

## Meet Us in the Ice Age!

Or the Terminal Pleistocene to be exact. Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to walk with—or maybe run from!—mammoths, woolly rhinos, dire wolves, giant short-faced bears, and scimitar cats? An upcoming expansion of the prehistory section of the Montana Homeland exhibit will allow you to immerse yourself in life at the end of the last ice age.

Join us in exploring the likely migration routes of human travelers into North America around 15,000 years ago, the enormous prehistoric glacial lakes they encountered, and the cultural and environmental changes they faced during the transition into the Early Archaic period approximately 7,500 years ago.

The exhibit will feature artifacts from the Anzick site, one of the most important archaeological sites in North America. Discovered near Wilsall in 1968 and named after landowners Helen and Melvyn Anzick, the site is the only known Clovis-culture burial site in the world and represents the earliest physical evidence of human habitation in Montana. The burial site contained approximately one hundred ochre-covered stone and bone tools in various stages of development—which will be included in MHS's exhibit—and the partial, ochre-covered remains of a one-and-a-half-year-old boy (the boy's remains, which were never placed on exhibit, were



This reproduction woolly mammoth skull (above) will be featured in MHS's new ice age exhibit along with points (example below) and other tools from the Anzick site near Wilsall.

reburied near the original site in a sacred ceremony in 2014).

In addition to significant Clovis-era tools from the Anzick site, you will be able to examine ice age fossils from Montana and touch reproduction skulls of several animals from the ice age period. You will even have the chance to get up close and personal with the (reproduction) head of a scimitar cat . . . if you dare! Additionally, mural-sized artwork will highlight the flora, fauna, and human presence from the Beringia crossing

to the more modern landscape of Montana's Early Archaic period, and you'll have the opportunity to participate in an exhibit-wide "search & find" activity—fun for kids and adults alike! ★



## "Always Something in the Pipeline"



Colt manufactured this .45 caliber, single action revolver specifically for Custer scout Big Medicine. US Army officers presented it to him when he became chief of the Crow Tribal Police in 1900. Tammis Day Trust, 2017.51.08.01

Several years ago, Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees member and former president, Jim Murry, said to me, "You should always have something in the pipeline." What Jim meant was that we should always be looking for opportunities to acquire important pieces of Montana history for MHS collections. In the last issue of the *Society Star*, you read about our proposed acquisition of the "life's work" collection of renowned photographer Barbara Van Cleve. That collection is a remarkable opportunity for MHS and is "in the pipeline."

Most of what comes to MHS—fine art, artifacts, documents, books, photographs—comes as a gift, donated by a Montana family or individual. In some cases, we find a collection that is so remarkable that we commit to a purchase. Such is the case for the Barbara Van Cleve collection. We have agreed to acquire the collection of over 10,000 negatives and prints by the end of 2021. In this case, we have invited gifts from our members and friends to accomplish this acquisition.

Other recent examples from the "pipeline" include the remarkable collection of photographs of Fred E. Miller, who photographed the

Crow Tribe around the turn of the twentieth century. This important collection of prints and glass plate negatives was donated by the Carroll and Nancy O'Connor Foundation. Nancy O'Connor was a descendant of Fred Miller and provided museum-quality care and archiving of this collection.

Another remarkable gift was the Tammis Day Firearms Collection that MHS received in 2017. Day, who was from Sula, Montana, was an avid firearms collector, and after her passing her collection was gifted to the MHS by the Tammis Day Trust. The collection of over one hundred firearms includes many historically significant pieces.

But it's not always the large, well-known, or high-dollar collections that get our attention. In fact, a family history as told through letters, diaries, and photographs is just as important and valuable to MHS collections in telling the story of Montana life. The Capps-Zieg Family Papers (1908-1998) is such a collection. Family correspondence, diaries, household records, photos, and clippings tell the story of Mydas Capps Zieg and family. Capps served as a teacher in Rapelje, Montana,

where she met and married Reuben Zieg in 1932. They moved to Missoula in 1945 where Reuben taught math at Missoula County High School, and Mydas was active in the AAUW, PTA, and school board.

These are the stories of real Montanans and are of great interest to MHS in preserving and sharing for current and future generations.

