

The 45th Annual
MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE
Billings, September 27–29, 2018

Rimrocks, Rivers & Rolling Plains

HISTORY FROM THE YELLOWSTONE VALLEY





Northern Hotel postcard, ca. 1945 MHS PC 001-BILL

Conference logistics *(see map on page 26)*

The history conference will be headquartered at the **historic Northern Hotel** located at 19 North Broadway in downtown Billings. A block of rooms is being held until August 25. Reservations can be made at <http://www.northernhotel.com/> or by calling (855) 782-9589. **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!**

A second block of rooms is being held at the nearby **Dude Rancher Lodge**, 415 North 29th Street, Billings, until September 7. Reservations can be made at <http://www.duderancherlodge.com/> or by calling (406) 545-0121. **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!**

Other accommodations can be found at <http://www.visitmt.com>.

Teacher Credit: Up to 21 OPI Renewal Units are available for conference attendees. Teachers desiring renewal units may obtain forms and additional information at the conference registration table.

(front cover) Reno Walters family on a Yellowstone River ferry, ca. 1906 Evelyn Cameron photographer, MHS PAC 90-87.6035-002. (back cover) J. D. Johnson family on Spring Creek (detail), ca. 1913 Evelyn Cameron, photographer, MHS PAC 90-87.6002-007

Rimrocks, Rivers & Rolling Plains

History from the Yellowstone Valley

Welcome to the 45th Annual Montana History Conference. It's great to be in Billings to celebrate the history of Montana's largest city and the beautiful Yellowstone Valley.



Each year, the Montana History Conference explores Montana's history—the people, events, and milestones that make our heritage so rich and exciting. This year, we focus the conference on the history of Billings and the Yellowstone Valley. We welcome you to **Rimrocks, Rivers & Rolling Plains: History from the Yellowstone Valley.**

We have had great partners in preparing the Montana History Conference this year, including the Billings Depot, Billings Public Library, Moss Mansion, Western Heritage Center, Yellowstone Corral of the Westerners, Yellowstone County Historical Society, and Yellowstone County Museum. Additionally, we greatly value the essential financial support offered by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Estate of Patricia Hoksbergen, Montana History Foundation, Visit Billings, and Northern Broadcasting Network.

We encourage you to take a deep dive into Montana's history by joining us for this unique and always stimulating conference. While in the Magic City, we hope that you will extend your visit to enjoy the area's many cultural institutions and historic sites as well as the scenic beauty of the Rimrocks and Yellowstone River. We also know that you will enjoy seeing friends who share the love of our past by attending this annual conference.

Thank you for joining us for **Rimrocks, Rivers & Rolling Plains: History from the Yellowstone Valley.** We know you will enjoy the conference, and we will enjoy seeing all of you—our good friends—in Billings.

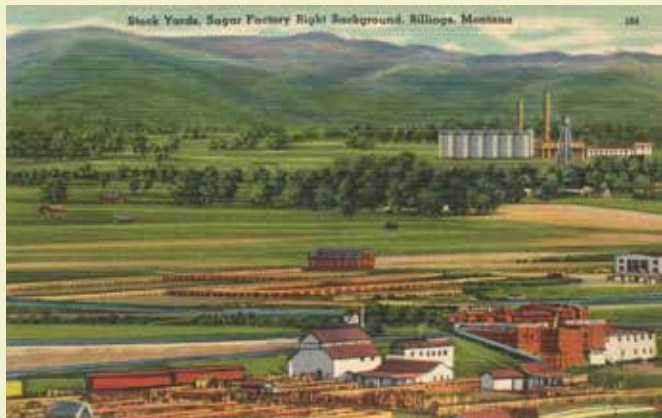
Bruce Whittenberg
Director

Please note: The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held at the Northern Hotel.


Thursday, September 27

- 🕒 7:30 A.M.—5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 🕒 8:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M. **Made in Montana Tour** (departs from the Northern Hotel; limited to twenty-five. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and weather-appropriate clothing; lunch is included but don't forget money for cider and beer if you are so inclined)

The focus of this year's tour is **Agriculture in the Yellowstone Valley**. The tour begins with a visit to the **Western Sugar plant**, a facility built to transform sugar beets into granulated sugar. The plant serves over 850 growers in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska. The next stop examines the process of creating a variety of bags including carry-on luggage, briefcases, daypacks, and duffel bags. The Montana company, **Red Oxx Manufacturing**, was founded in 1986 by a retired military family. The group will eat a catered lunch in Huntley, at the **Huntley Project Irrigation Museum**, which features the history of the reclamation project initiated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1907 to irrigate crops like sugar beets and alfalfa along the lower Yellowstone River. Taylor Brown, a commentator on the Northern Ag Network, is tentatively scheduled to accompany the group to provide a historical overview of agriculture in the Yellowstone Valley. The group next visits the **MillerCoors elevator** in Huntley, the repository for 2.7 million bushels of malting barley. Montana remains one of the largest producers of malting barley in North America. The daylong tour ends at the **Last Chance Pub & Cider Mill** for a tour of the plant and tasting of the plant's hard cider and microbrews from Red Lodge Ales, the cider mill's parent company.




Billings stockyards with
sugar factory in the
background, ca. 1945
MHS PC 001-BILL

 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Educators Workshop** (lunch included, Billings Public Library, 510 N Broadway)

Teaching with Historic Places Through hands-on activities and presentations by Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council vice president Conrad Fisher, Montana Historical Society community preservation coordinator Kate Hampton, Montana Historical Society historical specialist Martha Kohl, and Montana Memory Project director Jennifer Birnel, participants will learn tips for “reading” architecture, resources available for studying local history and architecture, information about Northern Cheyenne cultural landscapes, the importance of historic preservation, and ideas for integrating community studies into the classroom. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather since we’ll be taking to the streets to discover Billings’ rich history and architectural heritage.


