



Society Bulletin

Member newsletter of the

Montana Historical Society

FALL
2025

MINESHAFT
ENTRANCE

Exclusive: First look
inside the reimagined
Homeland Gallery at the
Montana Heritage Center

A Thoughtful Commemoration

Our nation is rapidly approaching the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As we reflect upon the actions that led to that watershed moment, we must take the opportunity to consider the full sweep of our nation's past, to both celebrate it and learn from it.

The land we recognize as Montana is the ancestral home of many Indigenous peoples. In 1776, and for millennia before, it was a vibrant and culturally diverse land, home to many people. With the passage of time, stories from emigrants were added. Irish miners in Butte, Scandinavian farmers in Plentywood, Chinese laborers in mining towns, and many, many others contributed to the story of Montana and of the United States. Their stories, from then through today, are a vital component of the American story and the Montana story—our story.

Commemoration of the Declaration of Independence in Montana is being led by the Montana 250 Commission, which is attached to MTHS and which I serve on as a member. With representatives from across the state, the commission is tasked with promoting civic engagements and increasing public awareness of United States and Montana government and history, including the history of tribal nations.

Recognizing the importance of Indigenous culture to our past and to today, the Montana 250 Commission chose a Lakota phrase that translates roughly as “we are

all related,” as a central theme for our commemoration. The phrase reflects a worldview of interconnectedness and reinforces that all our stories and all our history is connected. It is critically important that Americans of all ages and backgrounds and from all places see themselves and their roles in our country's and our

state's history. By understanding the contributions of all people, we gain broader perspectives and deepen our knowledge of our shared American history. It is also important that we reflect on the ways our nation has changed over time, to consider both the origins of and changes to our democratic institutions, and through that to strengthen our knowledge of this ever-evolving American experiment.

The Montana 250 Commission recognizes that this anniversary isn't about looking back. It's an opportunity for all Montanans to reflect on the importance of 1776, recognize the contributions our

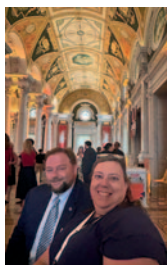
state has made to our shared history, and encourage a renewed interest in civics education. The commission looks to meet this vision by supporting several initiatives, including grants and educational activities. Visit the commission's website at america250mt.org for more information on our initiatives.

As we approach this milestone event in our U.S. history, I encourage each of you to strive to better understand our shared history, building upon it to provide meaning for today and vision for tomorrow.

—Molly Kruckenberg, *Director*



Molly Kruckenberg



Above: National History Day Executive Director Cathy Gorn and MT 250 Commission Chair Chris Averill with Montana students who won the special awards sponsored by National History Day. Left: Chris Averill and Molly Stockdale at the America 250 States and Territories Convening in July at the Library of Congress.



“This trip, more than any other thing I did in the classroom, is what lit a spark for local and state history engagement among my students.”

EDUCATION

Free Field Trips to Helena

MTHS Receives \$50,000 Grant to Launch Free Field Trip Program

The Montana Historical Society has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana to launch a free field trip program for Montana students. The program is designed to bring students from every corner of Montana to the Montana Heritage Center and the State Capitol for immersive learning experiences about their state’s history and government.

The grant, announced by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana on July 15 alongside other community investment recipients, represents a significant step toward the Society’s ambitious goal of making Montana history and state government accessible to all Montana students, regardless of their school’s location or economic circumstances.

“For too many Montana students and teachers, particularly those in rural communities, a trip to the State Capitol and the Montana Heritage Center feels out of reach,” said Darby Bramble, Education Officer with the Montana Historical Society. “This program changes that reality. We’re talking about students who might have to drive several hours just to get to Helena, and for many schools, the cost of transportation has made this kind of educational experience impossible.”

The History & Civics Endowment Program will provide comprehensive grants to schools across Montana, covering transportation costs and lodging. Upon arrival in Helena, students will explore the Museum at the Montana Heritage Center, to engage

with the state’s history through interactive exhibits and artifacts. They will also receive guided tours of the State Capitol, to see Montana’s government in action and learn about the democratic process firsthand.

