

New MHS App Lets Us Explore Montana Together

Your Montana Historical Society is ready to travel along with you as you discover the historical wonders of Montana.

If you are not much of a traveler, you also can visit those wonders virtually from your favorite armchair.

MHS has a new mobile app and web site, ExploreBig. The tremendous MHS collections and data set of historical marker text tell you the stories of Montana by guiding you to the fascinating historic buildings and places where Montana history took place.

The new ExploreBig mobile app is available for both Android

and iOS devices by searching for “Explore Montana History” on the Google Play and Apple App Store. ExploreBig is also available on the web at <http://explorebig.org>.

The new site draws on information from more than 1,500 buildings and sites across Montana that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and have a MHS historical marker sign. The sign text information has been fully researched for the stories they tell by MHS staff members.

“We are focusing on broad state themes that link disparate sites across the state,” MHS Digital Services Manager Tammy Troup



MHS Digital Services Manager Tammy Troup and app take you on a historic trip through Montana.

said. “We began chronologically and future tours will be thematic or focus on historic districts.”

MHS App (cont. on p. 4)



Flies from the collection of “A River Runs Through It” author Norman Maclean in fishing exhibit.



Anglers Will Want to ‘Catch’ January Opening of New Exhibit

The Montana Historical Society will be rocking the boat Jan. 19 with the gala grand opening of a new exhibit “Hooked: Fishing in Montana.”

Artifacts from hook, line and sinkers to loans from the family of Norman Maclean of a “River Runs Through It” fame and others will make this an exhibit worth catching.

The exhibit will explore how families and friends from Native American tribes to those who came later have fished the waters of Big Sky Country over the years. It will also look at how individuals

and organizations like Montana State Fish, Wildlife and Parks have worked to preserve fish and public access to waters for all generations.

Highlights include a Nez Perce-style dugout canoe built in about 1860 by Ed Lamorais and Alikot for use on the Flathead River, Maclean artifacts including three bamboo rods used by three generations of the family, Maclean’s fishing shirts and hand-tied flies mentioned in his book.

The exhibit is curated by MHS Curator of History Maggie Ordon and MHS Registrar Kendra Newhall.

New Exhibit (cont. on p. 4)

The Montana History Conference, the MHS' Signature Event...

Over the course of a typical year, the Montana Historical Society produces several dozen public programs. Some are held at Montana's Museum in Helena—the Thursday evening lecture series and Second Saturday, for example. Others are held across the state as our historians, archivists, historic preservation specialists and curators hit the road taking the stories of Montana's rich history to thousands. Only one public program carries the title of "Signature Event." The Montana History Conference, now in its 43rd year, provides three-days of fun-filled immersion in the history of Montana and the region of the state in which the conference is held.

The 43rd Annual Montana History Conference, (Roots & Branches), 175 Years of Montana History, was held in Hamilton and Stevensville in September in the beautiful and history-rich Bitterroot Valley. Outreach and Interpretation Manager Kirby Lambert and his team scheduled the conference in the Bitterroot at the invitation of our friends at the St. Mary's Mission in Stevensville. September 24 marked the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Mission. In 1841, Father Pierre-Jean De Smet journeyed west from St. Louis at the invitation of the Salish and Nez Perce to share the message of Christianity. The St.

Mary's Mission was founded. This year's conference was coordinated with the Founder's Day celebration at the mission. Conference participants joined in this important celebration of the long heritage of native people in the valley and the "Black Robes" who came in peace to share their lessons on faith and spirituality.

The conference included nearly 40 separate topics and programs, keynote presentation and a variety of tours and workshops for educators and the curious. The annual conference includes the awarding of the Montana Heritage Keepers Awards and the Montana Heritage Guardian Award. You'll read more on that in this issue.

The real attraction of the conference is that it's not designed for professional historians or academics. All you need to attend and enjoy the conference is an appreciation for Montana's young, but rich, history and a curiosity to explore some of the its unique places and stories.

Here are a few comments from those who attended this year's conference:

"I feel more informed, inspired, eager to read and learn, and fired up to use the information when I return to my classroom."

"I liked that the conference was in a locale that brought so much history to the conference. The local history provided me with opportunities to learn about an area of Montana that I was unfamiliar with."

"Great celebration of Montana's diverse history."

"Amazing presenters and sharing of knowledge!"

"Incredible programming to enhance our knowledge of Montana history. Incredible value."

"The tours and first person

perspectives really made several seminars pop out and exceed expectations."