 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. **Archives Workshop** (lunch included)

Speak up! Archival Advocacy and Access Archivists are passionate about their collections. Ask us about our favorite items and you had best buckle in because we have a story to tell! But we are not always as passionate, or at least as vocal, about the archival profession and the work it takes to bring collections to the public. This workshop will focus on advocacy tips and techniques that will help attendees effectively sing the praises of what we do while educating the public about why we do it. The workshop will also provide instruction on digital storyboarding, a creative way to highlight collections that will get people talking! Please bring examples of advocacy efforts that worked and those that did not to share with your fellow attendees.

 3:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M. Tours on your own

Moss Mansion (914 Division Street) Enjoy a pre-conference, self-guided tour of the Moss Mansion, one of Montana’s true architectural gems. Built by Billings’ founder P. B. Moss in 1903, the stately residence retains its original draperies, furniture, fixtures, carpets, and Moss family artifacts. In addition, a special exhibit for 2018, **Farm to Table: Family and Food in the Yellowstone Valley**, explores 150 years of farming, agriculture, cooking, and regional sustainability. For the Moss family, like all of Billings, local agriculture and food traditions were integral to daily life. In this special exhibit, visitors will find farm equipment similar to that used on the agricultural land owned and developed by P. B. Moss, Moss family recipes, insight into P. B.’s entrepreneurial spirit and success, and information about his deep ties to local agriculture.

Yellowstone County Museum (1950 Terminal Circle) Take a pre-conference, self-guided tour of the Yellowstone County Museum and not only treat yourself to a look back at Billings' past but also enjoy an unrivaled view of the Magic City from high atop the Rims. Explore the many splendors of Yellowstone Valley history nestled inside the museum's McCormick Cabin, ranging from beautiful handcrafted saddles to rare firearms, pioneer wagons, stunning tribal beadwork, and much more. Set the background for the conference sessions to follow while learning about the cultures and traditions that make this dynamic area so unique.

 6:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M. Billings Depot (2310 Montana Ave)



The North Coast Limited and the “Night-crawler”: Trains, Towns, and Stations in the West, Montana, and Billings MSU history professor Dale Martin will draw upon themes and stories from his new book *Ties, Rails, and Telegraph Wires: Railroads and Communities in Montana and the West*, which was recently issued by the MHS Press. The book explores how railroads shaped and sustained the human landscape and economy of the West well into the middle of the twentieth century. Railways provided essential transportation to communities and

businesses. Passenger trains carried people, mail, express, money, newspapers, and milk in steel cans. Town residents knew the telegraphers and other station staff, track maintenance workers, and crews on local trains. People went to the station to meet arriving family members, see campaigning politicians, greet returning sports teams, or just to watch travelers and fellow citizens.

The presentation will also include coverage of the railways, trains, stations, and railroaders in the Billings-Laurel area and the activities at the Billings Union Station a century ago.



Postcard depicting the Northern Pacific Depot, ca. 1920 MHS PC001-BILL.NP

🕒 7:00 P.M.—8:30 P.M. Billings
Depot (2310 Montana Ave)

Opening Reception

Following Dale Martin's presentation in the stately passenger station of Billings' historic Northern Pacific Depot, venture across the hall to the baggage room to enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar while you visit with fellow history enthusiasts. This historic structure was built over a century ago as the centerpiece of downtown Billings, serving as the venue of choice for many of the most important visitors in Billings' history, including numerous presidents, governors, Hollywood celebrities, and even visiting royalty! Today, the building has been painstakingly restored and once again plays host to many of Billings' most memorable events. It's a site that you don't want to miss!



Employees at Rothrock's Barber Shop, ca. 1910, stand ready to welcome you to Billings! MHS 941-095

Friday, September 28

🕒 7:30 A.M.—5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
🕒 8:30 A.M.—9:45 A.M. Plenary Breakfast

The First Draft of History: Getting the Past into Print It is said that newspaper reporters, in their hurried, inevitably flawed way, are writing the first draft of history. Veteran reporter Ed Kemmick will talk about some of his favorite history-tinged newspaper stories, from the tale of the so-called Petrified Man discovered near Fort Benton to the exploits of Horace Bivins, buffalo soldier, top army marksman, and, in retirement in Billings, a master gardener. Kemmick has worked as a reporter and editor in Montana for more than thirty-five years and is the author of *The Big Sky, By and By*. He is retired as of this past July, when he suspended publication of his four-and-a-half-year-old online newspaper, *Last Best News*.



Living with the Land The Yellowstone Historical Society’s Prudence Ladd will unveil the **Histories Mysteries of the Billings Rimrocks**. From prehistoric travel routes to a figure—first seen as a cross and later viewed as an angel—that has watched over the Magic City for the past sixty-one years, there’s more going on in the rimrocks than meets the eye. Ladd will unveil five of these secrets from the past. In **Special Places and Place Names**, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council vice president Conrad Fisher will examine why certain places are significant to indigenous culture groups that have special ties to lands, and he will discuss how they were given their traditional place names.



East Rimrock,
Billings, ca. 1945
MHS PAC 2013–50

Montana Military Randy Schoppe, executive director of the Big Horn County Historical Museum, will discuss the history of **Fort Custer on the Big Horn** near present-day Hardin. Operating from 1877 to 1898, Fort Custer was often hailed by military leaders as the finest cavalry fort in the world. Schoppe will discuss the events leading up to the fort’s construction, notable personalities associated with the fort, its ties to Billings, and its eventual abandonment and demolition. Fort Benton’s Overholser Historical Research Center historian Ken Robison will unveil new and neglected stories of **Montanans in the Great War**. Robison will share tales from Montanans serving around the world, focusing on the role of Montana’s women U.S. Navy yeomen, nurses, and “Hello Girls”; Montanans in the Russian Railway Service Corps; the unknown role Charles M. Russell played in support of the war; the



KOA directory, 1967 MHS Archives, Campgrounds of America Records MC 439

contributions of Montana's ethnic citizens to World War I; and more.

