

Crow Indian Photographs Now Online

The MHS Photograph Archives has recently concluded its largest digitization project to date! This past summer, digital project assistant Jacey Anderson added more than one thousand images to the Montana Memory Project as part of a paid internship. Anderson, a PhD student in the history department at Montana State University, scanned the images from photographic material contained in the Bud Lake and Randy Brewer Crow Indian Photograph Collection (Lot 035).

Assembled by Lake and Brewer over several decades, this highly significant collection documents the life, dress, work, and customs of people living on the Crow Reservation from the 1870s to the 1950s. Subjects range from tepee camps to dances, parades, ceremonies, fairs, and burials. There are portraits of prominent people like Chief Plenty Coups, Curly, Two Leggings, White Man Runs Him, White Swan, Max, and Myrtle Big Man, as well as images of less famous—and unfortunately unidentified—men, women, and children. In addition, off-reservation subjects cover Yellowstone National Park, the Beartooth Mountains, Little Bighorn Battlefield and Custer Monument, the Cody Road, and the towns of Crow Agency, Pryor, Broadview, Shelby, and Billings.

Photographers represented in the collection include such well-known figures as D. F. Barry, R. R. Doubleday, Orlando S. Goff, Fred


E. Miller, Frank A. Rinehart, Joseph Henry Sharp, and Richard Throssel. The collection also features lesser-known Montana photographers like Willem Wildschut, Alfred Baumgartner, and M. E. Hawkes. Some of these men lived with the Crow people on the Crow Indian Reservation, while others attended and photographed special events such as fairs or parades.

Making these images available online for easy public access represents the culmination of many years of work. MHS acquired the photographs in 2015 from Lake and Brewer, who had spent decades acquiring the historic images to aid them in documenting their important assemblage of Crow artifacts. Once their collection arrived at MHS, archivists rehoused the vintage prints and negatives in special archival sleeves, envelopes, folders, and boxes to help ensure long-term preservation. During 2016 and 2017, contract archivist Sue Jackson fully catalogued the massive collection, creating the metadata that Anderson used in digitizing the collection and in curating an online exhibit in the MHS Digital Vault.

The Lake and Brewer images are among more than 4,500 digital images from the Society's photograph archives currently available on the Montana Memory Project at <https://mtmemory.org/digital/collection/p267301coll3>. Enter "Bud Lake and Randy Brewer" in the "Advanced Search" box in the



Crow's Child by O. S. Goff, ca. 1885 #: Lot 035 B03F03.03

upper right corner of the web page to browse the more than 1,000 images that comprise this collection. To explore Anderson's digital exhibit based on this collection, visit <http://digitalvault.mhs.mt.gov/exhibits/show/bud-lake>. 

About Us

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Having fun with Montana's history ...

Some see the Montana Historical Society as a warehouse of artifacts and documents. Others see it as a just an old museum. Most days, however, it's more like a "celebration." You see, we strongly believe that a most important aspect of our mission is access. Access to the stories and collections through Montana's Museum and the Research Center, through public events and conferences, or through multiple digital platforms.

We recently hosted the 46th Annual Montana History Conference. Approximately 300 history buffs from around the nation gathered for three days of immersion in stories of our land. Although this year's conference was in Helena, the conference travels to other Montana communities every other year, taking the "show on the road." The conference is a great community gathering, a comfortable space for learning together, celebrating the great history of our state, and enjoying the company of friends and colleagues.

Another great event occurred on September 7 when we held a "Mammoth Party"—pun intended. The party celebrated the opening of our wonderful new entrance to the Montana Homeland Gallery, "The End of the Last Ice Age." Kids of all ages had fun atlatl throwing, watching Native dancing, eating Indian tacos, and digging for hidden treasures. Well over five hundred people enjoyed the activities and the new exhibit. It was a great way to celebrate over ten thousand years of history.

Building on that celebration, October brings Archaeology Day. Hundreds of students from local elementary schools visit the Montana Historical Society to learn about, observe, and participate in flint-knapping, rock



To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of such milestones as Apollo 11 and Woodstock, the 46th Annual Montana History Conference kicked off with a 1960s themed reception masterminded by MHS volunteer coordinator Katie White, shown here with her daughter Katelynde enjoying a 1969 edition of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*.

boiling, hide scraping, atlatl throwing and many other activities that provide hands-on experiences of our distant past.