One of the most interesting and exciting aspects of our job at MHS is to explore acquisition opportunities that come our way, often literally walking in the front door. It's a joy to hear the stories that come with these objects.

Since the first newspaper was saved in 1864, MHS has been preserving the artifacts of Montana's history. There's "always something in the pipeline." ☕

### 100,000 Pages of News That's Fit to Read

BY NATASHA HOLLENBACH,  
DIGITAL PROJECTS LIBRARIAN...

The National Digitized Newspaper Program (NDNP), which is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, began in 2005. To date, MHS has completed three, two-year grant cycles (2009–2014) and digitized over 257,000 pages. Newspapers digitized for this project are hosted by the Library of Congress at [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov). There are currently over 14.7 million pages from forty-six states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico, dating from 1789 to 1963.

Last August, MHS received another NDNP grant. When I first considered the task of choosing 100,000 newspaper pages to digitize as part of this latest grant cycle, I was a little overwhelmed. This round focuses on boom and bust in the

100,000 Pages (cont. on p. 3)



Digital Projects Librarian Natasha Hollenbach pauses from her work reviewing newspapers for possible digitization as part of the National Digitized Newspaper Program.

mining, oil, logging, railroad, and agricultural industries during the 1920s–1950s. Our seven-member advisory board—which is comprised of historians, librarians, and newspaper professionals—greatly helped me in creating a list of towns,

titles, and date ranges that I could evaluate to develop a framework for prioritizing titles and topics. Since I have been working on digitizing historical newspapers for four and a half years now, I thought I knew what to expect. There were, however, a couple of surprises in store as I began the evaluation process.

One of the primary purposes of local newspapers is to boost their community, which sometimes makes it hard for them to acknowledge hard times. During the evaluation process, I learned that each paper had its own method of avoidance. In the early 1920s, the *Circle Banner* insisted that crops were good, while regularly featuring two or three pages of foreclosures and sheriffs' sales. In the late 1950s, the *Montana Oil Journal* took the tack of students with a paper to write but nothing to say—it increased its font size. From the standpoint of selecting content for digitization, the foreclosures and sheriffs' sales provide unique, use-

ful content, but increasing font size means the same number of pages with less information.

I am used to the feeling of omniscience that comes from looking at historical newspapers. You know what is coming, but the newspaper does not. Sometimes, though, that knowledge of the future makes reading hard. In my notes describing the *Belt Valley Times* right before the area hit a new low, I wrote “the determined cheerfulness [of the editorials] is a little heartbreaking.” I had to remind myself that it was making a transition from one industry (mining) to another (agriculture) and just didn't know it.

Reading historical newspapers is always a joy. This selection process has taught me that having to evaluate them is exciting, difficult, time-consuming, and rewarding. To enjoy the Montana newspapers that have been digitized, visit: <https://mhs.mt.gov/research/collections/newspapers/mtnews>. ★

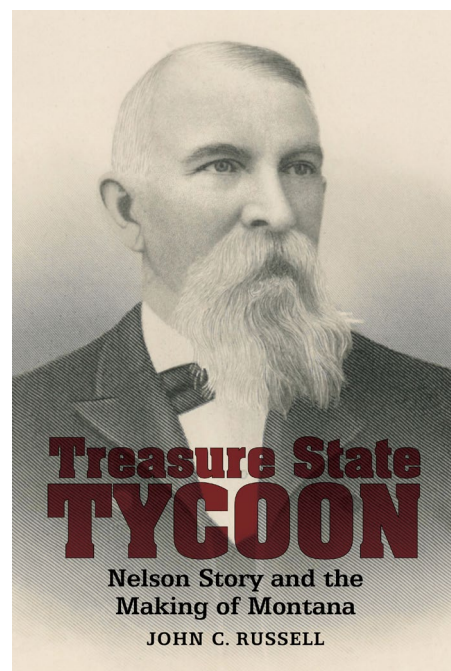
## Treasure State Tycoon

John C. Russell's *Treasure State Tycoon: Nelson Story and the Making of Montana*—soon to be published by the MHS Press—recounts the remarkable life of Nelson G. Story, a colorful and contradictory figure whose influence on Montana's development was profound and rivaled by few others in its history. After striking it rich in the goldfields of Alder Gulch, Story drove the first herd of cattle from Texas to the territory that would ultimately become the Treasure State. He went on to build a commercial empire of diverse interests, the success of which relied both on his determination and ingenuity as well as his penchant for fraud and deceit. Story's reputation for ruthlessness in both his personal and professional conduct was well earned, but he was also a generous philanthropist, sup-