On the Road Retired Billings teacher Marlene Saunders will detail the evolution of the **Yellowstone Trail—“One Good Long Road.”** This important early byway started in South Dakota in 1911 and became a significant route between the East and West Coasts. The road went through Montana, and specifically through Billings, where official Yellowstone Trail signs have been installed to mark the trail. MHS Research Center director Molly Kruckenberg and state archivist Jodie Foley will discuss **Kultivating Happy Kampers: KOA and Camping in the Late 20th Century.** In 1962 the thousands of Americans driving through Montana


en route to the Seattle's World Fair caught the attention of Dave Drum, a Billings resident and entrepreneur. He set up campsites on his land north of the Yellowstone River, offering hot showers, restrooms, and a store. The idea caught on, and by 1969 there were KOAs (Campgrounds of America) across the country serving this new generation of vacationers who wanted the experience of camping while retaining some comforts of home. Today KOA's familiar bright yellow signs can be found across North America.

🕒 11:45 A.M.—1:15 P.M. Luncheon

Chief Plenty Coups' Public Feasts: Apsáalooke Social Relations of Power and Food

Dr. Timothy McCleary will discuss recent archaeological findings at the home of Chief Plenty Coups, the last principal chief of the Apsáalooke. McCleary—who is head of the General Studies Department at Little Big Horn College—will analyze these findings within the context of both historic documents and contemporary celebrations to allow for an understanding of the political process of historic Apsáalooke chiefly feasting.



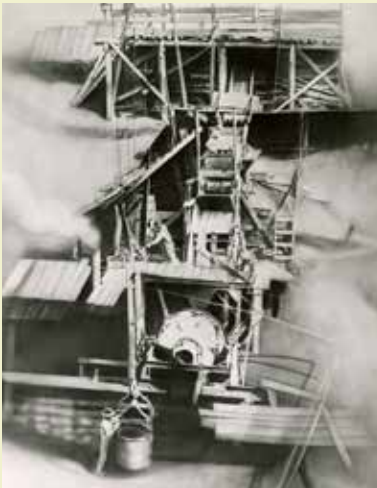
 1:30 P.M.–2:45 P.M. Concurrent sessions

Worth a Thousand Words In **Joe Scheuerle and His Remarkable Indian Gallery**, MHS senior curator Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney will reveal the remarkable American Indian portraits created by artist Joseph G. Scheuerle. Beginning in 1909, Scheuerle regularly visited Montana’s reservations where he executed more than two hundred portraits that were “all finished and done honestly and carefully from life and on the spot.” He befriended the subjects whom he painted and often provided whimsical sketches and commentary on the back of his paintings. Using resources from the Billings Public Library Archives, library director Gavin Woltjer will explore the life of **Will James: The Consummate Storyteller**. Over the course of several decades, James—artist, storyteller, writer, and cattle rustler—invented a new persona for himself, evolved this persona, and used it to separate himself from his past to tell his stories and share his art.



Lottie—Crow, by Joseph Scheuerle, watercolor, 1915 Gift of Scheuerle’s grandson Bill Grierson and wife Pat, MHS 2017.74.01

A River Runs Through It As the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states, the Yellowstone River is a national treasure. In her presentation, **Treasure and Trouble: Living with Meander-land**, Montana State University Billings professor of geography Dr. Susan Gilbertz will utilize historic photographs to illustrate how, over time, the Yellowstone’s channels have meandered, both rejuvenating fisheries and riparian areas and causing erosion, flooding, and decreases in property values. In **Eastern Montana’s Eden: Irrigated Agriculture & the Lower Yellowstone Project**, MonDak Heritage Center executive director Dan Karalus will tell the story of the agricultural landscape created by irrigation from eastern Montana’s Lower Yellowstone Project. Karalus will focus on the ways in which local and national forces intertwined



Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Canal Headworks near Glendive, ca. 1908 MHS Photograph Archives

to develop the project and how irrigation changed eastern Montana and influenced people's perceptions of the area.

Montana Medicine Show Todd L. Savitt, historian of medicine at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine, will discuss **Faith Healing, False Advertising, and Irregular Doctors: Regulating Medicine in Early Montana**. During its territorial and early statehood years, Montana did little to regulate healers of many varieties. In an effort to protect Montana's citizens from what they saw as unscientific and unscrupulous practitioners, regularly trained physicians faced a variety of trials and tribulations as they passed a Medical Practice Act and established a respected Board of Medical Examiners. In his presentation, **"No More War, No More Plague": The Spanish Influenza Pandemic Toll on Montana**, Todd Harwell, administrator for the State of Montana's Public Health and Safety Division, will address the impact of the Spanish influenza pandemic on Montana communities. Data from the 1918 and 1919 Montana death records and other historical information will be presented to describe the toll the epidemic had on Montana. The presentation will also describe the national and state public health response to this epidemic.



The Montana History Foundation logo features the letters 'MHF' in a stylized, red, serif font. Below it, the text 'THE MONTANA HISTORY' is written in a black, serif font, underlined. Underneath that, the word 'FOUNDATION' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The background of the entire graphic is a scenic landscape with a dirt road leading towards snow-capped mountains under a blue sky.

The Montana History Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation preserving the rich legacy of Montana's past – one story, one community, one project at a time.

Visit our website to find out how we can help your community preserve the past.