“This trip, more than any other thing I did in the classroom, is what lit a spark for local and state history engagement among my students,” said an 8th grade teacher from Bonner who recently took his class on a field trip to Helena. “Kids were eager to dive into our local history unit, and as a result of our trip, a lot more of them want to learn about local civics now too.”

How to apply for the Grant:

Funding is awarded to public, private, and home-school collective schools who will travel more than fifty miles (one way) to Helena and is based on a formula that considers distance traveled, number of students, and type of transportation. While the MTHS History & Civics Education grant may not cover the entire cost of a field trip, this funding is designed to make this experience accessible to ALL schools.

The first round of applications will be accepted until October 13, 2025, and the second wave of funding will be open until January 4, 2026. For more information about the grants contact Darby Bramble at darby.bramble2@mt.gov or 406-444-2412, or visit: <https://mths.mt.gov/Donations/History-and-Civic-Educational-Endowment>



How you can help bring kids to Helena

To expand the reach of this program, MTHS is actively raising additional funds through the History & Civics Education Endowment. The goal is to build an endowment to sustain the program indefinitely, ensuring that geography and economics never prevent Montana students from experiencing their state’s history and capitol. With \$3.5M raised, MTHS is actively seeking donations to help reach \$10M. Contact MTHSDevelopment@mt.gov, or call Ginny Sullivan at 406-444-4013. To donate, visit mths.mt.gov/about/donate



History in Action

On a hot and sunny mid-July morning, MTHS archivists Tabitha Masters, Abigail Coupe, and Lindsey Mick, traveled to the small town of Roundup to review some records that were found stashed away in an old safe, near what used to be the county attorney's office in the Weir building.

Many of these documents were complaints and warrants of arrest, primarily from the 1930s to the 1950s, issued by the Justice Court of Musselshell County, for various crimes and misdemeanors. Most concerned things like highway speeding or writing fraudulent checks, but others reported crimes such as being in "illegal possession of elk meat," "operating a motor vehicle without a muffler," or even "permitting goats to run at large in an incorporated town." In 1943, Mrs. Catherine Kennedy wrote to the

county attorney asking if she could "collect damages" from a Mr. Fred Bassett, who had apparently left his goats to roam Mrs. Kennedy's property unattended for more than a month, and they had eaten all of her hay.

Other documents revealed more sinister incidents. On December 1, 1929, the Musselshell county court declared 47-year-old Gertrude Stevens, a married housewife and mother of three children, insane.

Anneliese Jakle, along with MTHS archivists Tabitha Masters, Abigail Coupe, and Cassidy Vander Voort, traveled to Hardy, Montana, to review the papers of the late Cheryl Hutchinson. Cheryl was an active player in both state government and the arts and humanities in the state from the 1960s through the 2000s. Probably her most enduring legacy is her success in designating Tower Rock a state park in the early 2000s. The four archivists visited Cheryl's residence where they reviewed over 40 boxes of her records. Although Cheryl primarily held administrative assistant roles within Montana state government, including serving as secretary to Dolores Colburg at the Office of Public

Instruction and Governor Ted Schwinden, she played a significant and active role in shaping state initiatives over several decades—often managing correspondence, attending conferences, and representing leadership at official functions. Beyond her government work, she

The cause? *Menopause*.

Her reported symptoms included hallucinations, fear of injuring others, obsession with her physical condition, sleeplessness, and something called *neurasthenia*, a popular diagnosis in the late 19th and early 20th centuries characterized by fatigue, insomnia, malaise, restlessness, and anxiety.

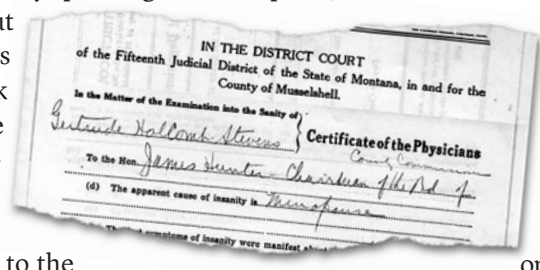
Six months later, in June 1930, a formal complaint was brought against Gertrude, who was, the claim went, "so far disordered in her mind as to endanger her own health, life and property." The complaint went on to state, "Said complainant therefore prays that a warrant may issue for the arrest of the said Gertrude Stevens."