You don't have to attend our events to join in the celebration of Montana history. Through our websites, apps, and social media platforms, we provide access to images, stories, artwork, and conversation. Find us on Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram, Soundcloud, or YouTube. Search thousands of photos and documents at MTMemory.org; learn about Montana women's history at MontanaWomensHistory.org; discover Montana during World War I at mhs.mt.gov/education/WWI; or explore over 1,700 historic Montana buildings and places at ExploreBig.org.

History is not boring! There's something new every day at the Montana Historical Society because

we celebrate our history and work hard to make it easy and fun for you to discover it with us. 🌟



Salish elder and cultural leader Tony Incashola speaks in front of a mural depicting Montana ice age fauna as part of the "Mammoth Party" festivities held in September.

SHPO Announces Grants for Rural Preservation

In September, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announced \$350,000 in Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage (RMRH) grant program funds to support the preservation of historic buildings in rural communities across the state. Funding for this brick-and-mortar grant comes from the National Park Service's (NPS) Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program (HRSP). SHPO is among nine entities nationwide to obtain HRSP funds in the program's inaugural year. It will award grants between \$10,000 and \$100,000 for physical repairs and improvements to rural properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. All work must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

SHPO's Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton says that "The RMRH grant will be a tool for rural communities eager to capitalize on their built heritage. It will help re-establish underutilized buildings to strengthen towns socially and economically. The ideal candidate property is one that would be a hub for locals and a draw for tourists."



The Ekalaka Town Hall & Library's success influenced SHPO in its application for Historic Revitalization Subgrant funds from the National Park Service.

SHPO's idea for the RMRH program came from seeing home-grown preservation projects succeed in a few rural communities across the state. Ekalaka established its town hall and library in an empty bank the town preserved; one by one, Phillipsburg's commercial building owners reinvented the town by repainting and sprucing up their Victorian-era building façades; and Deer Lodge's Rialto Theater rose from the ashes of a devastating fire to maintain its status as the community's gathering place on Main Street.

"We saw community buy-in with these pioneering projects. They were restorative architecturally, but also restorative in terms of community spirit. We always thought it would be great if SHPO could be in a position to help these projects along monetarily, and now we can," says SHPO's Historic Architecture Specialist Pete Brown.

SHPO seeks a diverse applicant base including private, non-profit, and public owners of historic properties within rural census tracts. Potential applicants can obtain a preliminary screening application at <https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo>. 🌟

More Kudos for the Magazine

The summer was a busy award season for *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. The magazine received two awards in June from the Western Writers of America. Peter H. Hassrick's article, "Art, Agency, and Conservation: A Fresh Look at Albert Bierstadt's Vision of the West," won the Spur Award for Best Western Short Nonfiction; and Rodger C. Henderson's article, "The Piikuni and the U.S. Army's Piegan Expedition: Competing Narratives of the 1870 Massacre on the Marias River," was named

a finalist in the same category. Both articles were published in the Spring 2018 magazine, which also won the Publications Design Award from the Mountain-Plains Museums Association in 2018. John C. Russell's article, "Holding the Herd: Nelson Story's 1866 Cattle Drive," from the Winter 2018 issue of the magazine, won the Wild West History Association's award for Best Scholarly Article of 2018 at the Wild West History Association Roundup in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in July. 🌟



In Praise of Docents

BY DEB MITCHELL,
PROGRAM SPECIALIST

“What exactly is a docent?” is the most frequent question I get in my work in the Outreach and Interpretation program at MHS. In the museum world, a docent is a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis, in a museum, art gallery, or zoo. The Montana Historical Society fits well into two of those categories and sometimes all three, when we have several schools here at one time and it feels like a zoo—the best kind of zoo!

All of our docents are exceptional—they are passionate about Montana’s rich history, and their enthusiasm shows in every tour they give. Each conveys his or her own interest in Montana’s past with our museum visitors, following the

tradition of learning by helping students and adults make connections between the artifacts of the past and the reality they perceive today.

I am so proud of the people who volunteer their time and energy to learn about our exhibits and share that knowledge and experience with our visitors. Without docents, our exhibits would not come to life or be relevant to all who visit. We give our docents the basics, but they provide the essence, the spirit, and the enjoyment that our visitors and school students take home with them.

The next time you see any of these remarkable docents giving a tour, be sure to thank them for all they do. Their generosity is boundless, and their abilities are extensive. We certainly would not be where we are now if it were not for them. 🌟



As part of ongoing docent training, former MHS interpretive historian Ellen Baumler (third from left) gives a tour of Reeder’s Alley to MHS docents (left to right) Judy Dorsch, Connie Erickson, Pam Hulbert, Donna Paul, Nancy Perry, Kathryn Van Alstine, Anthony Schrippo, and Janet Harper.