porting local churches, schools, and other civic improvements. He tirelessly promoted the upstart community of Bozeman, playing a central role in the establishment of the Montana State College of Mechanical and Agricultural Arts—today's Montana State University. Like other political and business leaders of his time, Nelson Story left behind a legacy rife with paradoxes that gave shape to life in Montana and continues to resonate in the contested mythology of the American West.

John C. Russell was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and moved to Bozeman to attend Montana State University. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1978. He has worked as a broadcast reporter in television and radio, and most recently as director of the Gallatin (County) Historical

Society. John has written several historical articles, one published in *Wild West Magazine*. ★



## New Faces at MHS



**Christine Brown** is the new **Sites and Signs Historian** in the Outreach and Interpretation Program. Brown will conduct research and write interpretive signs for Montana properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. She will also enhance the online accessibility of sign text through [ExploreBig.org](http://ExploreBig.org) and generate new interest in the Treasure State's Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, which commemorates Montana's agricultural traditions. Before coming to MHS, Brown spent fourteen years serving as the Outreach and Education Director for the Montana Preservation Alliance in Helena.

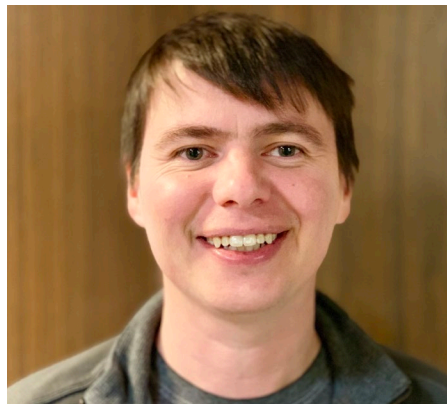


**Chris Gray** is the new **Digital Projects Technician** in the Research Center. Gray will assist in the production of digitized Montana newspapers for the *Chronicling America* and Montana Newspapers websites. He will also conduct research on Montana newspapers

and assist with other digital projects. Before taking this position, Gray spent several summers as an intern for the Research Center. He recently completed his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Providence in Great Falls.



**Carol Loomis** is MHS's new **HR Specialist**. A native of Havre and graduate of MSU-Northern, Loomis has seventeen years of experience working for state government—ten years at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and seven years with the Office of Public Instruction. At MHS, she is responsible for processing payroll and assisting her fellow employees with all other HR functions, ranging from job postings and new hires to following the guidelines of the Family Medical Leave Act.



**Craig Mrock** of Helena is the new **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grants Contracts Coordinator**,

replacing Brad Hansen who left the Society after three years of service to work for the Montana Land Reliance. Craig has a BA in history from Eastern Michigan University (2005) and prior work experience in accounting and claims services for several other state agencies. Most recently Craig worked for Montana State University in Bozeman as a budget analyst (2017–2018) before returning to Helena. Craig has wanted to work for the Montana Historical Society for some time and is thrilled to do so.



**Sierra Ross** is the new **Digital Projects Assistant** in the Research Center. Ross will assist in the production of digitized Montana newspapers for the *Chronicling America* and Montana Newspapers websites. Before taking this position, Ross worked on several other projects for the Research Center, including processing books and scanning documents. She recently completed her bachelor's degree in history from Carroll College. 🌟

# Montana History in Nine More Easy Lessons



*The History of Montana—Transportation*, by John W. “Jack” Beauchamp, oil on canvas, 1943-1944, MHS, Gift of the Dennis and Vivian Connors Family, 1981.58.04

Last year, MHS offered a crash course in Treasure State history titled *Montana History in Nine Easy Lessons*. Due to that program’s overwhelming popularity, we are doing it again, this time in *Nine More Easy Lessons*. Join MHS staff members and other subject matter experts in a two-month exploration of the past twelve thousand years. Every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., between April 3 and May 29, 2019, a presenter will discuss a major theme in Montana history. Individually, these programs will offer compelling discussions of specific topics relating to Montana’s past; together they will provide a big-picture overview of the state’s rich and fascinating history.