"Topics were great. Gave people a wonderful insight into the Bitterroot Valley."

For 43 years the conference, our Signature Event, has toured the state. Most recently in Sidney, Bozeman, Missoula, Helena and now Hamilton.

Save the date and join in the fun, the 44th Annual Montana History Conference will return to Helena September 21-23, 2017. 🌟

SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD

Cooking up History

Bessie and Lyle Eggum shared a love of Montana cookbooks throughout their married life.

After Bessie's death more than a year ago, Lyle asked the MHS Research Center if they would be interested in the cookbook collection. When the staff saw the bookcase after bookcase of cookbooks in the Eggum's Helena home's basement, they realized how important it was. To date they have identified more than 130 community cookbooks from across Montana that were not in the MHS collection that already numbered more than 700 from across the state. 🌟



MHS Reference Historian Zoe Ann Stoltz and new Montana cookbook donation.

About Us

The *Society Star* is published quarterly by the Montana Historical Society as a benefit of membership.

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Hockaday Museum of Art the Heart of Glacier Country

The Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell shares the beauty of Glacier National Park and the Flathead Lake area in a beautiful gallery setting.

"The Hockaday is proud of its extensive permanent collection that features the art and artists of Glacier National Park and the Blackfeet Nation," Hockaday Director Tracy Johnson said.

Since taking over her job in May, Johnson has launched a plan to increase educational programming to support its rotating exhibits. "I have some ideas in mind that will

bring the Hockaday Museum more to the community and region, to the people that support us in our mission, and to those that may not have an opportunity to learn about art," she said. "I believe art can be for everyone."

The museum opened in 1969 as part of the Flathead Valley Art Association and was named for Lakeside artist Hugh Hockaday who died in 1968. It is located in the 100-year-old Carnegie Library Building that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you are traveling to Glacier



The Hockaday brings the beauty of Glacier country indoors.

National Park or the Flathead Lake area, it is worth a stop – and the folks you will meet love to show off their art. 🌟

Kendra Newhall Living the Montana Life

Museum work isn't just for those who love the great indoors.

Montana Historical Society Registrar Kendra Newhall grew up and worked on a third-generation farm in northwestern Illinois. She knows first-hand what it means to work with livestock and raise crops. She is an avid archery hunter and outdoor enthusiast, which shows in the current MHS exhibit she co-curated, "Big Game, Big Stories: Montana's Hunting Heritage."

Although she learned to bake with her grandma, Newhall said she worked side-by-side with her two older brothers on the farm. "I was the youngest, but did the same chores they did," she said.

In high school she had an interest in art. With her quick sense of humor, she said "My favorite thing was leaving school at 3:10."

Newhall went on to earn a degree in Art History at Rockford College in Illinois and a master's degree in Historical Administration at Eastern Illinois University. As an intern, she worked at the Andersonville National Historic Site, which was a brutal prisoner



Kendra Newhall at home in the museum or in the wilds.

of war camp during the Civil War.

Curating "Surviving Bitter Weather: How POWs Did It" at Andersonville, taught her about the terrible hardships of war, as well as the courage of those who endured it. "In reading the diaries and letters I became engulfed in the emotions of the writers and began visualizing the activities, environment, and fellowship between prisoners," she said.

Before joining MHS in 2007, she worked for the Far West Heritage Association in Chico,

California, cataloging and inventorying the contents of an 1877 Italianate manor on the Patrick Ranch, which would later become an historic house museum.

She is responsible for cataloging new acquisitions. To date 41,694 artifacts have been cataloged.

Families or individuals who want to donate artifacts to MHS

should learn as much as they can of the objects. "The more information we have, the better interpretation we can provide," she said.

In 2013 Newhall married her husband Brian, who is a native Montanan and also an archery hunter. She shot her second deer this season, but says that it is only a "place holder." "I want to shoot an elk this season," she said.

Montana is her new home, and MHS is lucky to have her. 🌟

MHS App (cont. from p. 1)

The six tours on the site now are Homesteads, Mining Industry, Early Montana, Railroads, Hamilton Historic District and Great Falls Northside Residential Historic District. Troup said new themes and stories will continue to be added to ExploreBig.

For example, when you open the Early Montana tour, you see a state map with pins denoting locations that tell the story. Below the map is a narrative that begins “The earliest historical sites in Montana reflect the period of transition when European building ways and property ownership ideas marked a land long in use by Native Americans.”

