

Students from Six Counties Visit The Bair in May

Our 2013 season started in May with educational visits from 166 students from six different counties: Wheatland, Sweetgrass, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Park and Stillwater. Classes came from Harlowton, Big Timber, Shields Valley, Ryegate, Melstone and Reedpoint to



Docent Don Amundson (left) with Shields Valley art students.

view the **Crow and Gros Ventre Indian Ledger Exhibit** on loan from MSU–Billings, the **Plains Indian Permanent Exhibition**, and **paintings by Charles Russell and Joseph Henry Sharp**. The students learned about the history of Native Americans in Montana and the life

of the Bair family, and their role in the state's past, present and future.

It is not too late to bring your students to the Bair Museum this year. We are open in September and October and would love to customize a visit for your school. Give us a call at 406-572-3314 or email info@bairfamilymuseum.org to reserve your date!

From the Museum's Archives...

Tucked away in the southeast corner of the Bair home's formal Office, the first room visitors enter when on a tour of the home, is this **19th Century American coffee grinder**. Surrounded by Louis XV style furniture and European decorative objects, it is surmised that the grinder was once used on the ranch to produce sufficient ground coffee for both the family and ranch hands. A beautiful object in its own right, it is made of painted cast iron and wood with two big wheels for left and right handed turning and is approximately 24 inches high. Decorated with a draped American flag, it was manufactured by Enterprise Mfg. Company in Philadelphia, PA, and patented on July 12, 1898.



We're Open 7 Days a Week through Labor Day!

In our Galleries...

Currently Showing through August 11, 2013

The museum's **sixth gallery** features work borrowed from public or private collections rotated each season. This summer we are honored to present an exhibition of **Plains Indian Ledger Drawings** from the Charles H. Barstow Collection held in the Library's Special Collections Department of Montana State University– Billings.



Drawing of a Buffalo Hunt by New Bear, Gros Ventre; 1884; pencil, commercial pigments and ink on paper; 8 x 12½ inches

Created during last decades of the 19th Century, “ledger drawings” were the pictorial art of the American Indian tribes of the Northern Plains, the last generation of nomadic warriors. Using manufactured materials — pencils, ink and commercial pigments on the pages of recycled ledger books, school notebooks and office forms — many Indian men turned to art as a means of preserving and passing on stories of their personal deeds and experiences, records of tribal history and traditions, and responses to new circumstances.

Become a Member of The Bair Museum

Purchasing a membership to The Bair Museum for yourself, your family or your business supports our educational and outreach programs and special exhibitions and events. Please help us expand our programs to reach an ever-increasing and diverse group of students and life-long learners.

Ongoing Exhibits

The Bair Museum has five galleries devoted to the Bair family's eclectic and historically and aesthetically significant collection. They include the **Blue Gallery** featuring work by early American painters and 19th and 20th Century European works. Among the most beloved paintings in this collection are four paintings by French artist Edouard Leon Cortes (1882–1969). The **Red Gallery** includes paintings by Charles Russell, a close Bair family friend. The **Plains Indian beadwork display** features a user-friendly touch screen for identifying each object that is enjoyed by visitors of all ages. The **hallway alcove** displays feature Navajo weavings, and the **Curtis Gallery** exhibits a selection each season from the family's Edward S. Curtis collection, which numbers over 190 original photogravures purchased by Charles Bair from the artist in the early part of the 20th Century.

Upcoming~August 14–October 31, 2013



Museum docent **Ethel Berg** preparing a ye'ii weaving for the August exhibit **Handspun: Navajo Weavings from the Bair Collection** will feature the permanent collection's early Crystal and pictorial weavings.

www.bairfamilymuseum.org

Info about the exhibits, membership, hours and more!

BAIR MUSEUM

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