(406) 449-3770 • www.mthistory.org •  "Like" us on facebook

Extending Service In **Building a Place for Poultry in Montana: Harriette Cushman and Poultry Work in Montana**, Amy McKinney, associate professor of history at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming, will focus on Cushman’s efforts to create a comprehensive poultry program in Montana. The first female poultry specialist in the United States, Cushman crossed many boundaries throughout her thirty-three-year career (1922–1955) with the Extension Service. Western Heritage Center’s Joyce Jensen will tell the story of German and Italian soldiers who were captured in north Africa and Europe during World War II and sent to Montana to work in the sugar beet industry. In **We Weren’t Supposed to Feed Them, but We Did**, Jensen will use oral interviews, newspaper articles, and county extension agent reports to detail the stories of these prisoners of war.

Montana Memories of the Yellowstone Valley Three historians will offer glimpses into the Yellowstone Valley memories they have preserved using grant funds from the Montana History Foundation (MHF). Kevin Kooistra, executive director of Billings’ **Western Heritage Center**, will discuss a variety of documents and photographs from its collection that tell the story of the Yellowstone Valley.



Circus Day at Parmly Billings Library (now the Western Heritage Center), ca. 1915 MHS PAC 2013–50

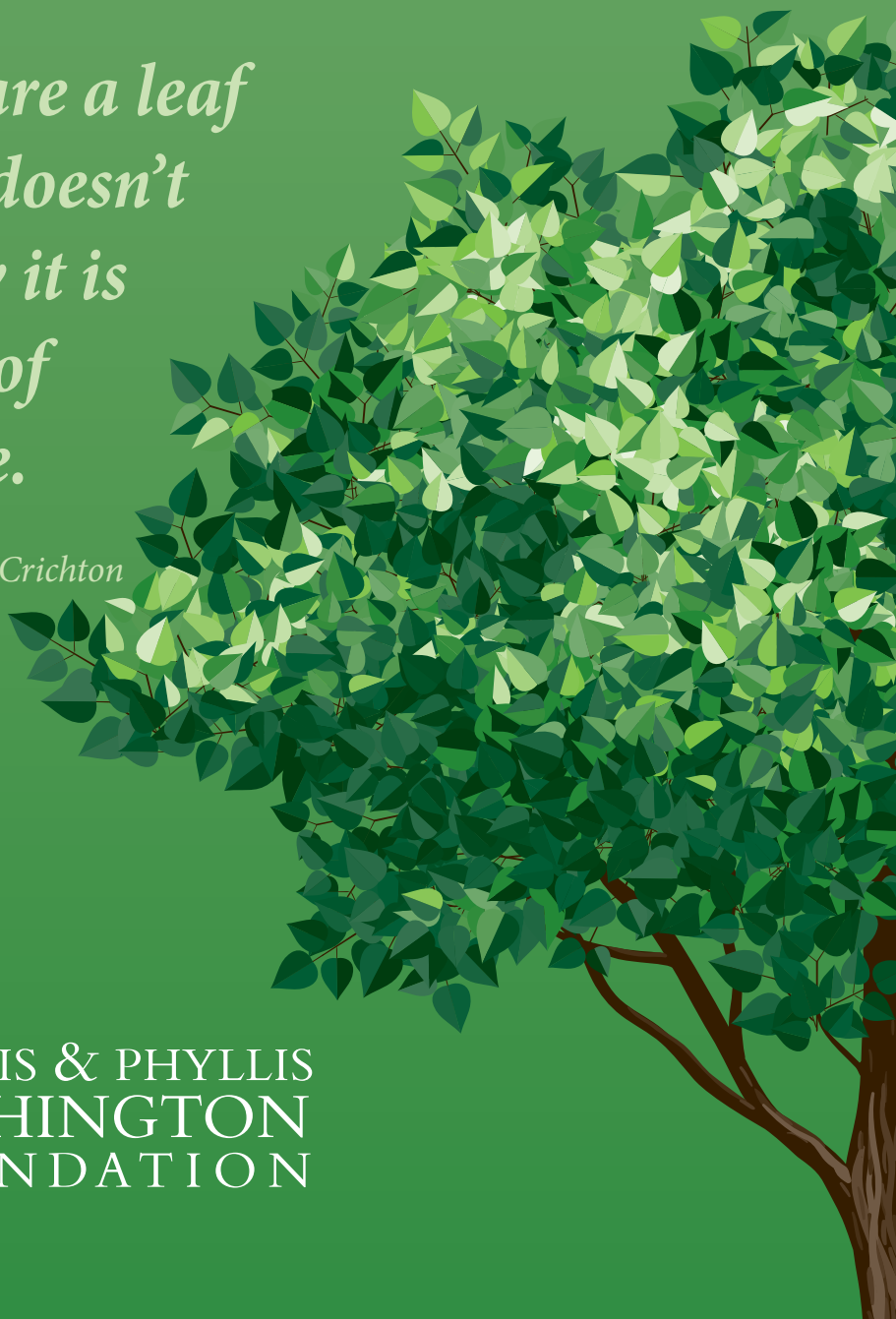
Trudie Porter Biggers, business development director for the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association, will share oral histories from the original descendants of the Huntley Irrigation Project—stories she collected and preserved for the **Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture**. Jennette Rasch, curator from Billings’ **Moss Mansion**, will share information about the collections and the new self-guided tours of the house museum. Each of these MHF grant recipients will provide their important and unique Yellowstone Valley history. MHF executive director Charlene Porsild will moderate the session and provide an overview on the ways in which the foundation helps preserve local history all across the state.

*If you don't know history,
then you don't know anything.*

*You are a leaf
that doesn't
know it is
part of
a tree.*

– Michael Crichton

DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION



Schedule at a Glance The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at the Northern Hotel.