At the conclusion of the narrative, individual sites are shown explaining their importance to the tour and an historical photograph of the building or site. The app uses GIS technology to help you navigate to the sites. It also hosts audio and video files that allow you to listen to stories about many of the sites.

The idea for the project came about when Gov. Steve Bullock asked state agencies to come up with new ways to use the data and collections they have to benefit the public.

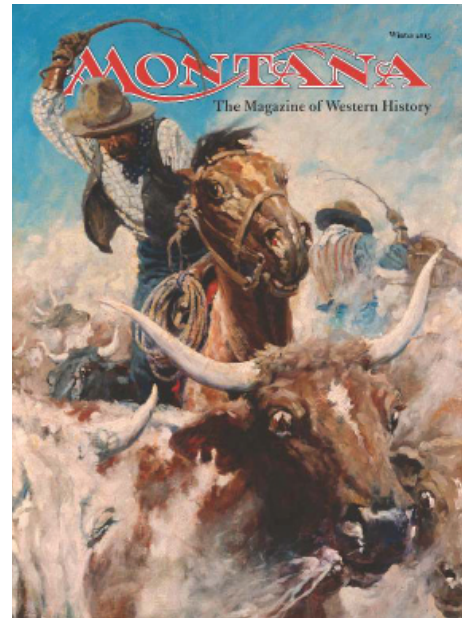


MHS Magazine Turning 65 Still Winning Awards

“Montana The Magazine of Western History” is celebrating its 65th birthday and keeping up the tradition of winning awards and breaking new ground in the history of the West.

This year the MHS magazine, which is part of your benefits of MHS membership, has already won three awards for articles. “Surviving Montana: Women’s Memories of Work and Family Life 1900—1960” by Laurie Mercier won the Friends of the Montana Historical Society Award, and the Paladin Award went to “Dead Work: Electric Futures, and the Hidden History of the Gilded Age” by Jeremy Zallen.

Continuing its tradition of winning prestigious national awards, the magazine was honored with another Silver Spur award by the Western Writers of America



MHS magazine turns 65 and still rounding up Montana history.

for “Cowboys and Capitalists: The XIT Ranch in Texas and Montana, 1885—1912.”

The best history magazine in the West continues to get better for readers like you. ⚙️



New Exhibit (cont. from p.1)

Montanans treasure the beautiful rivers, streams and lakes of Montana as well as the diverse fish populations, including wild and native trout, Ordon said, no matter how they do their fishing. “We will highlight how special fishing is to Montanans and visitors to the state,” she said; “Whether it’s fly fishing, ice fishing, lure fishing or bait fishing, there will be something for all anglers to enjoy in the exhibit.”

The new exhibit will “lure” you in.

The free public gala the evening of Jan. 19 will include free hors d’oeuvres. Ordon and Newhall (who is featured on page three of this issue of the Star) also co-curated the “Big Game, Big Stories: Montana’s Hunting Heritage” currently on exhibit. The hunting exhibit will be up until next June, and the fishing exhibit until February 2018. So come enjoy the great outdoors in the comfort of the great indoors of Montana’s Museum. ⚙️

MHS Trustees Honor Three for Outstanding Contributions to Montana History

The Montana Historical Society at the 43rd Annual Montana History Conference in Hamilton honored Alfred Wiseman of Choteau, Nancy Watts of Lewistown, and Evan Barrett of Butte for their outstanding contributions to Montana history and heritage.

The awards were presented at a banquet in Hamilton where the conference was held with a special focus on the history of the Bitterroot Valley. (Read the Director's Corner on page two for more on the conference.)

"Our 15-member Board of Trustees from across the state take great honor in recognizing the important contributions of these three outstanding Montanans. The history of Montana has been enriched by their efforts and dedication to telling the stories of our great state," MHS Trustees President Bob Brown said.

Wiseman and Watts were named 2016 recipients of Trustees Heritage Keeper Awards, and Barrett the special Heritage Guardian Award.

The Heritage Keepers Awards are presented annually. Evan Barrett received the Heritage Guardian Award presented occasionally under special circumstances for a unique contribution – last presented in 2011.

Barrett was closely involved in major events in Montana from 1965 to 1980, a period University of Montana Professor Emeritus Harry Fritz has called the second most important time period in Montana history.

It includes events like the growth of the environmental movement, the death of the Anaconda Company, the crafting of a new state Constitution, the rise of feminism and the reorganization of Montana's executive branch of government.