The complaint was brought forth by none other than Gertrude's husband, Frank Stevens. As a result of this complaint, Gertrude was confined to the Warm Springs

Insane Asylum (now called Montana State Hospital).

Records like these reveal snippets of Montana's fascinating past. While they are only fragments of stories,

pieces to an impossibly large puzzle, they give us a glimpse into what life was like for Montanans who lived here decades or centuries before. All too often, documents like these are lost to time—and with them, their stories are lost too. As archivists, we work to preserve and protect these invaluable records, so that their stories are captured, safeguarded, and made available to Montanans, and others, for generations to come. ■



Due to ongoing construction, the **Larry Len and LeAnne Peterson Library & Archives** will open spring 2026. We look forward to welcoming you and will announce an open house date in the near future.



was deeply involved in preserving Montana's history through efforts like the State Capitol Restoration Project and advocating for the establishment of Tower Rock State Park along the Missouri River. She also conducted research on the life and career of biophysicist Norman Jefferis "Jeff" Holter. Although never published, the unfinished manuscript of his biography is included in her papers. This collection will be valuable to researchers interested in the role of women in Montana's political and educational history, female leadership, and federal education initiatives. Afterward, the four visited Tower Rock State Park and hiked to the marble bench donated by Cheryl in 2020, which sits at the approximate location of Meriweather Lewis's "Pensive Perch" in 1805. The Archives hopes to take physical possession of the material in the coming year when staff regain access to the archival holdings, which have been under protective wrap for the duration of the renovation. The material will then be processed before being made available to the public at a future date. ■



MONTANA HERITAGE CENTER

Homeland Reimagined

Exclusive look: The Society's Signature Gallery Gets a Bold New Voice

When visitors walk into the new Homeland Gallery, they'll encounter something unique: a circle of shoes arranged to evoke an intertribal dance, with overhead screens showing modern Montanans walking through their daily lives. The welcome exhibit might seem unconventional at first, but it perfectly represents the story the curators want to tell.

"We want to represent the idea that everybody who has come into this building is part of Montana's story," says Aaron Genton, Curator of Exhibits. The exhibit embodies the philosophy driving the entire reimagined gallery: history isn't something that happened to other people—it's something we're all actively creating.

When the Montana Heritage Center opens on December 2, the Society will be unveiling far more than a relocated gallery. The new Heritage Center's additional square footage provides the space and technology to completely reimagine how 15,000 years of Montana history can be told.

Take, for example, an exhibit about Montana's mining history. What began as plans for a simple touchscreen has transformed into a fully immersive mineshaft experience, complete with rumbling floors and vivid audio effects that will surround visitors while they watch colorized archival footage and listen to recordings of real miners sharing their stories. "The media elements are completely different from the previous space and enabled us to include more and different types of archival material," says Amanda Trum, Curator of Collections.

But the most significant transformations aren't technological, but philosophical. Working closely with tribal stakeholders representing the sovereign nations in Montana, the curators fundamentally changed how Indigenous stories are presented. "We're telling Indigenous stories from a much more intimate and inclusive perspective," Amanda explains. "That includes specific stories, quotes, languages, and photographs. All Indigenous content was directed by the Tribal Stakeholders Group."

The new gallery also deliberately focuses on individual faces and personal stories rather than generic historical content. Aaron emphasizes this shift: "We can talk about mining and railroads, but that's only going to hit people so much. People see

An interactive pioneer cabin exhibit in the Homeland Gallery immerses visitors in scenes, sounds, and voices from the past that depict what life was like as a homesteader.



themselves in other people.” Sometimes this meant moving away from artifacts entirely, relying on photographs and personal accounts to ensure Montana’s history of diverse voices remained visible.