Topics and speakers for this year’s series are:

**April 3:** “Pre-contact Trade,” Jessica Bush, MHS State Historic Preservation Office

**April 10:** “Montana’s Early Fur Trade in the Wake of Lewis and Clark,” Jim Hardee, *Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal*

**April 17:** “The Rise and Fall of Open Range Cattle Raising on the Montana Plains,” Vic Reiman, MHS Museum (retired)

**April 24:** “Do Treaties Matter?,” Mike Jetty, Montana Office of Public Instruction

**May 1:** “Dreams and Dust: Montana during the Great Depression,” Dr. Mary Murphy, Montana State University

**May 8:** “Copper, Commies, and the Cold War: Montana’s Labor Resurgence, 1934–1950,” Rich Aarstad, MHS Archives

**May 15:** “Montana during the Relocation and Termination Era,” Laura Ferguson, MHS Publications Program

**May 22:** “On the Road Again,” Jon Axline, Montana Department of Transportation

**May 29:** “Montana’s Triple Revolution,” Dr. Harry Fritz, University of Montana (emeritus)

Join us for one—or for all. OPI renewal credits are available. If you cannot be here in person, these programs will be live broadcast on MHS’s YouTube channel, where all programs from both this year and last are, or will be, available to watch at your convenience (go to YouTube and search “Montana History in Nine Easy Lessons”). For more information, call Kirby Lambert at (406) 444-4741 or email [klambert@mt.gov](mailto:klambert@mt.gov). 🌐

## About Us

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

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[montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://montanahistoricalsociety.org)

# Don't Miss Out on Member Benefits

We all know that membership has its privileges, especially at MHS. Our most popular benefits are easily recognizable. But what about benefits you might not know about or might not be using?

MHS has a spectacular Research Center that is staffed with an incredible brain trust of employees. If you are not able to visit in person, staff will research two of your requests for you at no charge, up to twenty-five dollars' worth of time each. If you are looking for information on a specific person, place, event, or information on family history, MHS is the place to come. You can call the Research Center at (406) 444-2694 or fill out a request form at <https://mhs.mt.gov/research/services/requests>.

Another benefit of membership is the Time Travelers program. Time Travelers is a reciprocal membership network for historical museums, sites, and societies throughout the United States. The Missouri Historical Society created the program in 1998 so that members of historical institutions could receive exclusive benefits and privileges at museums and historical sites nationwide. Membership at MHS gives you privileges at museums across the country, including four in Montana:



Laura Tretter, Technical Services Librarian, and Barbara Pepper-Rotness, Library Technician, stand ready to assist patrons in the MHS Research Center.

Granite County Museum and Cultural Center in Philipsburg, Gallatin History Museum in Bozeman, Travelers' Rest State Park in Lolo, and MonDak Heritage Center in Sidney. We encourage you to get out and visit these and other great museums across the state. Be sure to check the website [timetravelers.mohistory.org](http://timetravelers.mohistory.org)

or call Jodel Fohn in Membership Services at (406) 444-2918 to learn which museums nationwide offer free or discounted admittance and gift shop discounts. ★



## Reiman Retires

Long-time Museum Technician Vic Reiman retired from MHS in December. Since 2002, he could be found carefully cleaning exhibits and art throughout the museum as well as the Capitol building. Reiman also kept the Original Governors' Mansion sparkling clean. His impact, however, went well beyond his duties as a museum tech—he contributed hours of research and cataloging for our vast gun collec-

tion, and he provided a number of lively and informative public programs and articles on the history of the Montana cowboy way of life, especially that of Teddy Blue Abbott. Reiman's unique mix of talent and expertise are greatly missed. We all wish him well in his retirement, and hold him to his promise to return one day as a volunteer! Thanks Vic! ★



Former Museum Technician Vic Reiman pauses high atop a ladder while cleaning John Clarke's *A Blackfoot Encampment* in the MHS lobby.