Determined to preserve the history of this pivotal time while those who lived it were still alive, Barrett while working at Highlands College of Montana Tech created the documentary series, "In the Crucible of Change: Montana's Dramatic Period of Progressive Change, 1965-1980."

The series has aired more than 1,000 times on PBS, cable channels across Montana, and is available via internet as transcripts and video. It features 43, hour-length discussions with more than 75 of the period's history makers.

Wiseman was born in Choteau in 1936 and has spent much of his life preserving and sharing the history of the Metis in Montana he learned from the stories of his mother, uncles and other elders of the tribe.

As founder of Metis Cultural Recovery Inc., Wiseman has gathered more than 30 oral histories with Metis elders that are part of the MHS Archives and Old Trail Museum in Choteau collections. Historians, historic preservationists and other scholars have praised Wiseman for his help in understanding the history of the Metis.

Nancy Watts has made accessible and helped collect the history of Lewistown and its environs to the public for 23 years as reference librarian for the Lewistown Public Library, Community Preservation Officer, local historian, and volunteer at the Central Montana Historical Museum.

Born in Pennsylvania, Watts became fascinated with local history when asked to proof read a local history book, "The History of Lewistown." She began to collect and index local history material, tied it into a strong collection on all Montana history, and helped



MHS Trustee Steve Lozar and his father Stephen "Bud" Lozar in traditional dress at MHS Montana History Conference.

with local history publications and displays.

She led a team of local historians and archivists in creating two significant online collections on Central Montana history. She was an early and outspoken advocate for the Montana Memory Project, a statewide computer digitization project sponsored by the Montana State Library and MHS.

Her work in helping history organizations use modern technology to provide access to research materials has been widely recognized across the state. 🌟

Con Con Short

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 17 for the 45th Reunion of the Montana Constitutional Convention delegates who will be celebrating at 9 am in the House Chambers in Helena.

The roll call will give the families the opportunity to sit in the seats of departed delegates and say what the convention meant to them. 🌟

MHS State Historic Preservation Office Hits Milestone for Tax Credit Program

The Montana Historical Society is celebrating a milestone in Montana historic preservation. The Federal and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, administered by MHS' State Historic Preservation Office, has incentivized \$70 million in private investment toward preserving important historic properties across the state.

Tax credits for income-producing National Register properties have had a major impact on saving Montana heritage, Historic Architecture Specialist Pete Brown said.

Through the program historic property owners are eligible for federal and state income tax credits totaling 25 percent of their building rehabilitation investment, he said. Only projects where rehab costs exceed the building's purchase price qualify for the program.

The first historic properties were approved for the tax incentive program in Montana in 1990.

Projects typically involve buildings "with good bones, aesthetic and historic qualities, but with significant challenges towards their continued use," Brown said. Without the incentives, Brown said the buildings were likely to continue to deteriorate creating blight in their neighborhoods.

"The program has been meaningful to civically-minded idealists who see historic architecture as adding to one's quality-of-life, but it's also appealing to your no-nonsense pragmatist who wants a building that is attractive to tenants, and a positive return on investment," Brown said.

Although the average Montana historic rehabilitation tax credit project is just under \$1 million,



The MHS State Historic Preservation Office not only saves important historic building and sites for Montana history, it also teaches us about that history. Here, school kids learn to throw the Native American atlatl at this year's Archaeology Day event.

some larger projects have included the \$6.6 million Arvon Block in Great Falls; the \$2.4 million Billings Babcock Theater renovation; and the recent \$2.3 million rehabilitation of the Helena YWCA.

"It is very fitting that this milestone has been reached in Montana in 2016, which is the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966," said State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumler. 🌟

Governor Praises MHS Historic Preservation Efforts

Gov. Steve Bullock has praised the efforts of MHS's State Historic Preservation Office for its work in saving important historical sites and properties across the state, which he said "makes sense culturally, educationally and economically."

He made the comments in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. "The federal government created an enduring partnership with state and local governments, and later sovereign tribal nations, to identify and maintain our historic places—safeguarding them from unnecessary harm, he said.

Montana SHPO programs include the National Register of Historic Places, the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit, and

the Certified Local Government community preservation program in communities across the state.

The past fifty years have consistently demonstrated the value and importance of historic preservation in Montana, Bullock said, and the next fifty years hold the promise of even greater stewardship of our Montana heritage for future generations.