The gallery’s boldest choice may be in its connection to the present. The final section, “Living History,” features contemporary Montanans on a giant curved screen including wildland firefighters, freestyle skiers, and other everyday people living Montana’s story right now. “We pushed it into today instead of letting it end in the 1940s or 1970s,” Aaron says. “These are stories that are history for the future.” Amanda adds, “We’re hoping anybody who comes into the gallery can see themselves in some way in Montana’s story.”

The curators note that the Heritage Center isn’t meant to be static. “We never really feel like we’re done,” notes Amanda. “We want this gallery to be dynamic, and we’re going to be continually looking at how to update information and switch out artifacts so we can share more stories in different ways.”

Part of that vision includes flexible spaces throughout the Heritage Center designed for deeper exploration, and the curators hope to include visitors’ stories in those spaces one day. “We want to bring everybody along with us because they all have something to add,” Aaron explains. “It’s their story, and I want visitors to enjoy this window into the past. But at the same time, don’t just leave it in the gallery. Think about it, make it mean something.”

For longtime Historical Society members, familiar favorites remain alongside bold innovations. “For people who loved the old space, there will still be the highlights from our collection,” Amanda assures. But she and Aaron promise something more: the opportunity to discover entirely new aspects of Montana’s story. “The fun part of peeking into the past is you never know what you’re going to find,” Aaron notes.

As opening day approaches, the curators are excited to see visitor reactions. “What I’m most excited about is having people experience all these different ways to engage with stories—media, artifacts, graphics, the whole experience together,” Amanda reflects.

Aaron has a more specific hope: “I want people to get there and say, ‘I don’t have enough time. I have to come back.’”

When the Montana Heritage Center opens December 2, it will offer something rare: a history museum that doesn’t just preserve the past, but actively invites visitors to see themselves as part of an ongoing story. In a state where personal connection to the land runs deep, that invitation may be the most authentic tribute to Montana’s heritage of all. ■



“ We want to bring everybody along with us because they all have something to add. It’s their story. Don’t just leave it in the gallery—make it mean something.”





Below: A mail tricycle believed to have been used in East Glacier is one of many artifacts with unique stories the curators wanted to draw attention to.



New Teacher Leaders Announced

“*Having Teacher Leaders who truly represent every corner of the state ensures that Montana’s rich stories reach every student.*”

Seven new educators have joined the Historical Society’s Teacher Leaders in History Program. Teacher Leaders are experienced elementary, middle school, and high school teachers who are deeply familiar with available Montana history resources and best practices in history education.

The new teacher leaders include Jim Martin of Missoula, Willamina Tailfeathers of Browning, Heather Hjelle of Manhattan, Chris Clairmont of Superior, Sarah Lyda of Lavina, Kasidy Robbins of Harlem, and Taylor Olsen of Harlowton.

These seven “history missionaries” will join the ranks of 13 other leaders who are dedicated to promoting

best practices in history education and connecting their colleagues across the state with resources for teaching Montana history and Indian Education for All. In addition to mentoring their peers, the leaders will also help write lesson plans and present at regional and statewide conferences.

“Having Teacher Leaders who truly represent every corner of the state ensures that Montana’s rich stories reach every student,” explained Martha Kohl, Outreach and Education Program Manager. “These leaders don’t just teach facts and dates; they help our students see themselves in Montana’s ongoing story and understand how the past shapes their communities today.” ■



Chris Clairmont



Heather Hjelle



Sarah Lyda



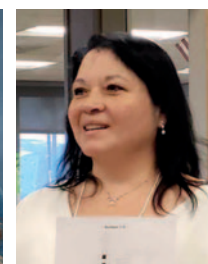
Jim Martin



Taylor Olsen



Kasidy Robbins



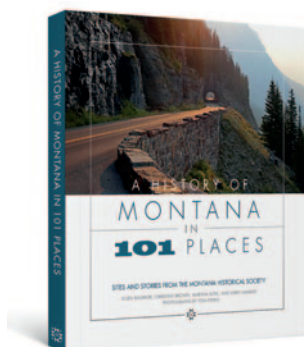
Willamina Tailfeathers

Coming Soon: The Gift Shop at the Montana Heritage Center

The beloved Museum Store will soon have a new home and name. On December 2, it reopens as **The Gift Shop**, located in the bright and bustling Central Commons.