Teacher Leaders Spread the Word

In June 2019, six remarkable high school teachers became Montana Historical Society’s Teacher Leaders in History fellows after a two-day summit where they learned about Montana Historical Society’s educator resources, shared their own best lessons, and discussed ways to improve the way history—and especially Montana history—is taught across the state. These teachers join our eight returning elementary and middle school teachers for the third year of the MHS Teacher Leaders in History program.

The Teacher Leaders hail from all corners of the state: Ashland, Bainville, Belgrade, Bigfork, Billings, Columbus, Conrad, Eureka, Garrison, Miles City, Philipsburg, Shelby, and Wibaux. All the teachers in the program have joined the Montana Historical Society’s Teacher Advisory Committee and have agreed to call on their extensive classroom experi-

ence to help MHS staff create and improve teaching materials. They have also pledged to provide professional development within their own schools and districts and to present at one or more regional or statewide conferences, thus spreading the word about MHS and the resources it offers.

These education ambassadors are already hard at work. This fall, Teacher Leader Kari Blaylock (Columbus) worked with teachers at nearby Reed Point school, Teacher Leader Laura Monasmith offered a workshop to her colleagues at Pine Hills Correctional Facility in Miles City, and Teacher Leaders Ron Buck, Ruth Ferris, Michael Herdina, and Kathi Hoyt are all scheduled to provide sessions at the statewide Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) Educator Conference in Belgrade October 17–18. Later in October, Teacher Leader Laura Dukart (Wibaux) will be offering a

workshop to other eastern Montana teachers through the Prairie View Curriculum Consortium.

Learn more about the 2019–2020 Teacher Leaders in History fellows at <https://mhs.mt.gov/education/ConferencesWorkshops/Teacher-Leaders>. 🌟



Left to right: Kari Blaylock (Columbus), Deb Mitchell (MHS), Michael Herdina (Conrad), Laura Monasmith (Miles City), Elysia Bain (Ashland), Nick Zarnowski (MHS), Cynthia Wilondek (Big Fork), Martha Kohl (MHS), and Deb McLaughlin (Belgrade).

News in Brief

The American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) recognized the Montana Historical Society's World War I commemorative project, Montana and the Great War, with an **Award of Excellence**. The project included the exhibit *Times of Trouble, Times of Change*, on view through the end of this year; the website Montana and the Great War (<https://mhs.mt.gov/education/WWI>); and World

War I-themed tours at the Original Governor's Mansion and other World War I-related programming that took place during the 2017–2018 centennial. Curator of history Maggie Ordon accepted the award for the Montana Historical Society at the 2019 AASLH annual meeting in Philadelphia. 🌟



MHS curator of history Maggie Ordon accepts the Award of Excellence from AASLH council chair John Fleming (left) and AASLH president and CEO John Dichtl (right).



The Montana Historical Society's state archivist **Jodie Foley** was recently elected president of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA). CoSA is a national organization that provides leadership to strengthen and support state and territorial archives in their work to preserve and provide access to government records. Foley, a longtime MHS employee, currently manages the MHS Archives, which collects and preserves Montana's state government records. According to MHS research center director Molly Kruckenberg, "It's fantastic that Jodie's peers recognize her dedication to the profession. Archives across Montana have profited from her leadership for years, and now government archives nationwide will benefit from that same expertise."



After serving for ten years as a faithful volunteer, the Montana Historical Society has hired Anthony Schrippo as a historical interpreter. Anthony will bring the Original Governor's Mansion (OGM) to life for the more than four thousand visitors who tour the historic house museum each year. "Even knowing when we hired him that he would be an excellent tour guide," says program specialist Deb Mitchell, "we've been blown away by Anthony's depth of passion for and knowledge about this historic treasure." Come take a tour of the OGM and see for yourself what a wonderful addition Anthony is to the MHS staff.



The State Historic Preservation Office has hired **Jolene Keen** as the new cultural records assistant charged with maintaining over 65,000 historic and archaeological records. Keen comes to the Montana via Washington, D.C., where she worked as a research associate for the American Association of Geographers. She received her bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University in anthropology and geography and her master's from George Mason in geographic and cartographic science. According to cultural records manager Damon Murdo, "Jolene's education and training will be a true asset to the SHPO office and we are thrilled to have her on board."