"As Governor of Montana, I am honored to support the National Historic Preservation Act and would like to thank the Montana Historical Society for their continued efforts recognizing and preserving Montana's significant historic, archaeological and traditional cultural places," Bullock said. 🌟

Saving Our Capitol for Last

John and Ruth Pace saved the "Last Best Place" Capitol for last.

MHS provides tours of the Montana Capitol to thousands of people each year, but the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, couple's visit this summer was special. It completed their tour of all 50 state capitols in the nation.

When she learned that the Paces were coming, MHS Program Specialist Deb Mitchell, who heads the Capitol tour program, had a surprise for them. In addition to a cake, she asked Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney to welcome them to Montana's People's House.

The Paces were thrilled and offered this advice: "You're cheating yourself if you don't take the tour." If you haven't, we suggest you do.



First Door on the Left

BY REBECCA BAUMANN, MHS
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

The Holiday Season is approaching rapidly, and I have a great idea for you. One way to make your life a bit easier and to make your friends and family happy is by giving them the gift of a MHS membership.

Montana history and heritage is a gift as special as the Last Best Place we all love. Give me a call at 406-444-2918, or go online, at: <http://mhs.mt.gov/Membership/> Join to purchase a gift membership.

It's a great gift for those who have ties to the state, but live elsewhere, because it keeps them in touch with Montana and their history. It's even more fun for those lucky enough to still live here.

Memberships purchased before December 15th will be mailed in time for Christmas. Your gift will include a copy of Montana The Magazine of Western History and the MHS 2017 Calendar – Cowgirls & Cowboys, along with a letter letting them know you care. I will send you an itemized deduction statement, because everything but \$35 of your gift is tax deductible. ☼



The MHS Museum Store has lot of holiday gift ideas like this 2016 commemorative ornament featuring Jeannette Rankin.

Museum Store Ready To Help You with Holidays

The history elves have been working hard to help the MHS Museum Store find the special gifts that will help you bring historic joy to friends and family this holiday season.

At the top of the list is a beautiful ornament that commemorates the 100th anniversary of Montana voters electing Jeannette Rankin

as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Congress. The 2016 collectors ornament was created by the Montana Capitol Restoration Foundation and proceeds go for restoration of Montana's People's House.

Of course, the store has a great selection of books on Rankin's career and life, as well as the best selection of books on Montana history anywhere. You can also order MHS 2017 calendars that feature "Montana Cowgirls and Cowboys" historic photographs.

Charlie Russell and other art prints, posters, Native American and other made in Montana gifts, jewelry and much, much more will help you find that unique gift for those on your holiday list.

Museum Store Manager Rod Coslet and his staff will use their broad knowledge of Montana history to help you do your shopping. If you can't come into the store, you can call toll-free 1-800-243-9900, and let them help you.

For those who like to do their shopping online, the Museum Store will have a brand new electronic store up soon at www.montanahistoricalociety.org. ☼

Why do you love Montana history?

BY SUSAN NEAR, MHS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

If you are reading this, we know you love Montana history. But why? Perhaps it is that despite our state being relatively young, our past is plentiful and wide-ranging. Countless stories of our shared heritage are preserved. Whether your interest is historic buildings, Native American culture, community history, Western art, or genealogy, MHS maintains rich resources for your use and enjoyment.

Maybe your love is of discovery. Each day more of our past is saved

or rediscovered, New collections are acquired, new programs are presented, new educational materials are produced, new articles and books are published, and new exhibits are mounted. It is exciting to learn about or uncover new pieces of Montana's past—and exhilarating when new connections are revealed.

Your love of Montana history is very individual, but the common thread among us is that we weave passion for the past into the richness of our lives. MHS provides

authentic accounts of our heritage in a variety of ways to touch you—and thousands of people—every year. Your financial support of MHS is invaluable, enabling us to continue to impact people's lives through their connection to our heritage. Thank you for your love of Montana history, and for your kind donations!

Call me at 406-444-4713 or email snear@mt.gov to learn more about how you can help us preserve the history you love. ☼

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

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*We are
thankful for
our members!*

Voices from the Past Brings History Alive



A new generation is learning about Montana's past in the words of those who lived it. The Montana Historical Society is using staff and other historical re-enactors to get young people as well as adults excited about history. Pictured above, MHS Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler, dressed as Mary Ronan, talks to a group of students about her early days living along the gulches in the gold boom town of Virginia City. After their visit with Mary, the students moved on to the MHS Research Center and enthusiastically did research into the early gold boom years. "When history comes alive, students will take that excitement with them and always remember what they have learned," Baumler said.