The Gift Shop will continue to carry MTHS Press publications and the Western history titles you’ve come to love, while also expanding its selection with Made in Montana products. Special attention is being given to showcasing work by Indigenous artists, making their creations more accessible to visitors.

To prepare for the move, the physical and online stores will close on October 17 as staff transition into the Heritage Center and update the online shop to a new platform. **The Gift Shop reopens December 2**—just in time for holiday shopping.



Available Now! A History of Montana in 101 Places

From the ever-busy Logan Pass Visitor Center in Glacier National Park to the rusting remnants of Smith Mine Number 3 on a lonely hillside in Carbon County, *A History of Montana in 101 Places: Sites and Stories from the Montana Historical Society* is a fascinating anthology of

the locations that have made and remade the Last Best Place.

The beautifully illustrated, 304-page book from the Montana Historical Society Press—companion to the popular

History of Montana in 101 Objects published in 2021—is now available to order online and will hit bookstore shelves this week.

Compelling stories by current and former Montana Historical Society historians Christine Brown, Martha Kohl, Kirby Lambert, and the late Ellen Baumler, to whom the book is dedicated, are accompanied by stunning photography from Tom Ferris.

A History of Montana in 101 Places is available to purchase online or over the phone through The Gift Shop, previously Museum Store, at mths.mt.gov/store or 406-444-2890. You can also order it through Farcountry Press at farcountrypress.com or 1-800-821-3874. Hardcover \$49.99 • Softcover \$29.99.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ribbon Cutting at the Montana Heritage Center

Celebrate with us on December 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Central Commons for a ribbon cutting and press event. Director Molly Kruckenberg, Governor Greg Gianforte, Dennis Washington, and Norm Asbjornson will share remarks before officially cutting the ribbon to open our new facility to the public. From 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., guests are invited to begin exploring the treasure-filled new galleries and public spaces. Then, come back on Wednesday when we open at 9:00 a.m. for a full day of discovery.



Montana Heritage Center opens regular hours beginning Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00am–5:00pm

Thursday: 9:00am–6:30pm

Friday: 9:00am–5:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am–5:00pm

Sunday: 12:00pm–5:00pm



What about the former building?

Completed in 1953, the **Montana Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building** served as the home of the Montana Historical Society and its museum until it closed in **2022** for renovation.

The building is now physically attached to the new Montana Heritage Center. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in **2004**, the exterior of the building will not be altered.

The building is being renovated to house Montana Historical Society staff offices, several classrooms, additional galleries and the Peterson Library & Archives.

Learn more about the Montana Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building in **A History of Montana in 101 Places**, published by the Montana Historical Society Press, and available now!



Fall Lecture Series

Unless otherwise noted, the *MTHS Lecture Series* runs every first and third Thursday at 6:30 p.m., at the Lewis & Clark Library, 120 Last Chance Gulch. The lectures will move to Montana Heritage Center on January 15, 225 N. Roberts St., Helena.

October 2

Montana History in 101 Places

Author Kirby Lambert
Lewis & Clark Library • 6:30 p.m.

October 8

Cats Going West

Presenter Shannon Kelly
Touchmark • 1:00 p.m.
915 Saddle Drive, Helena

October 16

Wolves: Reality, Myths, and Madness

Presenter Dr. Diane Boyd
Lewis & Clark Library • 6:30 p.m.

November 6

Black Robes Enter Coyote's World: Chief Charlo and Father DeSmet in Rocky Mountains

Presenter Sally Thompson
Lewis & Clark Library • 6:30 p.m.

November 20

TBD

Lewis & Clark Library • 6:30 p.m.

To arrange speakers for your group or organization, or other questions regarding public programs, contact Laura Marsh at (406) 444-4789 or laura.marsh@mt.gov.