Thursday, September 27

- 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Made in Montana Tour (lunch included, departs from the Northern Hotel)
- 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Educators Workshop (lunch included, Billings Public Library, 510 N Broadway)
- 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. Archives Workshop (lunch included)
- 3:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M. Self-guided tours of the Moss Mansion (914 Division Street) and the Yellowstone County Museum (1950 Terminal Circle)
- 6:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M. Opening Talk, *The North Coast Limited and the “Nightcrawler”* (Billings Depot, 2310 Montana Avenue)
- 7:00 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Opening Reception (Billings Depot, 2310 Montana Avenue)

Friday, September 28

- 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 8:30 A.M.–9:45 A.M. Plenary Breakfast, *The First Draft of History*
- 10:00 A.M.–11:15 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*
Living with the Land
Montana Military
On the Road
- 11:45 A.M.–1:15 P.M. Luncheon, *Chief Plenty Coups’ Public Feasts*
- 1:30 P.M.–2:45 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*
Worth a Thousand Words
A River Runs Through It
Montana Medicine Show
- 3:00 P.M.–4:15 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*
Extending Service
Montana Memories of the Yellowstone Valley
Highs and Lows
- 4:15 P.M.–5:30 P.M. Open House (Western Heritage Center, 2822 Montana Avenue)
- 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations
- 6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Awards Banquet, Bruce Whittenberg, *State of the Society*

Saturday, September 29

- 7:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. Bradley Breakfast, *The Irish and Chinese in Montana*
- 9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*
Living with Livestock
Living with Nature
In Memoriam
- 10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*
The Business of History
The Railroad Shaped our Towns
New Votes, New Deals
- 12:30 P.M.–2:00 P.M. Plenary Luncheon, *Local History as a Tool of Economic Development*
- 2:30 P.M.–3:30 P.M. Bars, Brothels, and Bok Choy Walking Tour (departs from the Western Heritage Center)
- 2:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M. Trunks and Treasures at the Moss Mansion (914 Division Street, transportation on your own)
- 2:30 P.M.–6:00 P.M. Chief Plenty Coups State Park (transportation provided, departs from the Northern Hotel)



Freighter's outfit near Billings and Coulson, Montana, 1882 MHS 941-072



Andy Austin, photographer

Billings

MONTANA'S



TRAILHEAD

Highs and Lows In **Fred Inabnit, Mountaineer**, Yellowstone Historical Society member and map expert Ralph Saunders will provide a brief history of early mountain climbing in southern Montana, focusing on the unique role played by mountaineering pioneer Fred Inabnit. Among his many other accomplishments, Inabnit is best known today for a namesake mountain in the Beartooth Range and his extraordinary topographic relief map, which was the centerpiece of the Montana exhibit at the 1930 World's Fair. In **Chasing Florence Keyser: The Arrival of the Great Depression in Yellowstone National Park**, *Yellowstone History Journal* general editor Bruce Gourley will tell the story of socialite tourist Keyser as the Great Depression shadowed her from Pennsylvania to Montana in August 1931. Gourley will use not only Keyser's own words, but also those of park superintendent Roger W. Toll, rangers, naturalists, and concessionaires to document the coming of hard times to Wonderland.

🕒 4:15 P.M.–5:30 P.M. Open House (Western Heritage Center, 2822 Montana Ave)

Take a short stroll to the nearby **Western Heritage Center** where you can tour the exhibits on your own to gain a deeper understanding of the region and a broader appreciation for its people and past.

🕒 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations

🕒 6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Awards Banquet

About the Award The Montana Historical Society's Board of Trustees' Heritage Keepers Awards honor exemplary work, commitment, and effort in identifying, preserving, and presenting the history and heritage values of Montana for current and future generations. The award recognizes those individuals, families, organizations, educators, historians, and others whose efforts have had a significant impact on generating interest in, and the preservation of, the rich and diverse history of Montana. Following the presentation of the Montana Historical Society's Board of Trustees' Heritage Keepers Awards, MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg will present a very brief update on the State of the Society.



Postcard depicting Airport Road, ca. 1940
MHS PC 001-BILL

Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

Carl Davis

Throughout his long and distinguished career as an archaeologist, Carl Davis has made important contributions to preservation and scholarship and has been a strong champion for the preservation of cultural resources.



Born in Dillon, Montana, Davis began his archaeological career with the United States Forest Service in 1978, first working in Montana and then in the Pacific Northwest. Even off duty, he pursued his passion for archaeology, excavating test sites, analyzing artifacts, and writing up results in his free time.

Davis returned to Montana in 1995, where he has since worked tirelessly to preserve Montana's archaeological heritage and to train the next generation, for example, working with high school students to document and research the Charter Oak Mine and Mill near Elliston, Montana. That work resulted in a stabilization and interpretive plan as well as a National Register nomination for the site. In a similar vein Davis worked with high school students on a National Register nomination for the Mann Gulch fire site.

As the regional archaeologist for Forest Service Region 1 in Missoula, Davis oversaw the heritage program for the region and created the Heritage Stewardship Enhancement Program. In recognition of this work, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation awarded him the 2012 Chairman's Award for Achievement.

In retirement, Davis still contributes to the fields of archaeology and preservation. He serves on both the Montana State Burial Board and Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) Board of Directors and, for MPA, helps organize a biannual Historic Preservation Road Show, which focuses on the cultural heritage of small and mid-size Montana communities.

Davis also continues to write and publish. The author of twenty-five professional journal articles on topics from conical lodges to climate change, Davis also writes for a popular audience, including a forthcoming book on Montana's first peoples.

Davis's enthusiasm for archaeology and preservation is unending and contagious, and through a lifetime of service he has shown himself to be a heritage keeper in every sense. The board is pleased to recognize Carl Davis with this well-deserved award.

Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

Darris Flanagan

Raised in northwest Montana, Darris Flanagan has spent a lifetime carefully and tirelessly documenting and sharing the history of his beloved Tobacco Valley.

A retired history teacher, Flanagan began conducting local history research to enliven his curriculum and connect his students to their history. He continued researching the Tobacco Valley and surrounding communities, ultimately publishing books on, among other topics, logging, Eureka's Christmas tree industry, and area Indian trails.



His extensive research and undaunted efforts to preserve and share local history have made Flanagan the authority to whom educators, community members, and visitors turn with inquiries about the history of Eureka and its environs. A member of the Eureka Historical Society, Flanagan volunteers at the Historical Village in Eureka and is a frequent visitor to classrooms in Lincoln County and neighboring Flathead County.

Flanagan has also worked closely with the U.S. Forest Service, developing interpretive markers along the Lewis and Grave Creek Roads, guiding Youth Conservation Corps members along a portion of the Kootenai Trail, and training campground hosts so they can share information with visitors.

Flanagan has dedicated himself to interpreting and disseminating local stories through writing and educational programs, but he has also contributed to preserving records for future generations. For example, he has spent many hours scanning and cataloging back issues of the local high school newspaper. He also cataloged the photographs and newspaper clippings of Eureka native Winton Weydemeyer, one of the founders of the Montana Wilderness Association.

Darris Flanagan's love of his hometown of Eureka has inspired educators, researchers, and students. He has ensured that local history is not lost, that old-timers' stories are preserved, and that the residents of Eureka and the surrounding area understand what makes their home unique. His knowledge of Tobacco Valley history, his continuing quest to learn more about the region, and his commitment to sharing what he knows make him the epitome of a "heritage keeper."

Saturday, September 29

🕒 7:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M. Conference Registration

🕒 7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. Bradley Breakfast



The Irish and Chinese in Montana Irish and Chinese immigrants played a significant role in the development of nineteenth-century Montana. While the scholarship on Irish in Montana is extensive and there is a sizable body of work on Chinese in Montana, yet to appear is a study of these diasporic groups in Montana from a comparative perspective. Addressing this gap in the literature and bridging the divide between Irish American studies and Chinese American studies, Barry McCarron will share his research findings on relations between, and the comparative experiences and contributions of, Irish and Chinese in Montana. McCarron is an assistant professor of history and faculty fellow in Irish Studies at New York University and a 2017 MHS Research Center Bradley Fellow.

🕒 9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. Concurrent sessions

Living with Livestock Iker Saitua, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Riverside and University of the Basque Country, will examine **John Etchart: A Basque Leading Stockman in Northeastern Montana in the Early Twentieth Century**. In 1912, Basque immigrant John Etchart traveled from Nevada to northeastern Montana looking for new grazing lands. He eventually built up one of the most prominent ranches in the state and ultimately played a major role in other Basque expansion from the Great Basin into Montana. MHS reference historian Zoe Ann Stoltz will uncover the **Stories behind the Brands**. Livestock brands and their histories are vital to Montana history. Nowhere is this more apparent than with the people and brands associated with eastern Montana, including Will James, Peter Yegen, the XIT, Two Dot Wilson, the Circle Qtr Circle, the Greenough family, and so many more tales that involve legendary brands and the Montanans they represented.

Living with Nature Tim Lehman, professor of history at Rocky Mountain College, will examine **The Wolves of Fergus County: Predators, Power, and Profits in Central Montana**. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Montana passed bounty laws to create incentives for killing wolves and other



Goshawk with prey Evelyn Cameron, photographer, 1906,
MHS PAc 90-87.G024-0

predators in an attempt to transform the landscape from a Native American buffalo ecology to a Euro-American cattle economy. Historical records of bounty payments not only reveal patterns in the extirpation of predators but also demonstrate the importance of this infusion of money into the emerging cash economy. In **Shooting Animals: Cameras, Guns, and Rethinking Nature, 1880-1920**, MSU PhD candidate

LaTrelle Scherffius will look at wildlife photography in eastern Montana during this same time period when many increasingly saw nature as something to protect, rather than conquer or control. In 1892, George Bird Grinnell called for hunters to put down the gun and take up the camera. The shift toward “camera hunting” is marked by a transition away from photographs celebrating a hunter’s kill and toward photographs that capture animals in “nature.”

In Memoriam Retired MHS interpretive historian Ellen Baumler will discuss **Death and Burial among the First Montanans**. Much of what we know about the rituals and beliefs of Montana’s earliest people comes from happenstance encounters with burials and mortuary practices. From Park County’s 12,600-year-old Anzick site to Dawson County’s Hagen Site National Historic Landmark and the more recent “Face on the Rims” in urban Billings, burial sites teach us much about universal beliefs and cultural practices that survived for thousands of years.

Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline will present **Graven Images: The Bearcreek Cemetery and the Smith Mine Disaster**. The Bearcreek Cemetery



Bearcreek Cemetery, 2010
Jon Axline, photographer



Mrs. J. D. Johnson and friends, ca. 1913 Evelyn Cameron, photographer, MHS 90-8707-4

is a time capsule that provides a wealth of information about a once-thriving coal town that, essentially, no longer exists. The cemetery also contains the remains of many of the men who were killed in the 1943 Smith Mine disaster, the worst coal mining disaster in Montana history. What the cemetery tells us about that community is extraordinary and provides a unique peek into Carbon County's past.