## One Small Step for Man

Fifty years ago this summer, man first walked on the moon. Eugene Marianetti—a native of Black Eagle who then served as director of NASA's Public Services Division and the astronauts' public appearances program—was on hand to keep the world informed about this "giant leap for mankind." Join us in Helena for the 2019 Montana History Conference, September 26–28, where Marianetti, author of a soon-to-be-published book detailing his NASA experiences, will be one of many featured speakers. ☼



This miniature Montana flag was carried to the moon and back aboard Apollo 11. Astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong collected these small chips of "lunar matter," now encased in a plastic bubble and brought them back to earth in 1969. X1991.03.01, Gift of President Richard M. Nixon

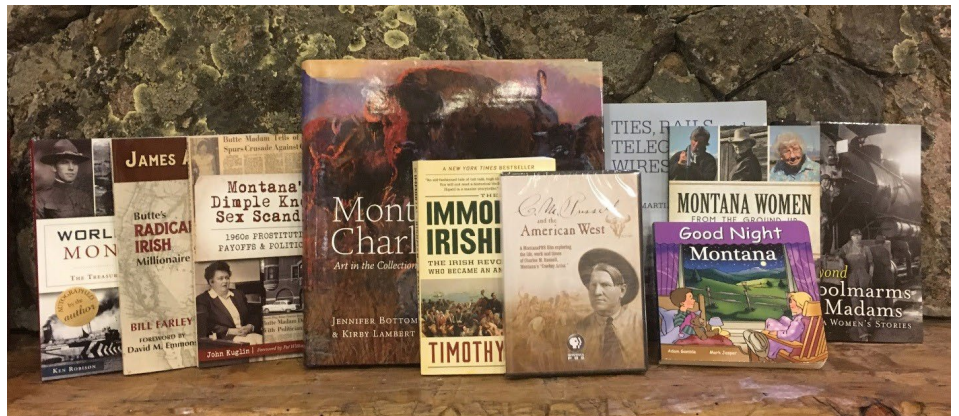
## From the Museum Store: And the Winners Are . . .

Every January the Museum Store staff look forward to making our list of the ten best-selling titles of the previous year. The results are in!

In 2018, the top three titles on the list were not surprises: The best-selling book was our new railroad book, *Ties, Rails, and Telegraph Wires*, which was featured at the Montana History Conference; number two was our *Montana's Charlie Russell*, a full catalogue of our collection; and number three was the new DVD of the MontanaPBS film, *C. M. Russell and the American West*.

Other new books that made the list were *Montana Women from the Ground Up*, which features stories of modern-day ranch women; *Montana's Dimple Knees Sex Scandal*, about Butte in the 1960s; *James A. Murray: Butte's Radical Irish Millionaire*; and *World War I Montana*, which shows how Montanans contributed to the war effort, and includes a story about Charlie Russell and how he supported the troops.

All of these titles are currently available through the Museum Store. Are they on your bookshelf?



1. *Ties, Rails, and Telegraph Wires: Railroads and Communities in Montana and the West*, by Dale Martin
2. *Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society*, by Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney and Kirby Lambert
3. *C. M. Russell and the American West* (DVD), from MontanaPBS
4. *Montana Women from the Ground Up: Passionate Voices in Agriculture and Land Conservation*, by Kristine E. Ellis, for the Broadwater and Glacier County Conservation Districts and the Montana DNRC
5. *Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero*, by Timothy Egan
6. *Montana's Dimple Knees Sex Scandal: 1960s Prostitution, Payoffs and Politicians*, by John Kuglin
7. *Beyond Schoolmarms & Madams: Montana Women's Stories*, Edited by Martha Kohl
8. *James A. Murray: Butte's Radical Irish Millionaire*, by Bill Farley
9. *World War I Montana: The Treasure State Prepares*, by Ken Robison
10. *Goodnight Montana*, by Adam Gambler and Mark Jasper

Order online at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org) or call the Museum Store at (406) 444-2890 or (800) 243-9900. ☼

This document was printed at state expense.  
Information on the cost of publication can be  
obtained by writing MHS, Helena, MT.

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*Portrait of an Indian*  
by Charles M. Russell  
(1864–1926), watercolor  
on paper, 1902, MHS  
2018.40.01

MHS relies heavily on our donors! We acquired this watercolor—the newest addition to our world-class collection of works by Montana's Cowboy Artist, Charles M. Russell—through the incredibly generous bequest of Lewis A. "Arlie" Paschke, a resident of Billings and longtime MHS supporter.