November 29

Holiday Open House at the Original Governors Mansion

304 N. Ewing St. • 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

December 2

Montana Heritage Center Ribbon Cutting and Press Event

225 N. Roberts • 3:00 p.m.

December 3

Montana Heritage Center Opens to Public

225 N. Roberts • 9:00 a.m.



Join the Montana Historical Society Community Events mailing list

December 4

Film Screening: *Big Medicine: York Outdoors*

Lewis & Clark Library • 6:30 p.m.

December 6

Pop-Up Christmas Exhibit at the Montana Heritage Center

225 N. Roberts • 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.



Save the date and plan your trip to Helena, Montana June 24-28, 2026 for the Montana Heritage Center's Grand Opening Celebration. Festivities launch with Alive@Five on the Capitol grounds along 6th Avenue—enjoy live music, food trucks, and the vibrant local atmosphere as we kick off a week of celebration. Explore the Heritage Center and downtown Helena, where a full slate of history-themed events and activities for all ages will bring Montana's rich past to life.

Historic Preservation Review Board Meets

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and State Historic Preservation Review Board held their tri-annual public meeting on September 18 at the Big Timber Carnegie Library. The board reviewed and forwarded National Register nominations to the Keeper of the National Register at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The board considered nominations for six historic properties across Montana: Shy



Musselshell River Bridge, Ryegate

Phillips County.

The board held its meeting in Big Timber due to the city's strong community support for establishing a downtown National Register Historic District. ■

Brothers Mercantile, Ashland; Goughnour Lumber Company Office, Livingston; Carpenter Paper Company, Billings; First Congregational Church, Billings; Musselshell River Bridge, Golden Valley County and the Milk River Bridge,

Kevin Kooistra Honored

The Montana Historical Society along with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recently honored Kevin Kooistra of Billings with the John N. DeHaas Memorial Award for his Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation in Montana.

Kooistra, who passed away unexpectedly in December 2024, worked to document and celebrate Montana history for decades. A cultural anthropologist and historian, Kevin's contributions included archaeological exca-



Kevin Kooistra

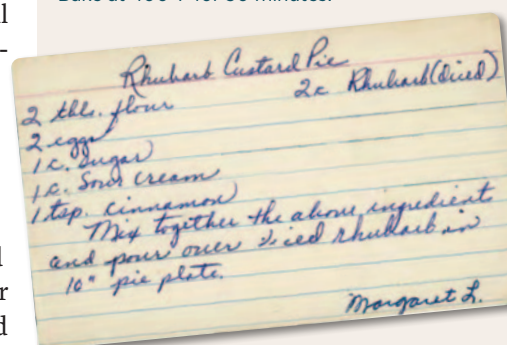
inations, documentaries, oral history preservation, ethnographies, cultural resource surveys, and more. Kevin's role as Western Heritage Center director provided the opportunity for exhibits, tours, and presentations that informed and entertained people statewide. His love for people, advocacy for preservation, and dedication to education continues to inspire us to honor Montana's historic places. ■



Rhubarb Custard Pie

2 tbs. flour	1 c. sour cream
1 c. sugar	2 c. rhubarb, diced
1 tsp. cinnamon	2 pie crusts
2 eggs	2 tbs butter, diced

Mix together all ingredients except butter and pour into a 10-inch prepared pie dish. Dot with butter pieces and add top pie crust (lattice works well). Crimp to seal pie crust. Bake at 400°F for 50 minutes.



Recipe card from the Montana Foodways Collection, Richland and Roosevelt Counties.

Date unknown. Montana Historical Society Library and Archives.



GIFTS MADE IN LOVING MEMORY AND HONOR

Each year, the Montana Historical Society receives gifts in memory of lost loved ones and in honor of friends. These gifts keep Montana's history accessible to all. Gifts listed here are those received between May 2025 and July 2025.