Montana's loss is Washington, D.C.'s gain. MHS moving image archivist **Kelly Burton** has accepted a position as media archivist at the National Gallery of Art. "Kelly was here at a critical time in the development of our nascent film archives," says photograph archives manager Jeff Malcomson. "We could not have asked for anyone better. Kelly has done an amazing job building a firm foundation for the preservation of moving images in Montana."



A major challenge in long-term collection care is climate control. The Montana Historical Society was elated to receive a grant of \$349,978 from the National Endowment for the Humanities for improvements to our building's heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems. The grant will allow MHS to make system enhancements and install electronic controls. These improvements will provide better-quality storage environments, operational efficiency, and energy savings for MHS.

Exhibit Team Receives 2019 Governor's Award for Excellence

The MHS *Ice Age* exhibit team—Amanda Streeter-Trum, Stan Wilmoth, Todd Saarinen, and Roberta Jones-Wallace—achieved the long-term goal of revamping and reimagining the *Ice Age* area of our *Montana Homeland* exhibit.

Their cooperative efforts, creativity, leadership, and skill brought new vigor to the *Ice Age* exhibit. After months of research, creative vision, talent, and cross-program exchange of ideas, the completed exhibit delivers an enhanced, engaging, and informative new experience to visitors. The team members' unique ability to work beyond a complex initiative and design processes to produce the final product was exemplary.

One visitor commented, "Thank you so much for such a great *Ice Age* exhibit! I will tell you, my granddaughter could not stop talking about the woolly mammoth and getting to hold the bones. In a four-year-old's eyes, you guys hit it out of the park!" 🍷



Patrons enjoy the results of the hard work put into MHS's newest exhibit by the ice age exhibit team recently recognized for their efforts by Governor Steve Bullock.



Governor's award recipients Todd Saarinen, Roberta Jones-Wallace, and Amanda Streeter Trum discuss the new display of Clovis-era artifacts in the ice age exhibit. (Not pictured, Stan Wilmoth.)

Wilmoth Retires

State archaeologist Dr. Stan Wilmoth of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) retired at the end of September. While we are happy to see Stan embark on his new adventure, his departure from the office will leave a difficult-to-fill void. Stan received his PhD from the University of California—Riverside in 1987, focusing on twentieth-century Blackfeet politics in Montana. He served as the state archaeologist/deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for over twenty-six years.

While at SHPO, Stan developed strong relationships with the Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Crow, Kootenai, Northern Cheyenne, Pend d'Oreille, and Salish tribes. He oversaw projects involving

public, governmental, private, and tribal entities, providing sound guidance toward successful compliance with federal regulations. His compassion, combined with his education, brought together parties with divergent views that often separate archaeologists, agencies, and tribal interests. Stan served on the Montana Burial Board, was the leader of Archaeology Day at MHS for the last twenty years, and also taught anthropology and Native American Studies courses at Helena College. His dry wit, humor, and way with words made difficult topics understandable to a larger audience.

In addition to receiving the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Award for Excellence in Historic



Wilmoth (cont. on p. 7)

Wilmoth (cont. from p. 6)

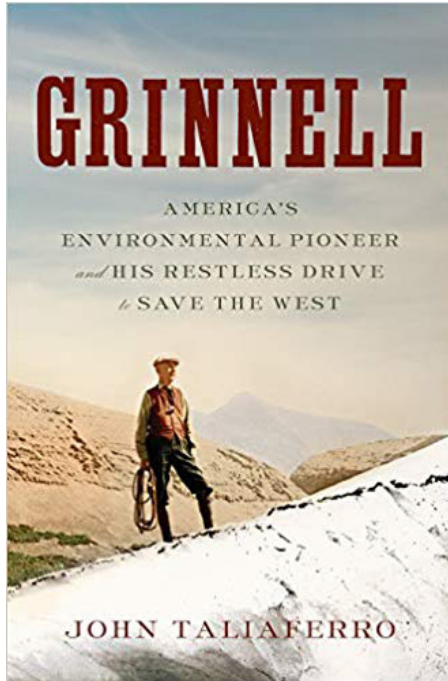
Preservation in 2005, Stan has twice received the Governor's Award for Excellence, once in 2010 and the

second time in September 2019. Stan's strong character, unshakable integrity, thoughtfulness, and patience left an indelible mark on

