 7 Tastings
- Event Day Admission: \$35
 - Passport & 7 Tastings
- Early Bird Kids (under 12): \$10
 - Mini Passport & 3 Tastings
- Event Day Admission Kids (under 12): \$15
 - Mini Passport & 3 Tastings

Buy tickets here!  [\(https://postfallschamber.org/\)](https://postfallschamber.org/)

- Seven historical food stations
- Live music
- Interactive family activities
- Historical demonstrations

THE JACC
Jackson Arts & Cultural Center

POST FALLS AREA CHAMBER

POST FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION

The museum will open for the 2026 season on May 14th.

Regular hours will be:

Wednesday 11 am—3 pm

Thursday 11 am—3 pm

Friday 11 am—3 pm

Saturday 10 am—4 pm

AMERICA **250** **POST FALLS**
- THE EARLY YEARS -
A HISTORICAL FOOD FESTIVAL

PAST TO PRESENT PARADE

CHILDREN'S COSTUME PARADE

MAY 30, 2026

LINE UP @3:30PM | START PARADE @4:00PM

Start: North side of the Post Falls City Hall parking lot - 408 N Spokane St, Post Falls, ID 83854

Finish for Awards and Ice Cream Social: Post Falls Museum - 101 E 4th Ave, Post Falls, ID 83854

AWARDS FOR: **REGISTER HERE:**

Most Creative! Most Patriotic! Most Historic!



THE JACC
Jackson Arts & Cultural Center

POST FALLS AREA CHAMBER

POST FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION

Did you know that Idaho has an official America250 Ambassador Song? It is titled ***Forever Idaho (Esto Perpetua)*** and was written by Chad Marvin and Wendy French. It was recorded by Idaho's America250 Ambassador Band, a collective of Idaho musicians and engineers assembled specifically for this historic project. It is available on all major streaming platforms and on Alexa-enabled devices. The official music video is available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSMoR_Nv4vM&list=RDxSMoR_Nv4vM&start_radio=1

Our Historical Society Mission:

WE **collect** photographs, stories, memories, oral video histories, veterans' information, and artifacts.

WE **preserve** our information in files, in our Past Perfect museum software (a work in progress), in historic signage, and in our newsletter publications.

WE **share** our history at the Post Falls Museum with students, visitors, and newcomers.

We **share** history with online researchers, in historic presentations, and in writing.

Our VOLUNTEERS work to achieve all of the above.

Please join us in supporting this important work.

Join the Post Falls Historical Society Today!

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

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join as well!

Together we can preserve our past for the future.

Make membership/renewal checks payable to:

Post Falls Historical Society

Mail to:

Post Falls Historical Society

PO Box 57

Post Falls ID 83877

___ 2026 Membership

☐ **Renewal** - *Thank you!*

☐ **New Member** - *Welcome!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Level: (Check one)

I'm interested in helping!

___ Individual \$20

___ Board Member

___ Museum Host

___ Family \$30

___ Education

___ Other:

___ Business/Contributor \$100

___ Events and Activities

Visit the Post Falls Historical Society Museum at 101 E 4th Ave, Post Falls

Contact Information: Museum: (208) 262-9642

postfallshistoricalsociety@gmail.com

postfallsmuseum.org