 10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Concurrent sessions


The Business of History In “**There’s More Going on in Billings at Midnight Than . . .**”

Moss Mansion executive director Jenna Peete and Moss Mansion historian Jim Decker will examine how Billings became a commercial hub as the result of the early efforts of entrepreneur P. B. Moss. Peete and Decker will share stories relating to businesses and institutions still very prominent in the Magic City today, including the Northern Hotel, the sugar beet factory, Rocky Mountain College, the *Billings Gazette*, and more. Lesley Gilmore, director of Historic Preservation Services for CTA Architects Engineers, will present **CTA: Doing Business by the Golden Rule**. CTA Architects Engineers has contributed to the growth of Billings since the company's founding in August

1938. Gilmore will discuss the philosophical and chronological history of CTA, the progression of styles as evidenced by the firm's projects and client preferences, and the key personalities responsible as the company grew from two to nearly 450 employees.

The Railroad Shaped our Towns Kevin Kooistra, executive director of the Western Heritage Center, will present an early history of **Iron Horses and the Magic City** illustrating how the railroad impacted the planning, designing, and promoting of the settlement of Billings. Kooistra will demonstrate the ways in which the city of Billings is still affected by choices made by the Northern Pacific Railway in 1882. Paul Shea, director for the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, will discuss the rapid growth of Livingston and the reasons for creating a new county. In **Fast Tracks to Paradise**, Shea will look at how, beginning in 1883, the railroad's plans for shops and a spur line to Yellowstone National Park shaped the growth of Livingston and continued to impact the town for the next 104 years.

New Votes, New Deals UM student Chloe Loeffelholz will tell the story of **Mrs. John Willis, a Montana Suffragist**. Waltrene Danforth Willis was recording secretary of the Montana Equal Suffrage State Central Committee, president of the Political Equality League of Glasgow, and a member of the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs. Her club work and other suffrage efforts illustrate the important contributions made by the many, often unnamed, Montana women who helped win the right to vote. UM graduate student Kylie Lande will delve into **Montana Women: From the Great Depression through the New Deal**. Using oral histories, Lande will place women's experiences into the larger context of the Great Depression, beginning with the stock market crash in 1929, their involvement with relief efforts, and their contributions to Montana's New Deal programs.

 12:30 P.M.–2:00 P.M. Luncheon

Local History as a Tool of Economic Development: Reviving Yellowstone Kelly and William Clark in the Yellowstone Valley

To attract workers, entrepreneurs, and tourists, a community needs positive brand identity. When well presented, local history is a powerful tool that can be used to distinguish your town from "Everywhere U.S.A." Billings' Mayor William Cole will tell the story of how the



Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site was designed, funded, and constructed on the rimrocks overlooking Billings and how plans are now being prepared for the development of the William Clark Recreational Area on the Yellowstone River.

Post-Conference Field Trips

🕒 2:30 P.M.–3:30 P.M. Bars, Brothels, and Bok Choy: Exploring Minnesota Avenue
(limited to twenty, departs from the Western Heritage Center)

Before the skate park and businesses, Billings' Southside was filled with bars, brothels, and even a Chinatown. We'll wander the remnants of these establishments and bring back to life the stories of these large, and almost forgotten, communities.

🕒 2:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M. Trunks and Treasures at the Moss Mansion, 914 Division St
(limited to twenty-four, transportation on your own)

Visit the Moss Mansion and explore even more of the exquisite museum. This exclusive tour takes you behind the scenes to open drawers, peek in closets, and climb all the way up to the third-floor ballroom where daily tours never go. Your trained site historian will take you back in time to the early 1900s as you learn



Postcard depicting "Moss's Residence, Billings, Mont.," ca. 1910 MHS Photo Archives

more about the Moss family, see artifacts too fragile for regular display, and hear about the preservation of this National Historic Home. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

2:30 P.M.–6:00 P.M. Chief Plenty Coups State Park (limited to twenty, departs from the Northern Hotel, transportation provided)

Visit the log home and farmstead of Chief Plenty Coups of the Crow tribe, whose bravery, leadership, and vision helped bridge the gap between two cultures. Situated within the Crow Indian Reservation, Chief Plenty Coups State Park pays tribute to the last hereditary leader of all Crow tribes and documents his many contributions to Montana history. Park staff will provide tours of Plenty Coups' home, grounds, and sacred medicine spring. Participants will also be able to browse the visitors center and gift shop on their own. Access to the log cabin is by way of a three-quarter-mile walking trail, so wear sturdy shoes.