Montana's history and heritage. We wish him all the best in his next endeavor. ⚡

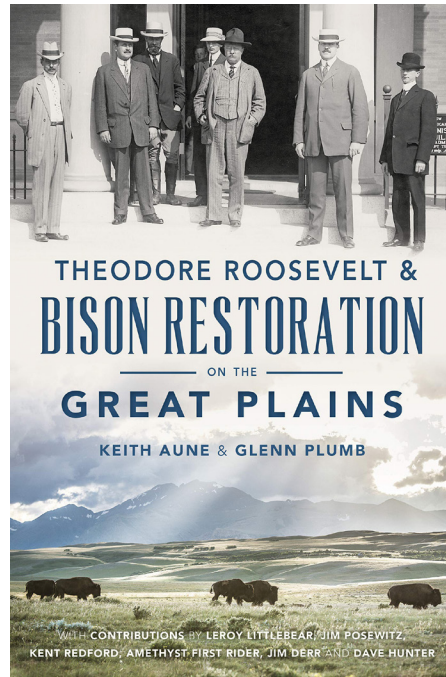
From the Museum Store: New Titles

BY RODRIC COSLET, MUSEUM STORE MANAGER



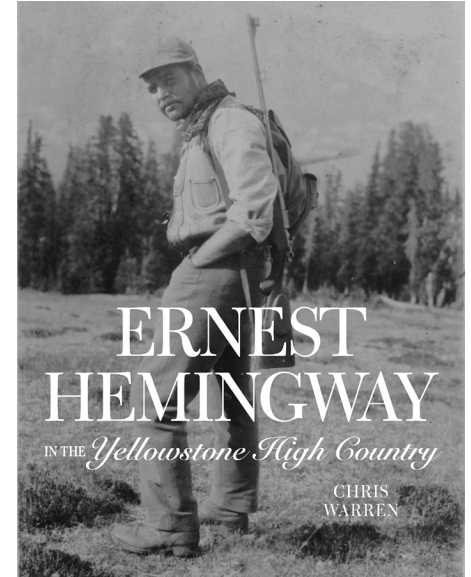
Grinnell: America's Environmental Pioneer and His Restless Drive to Save the West
By John Taliaferro. Hardcover, 624 pages. \$35.00

George Bird Grinnell, the son of a New York merchant, saw a different future for a nation in the thrall of the Industrial Age. Grinnell was born in Brooklyn in 1849 and grew up on the estate of ornithologist John James Audubon. Upon graduation from Yale, he dug for dinosaurs on the Great Plains, an expedition that fanned his romantic notion of wilderness and taught him a graphic lesson in evolution and extinction. Soon he joined George A. Custer in the Black Hills, helped to map Yellowstone, and scaled the peaks and glaciers that, through his labors, would become Glacier National Park.



Theodore Roosevelt & Bison Restoration on the Great Plains
By Keith Aune and Glenn Plumb. Softcover, 144 pages. \$21.99

Rapidly disappearing bison in the late 1800s prompted progressive thinkers to call for the preservation of wildlands and wildlife in North America. Following a legendary hunt for the last wild bison in central Montana, Dr. William Hornaday sought to immortalize the West's most iconic species. Activists like Theodore Roosevelt rose to the call, initiating a restoration plan that seemed almost incomprehensible in that era. Follow the journey from the first animals bred at the Bronx Zoo to today's National Bison Range.



Ernest Hemingway in the Yellowstone High Country
By Chris Warren. Softcover, 168 pages. \$19.95

In the 1930s, iconic American author Ernest Hemingway spent five summers at a ranch on the edge of Yellowstone National Park. Here he did some of his best writing, and his experiences in the mountains are connected to twelve of his most famous works, including *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Hemingway declared that the ranch near the small wilderness town of Cooke City, Montana, on the edge of Yellowstone, was one of his favorite places to write in the world.

These new titles and more can be ordered online at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org or by calling the Museum Store at (800) 243-9900 or (406) 444-2890. ⚡

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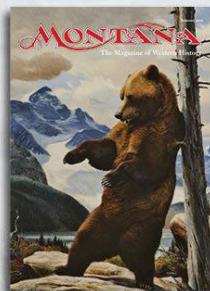
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Emerging Scholar Article Contest

SUBMIT YOUR WORK for a chance to be published
in *Montana The Magazine of Western History* and
receive a free trip to the 2020 Montana History
Conference in Butte.

Submissions
open now.

Deadline:
January 5, 2020



To learn more and submit:

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Montana The Magazine of Western History is pleased to announce its inaugural **Emerging Scholar Article Contest** for the best article on the history of the American West by a graduate student, early career faculty member, or independent scholar. The winning manuscript will be published in the magazine, and the author will receive free registration, travel, and accommodations for the 2020 Montana History Conference in Butte, where they will give a talk on their project. Submissions are open from now until January 5, 2020 at <https://mhspublications.submittable.com/submit>.