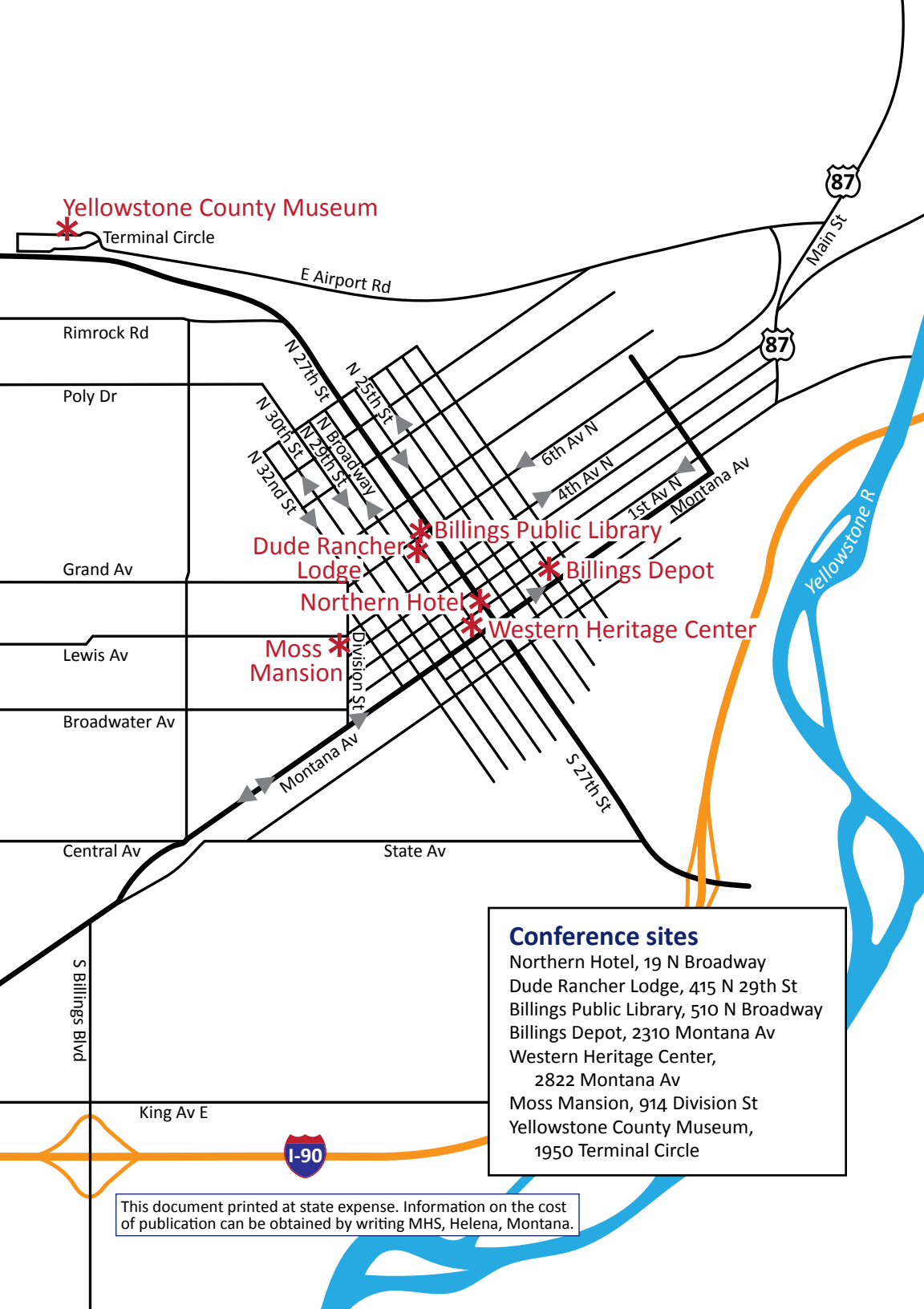
Capital History in the Capital City!

Save the date for the 46th Annual Montana History Conference, September 26–28, 2019, in Helena.



Thank you to our sponsors and partners!

- | | | |
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| Estate of Patricia Hoksbergen | Visit Billings | Yellowstone County Museum |



Yellowstone County Museum

* Terminal Circle

E Airport Rd

87

Main St

Rimrock Rd

Poly Dr

87

N 27th St
N 25th St
N 30th St
N 32nd St

N Broadway
N 29th St

6th Av N
4th Av N
1st Av N

Montana Av

* Billings Public Library
* Dude Rancher Lodge
* Billings Depot

Grand Av

* Northern Hotel
* Western Heritage Center

Lewis Av

* Moss Mansion

Division St

Broadwater Av

Montana Av

S 27th St

Central Av

State Av

Yellowstone R

S Billings Blvd

King Av E

I-90

Conference sites

- Northern Hotel, 19 N Broadway
- Dude Rancher Lodge, 415 N 29th St
- Billings Public Library, 510 N Broadway
- Billings Depot, 2310 Montana Av
- Western Heritage Center, 2822 Montana Av
- Moss Mansion, 914 Division St
- Yellowstone County Museum, 1950 Terminal Circle

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

Montana History Conference, September 27–29, 2018

Name

Organization (if applicable)

Street/Box No. City/Town

State/Prov. Zip/Postal Code

Phone Email

Please list any dietary restrictions (i.e. vegetarian, kosher, etc.)

Note: Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Pre-registration closes Friday, September 21. Limited on-site registration will be available beginning Thursday, September 27, if space allows.

Full conference registration includes reception on Thursday; all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and banquet on Friday; and all sessions, breakfast, and lunch on Saturday. Workshops are extra, as indicated below. All amounts are U.S. currency.

	Advance registration (by Sept. 21)	Amount
<input type="radio"/> Regular	\$165	_____
<input type="radio"/> College student (ID required)	\$95	_____
Workshops & field trips		
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Made in Montana Tour (limited to 25)	\$35	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Educators Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Archives Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Moss Mansion	Free	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Yellowstone County Museum	Free	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Bars, Brothels, and Bok Choy Walking Tour (limited to 20)	\$10	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Trunks and Treasures at the Moss Mansion (limited to 24)	\$10	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Chief Plenty Coups State Park (limited to 20)	\$10	_____
Single Day Registration		
<input type="radio"/> Friday only (includes all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and awards banquet)	\$125	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday only (includes breakfast and lunch)	\$50	_____
Extra tickets for guests of attendees		
<input type="radio"/> Extra reception tickets, Thursday night reception and program	\$20	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Friday noon	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra banquet tickets, Friday evening	\$45	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Saturday noon	\$25	_____
	Total	_____
<input type="radio"/> Note: MHS Prospector Members or higher receive a 15% discount on the total amount. Member number: _____	-15%	_____
	Amount due	=====

Note: Payment is due at the time of registration. Cancellations received before September 26 will be refunded in full less a \$20.00 handling fee. No refunds can be made for cancellations received after September 26.

Method of payment

Check enclosed Charge to my: MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card # Exp. date

Signature Sec. code

Mail registration form and payment to: History Conference, Montana Historical Society, P.O. Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-1201. Or register on-line at mhs.mt.gov/education/ConferencesWorkshops.

For conference questions call (406) 444-1799 or email jlewis@mt.gov.

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