In memory of Frank & Anna Beniger
David Peck

In memory of Alma Burnett
Erica Thomas

In memory of Elizabeth Honner Clague
Judith Naginey

In memory of Harry H. Clague
Judith Naginey

In memory of Stuart W. Conner
Susan R. McDaniel

In memory of Terry Copenhaver
Shari Copenhaver

In memory of E.B. Craney
Darien Scott

In memory of John & Carla Cronholm
Cara Cronholm

In honor of Brian Dippie
Tom and Jane Petrie

In memory of the William A. and Ellen Louise (Nellie) Gordon Fletcher Family
Carol Jo Thompson

In memory of Pamela Jones-Hahn
Ed Hahn

In memory of Mike Kennedy
Katherine Vance

In memory of Robert F. and Genevieve E. Morgan
Sue Morgan

In memory of Robert M. Morgan
Sue Morgan

In memory of Dorothy "Poo" Dixon Allen Penrose
Nancy Penrose

In memory of Alvin E. Yates, Sr.
Ron and Amy Yates



Welcome New MTHS Staff

Outreach & Education

Debbie Queen, *Tour Guide*

Debbie joins the MTHS tour team from the Department of Agriculture, where she has been serving as an AmeriCorps member focused on agritourism initiatives across the state. After spending nearly 30 years in Llandeilo, Wales, UK—where she even worked as a guide at a Roman gold mine—she has returned to Montana with a passion for sharing history and place. Debbie holds an MA in Cultural Landscape Management and brings extensive experience working with the public and supporting historic sites. We are fortunate to have her on our team.

Administration

Bo Antila, *Accounting Supervisor*

Bo is a Montana native of Elliston, Montana and a Carroll alumni with an MA in accounting. He brings

close to a decade of State accounting experience to MTHS, acquired at the Department of Transportation. Bo will oversee the finances of the agency. He enjoys life with his two children as they keep him busy with many tasks. Bo enjoys hobbies such as shed hunting, golfing, and hiking.

Lucas Hartman, *Security Guard*

Lucas enlisted in the army at 17 and served with the 2/116th armored combat reconnaissance squadron. He was deployed with the 18th airborne corps before being honorably discharged in 2016. After completing his service, Lucas attained his associate degree in history from Southern New Hampshire University. Since then, he has worked as a federal background investigator and as armed security at the Lewis and Clark County courthouse. Lucas is very excited to be a part of the MTHS team.

Sierra Coster, *Security Guard*

Sierra joined the Montana Heritage Center's security team in June 2025. A recent Helena resident originally

from Great Falls, Sierra brings more than two years of private security experience. Her background includes work at the Great Falls International Airport, Touro College, several local venues, and even providing security for music artist Nelly during a Helena fair performance. Sierra is excited to be part of the Montana Historical Society and looks forward to helping ensure a safe and welcoming environment as the Heritage Center opens its doors to the community.

Library & Archives

Dylan Yonce, *Reference Historian*

Dylan is a recent graduate from the University of Montana History Department where she focused on the overlapping histories of conservation, higher education, and federal Indian policy. Born and raised in Montana, Dylan's love and appreciation for her home state inspire her to ask questions about the past that inform the present and future. She can't wait to help patrons answer their own questions about Montana as part of the growing team at MTHS!

How well do you know your Montana history?

Take our quiz and see how you fare against the "knowiest" of Montana's know-it-alls!

1. Measuring 15 inches wide, the world's largest snowflake was recorded in Montana in what year?

2. What Montana state park is named for the Lakota phrase meaning "Land of bad spirits"?

3. Residents of a small Montana community are forced to move their homes to make way for Fort Peck Dam in what 2003 movie?

4. On what date was the Jack Dempsey vs. Tommy Gibbons heavyweight championship fight staged in Shelby?

5. What was the name of Sacagawea's second child?

6. Janet Gardner, lead singer of the 1980s heavy metal band Vixen, grew up in what Montana town?

7. Author Norman Maclean's brother Paul Maclean was a writer for what Montana newspaper?

8. Which three communities served as territorial capitals for Montana?

9. The prefix "53" on a Montana license plate indicates the vehicle is registered in what county?

10. America's first luge run was built in 1965 in what Montana town?

11. Who were the first two women elected to public office in Montana Territory in 1882, both as county school superintendents?

12. The Roe River in Great Falls is the shortest river in the US, measuring how long in feet?

13. Defeated in 1978, what was the name of the proposed dam that would have blocked the Yellowstone River and flooded Paradise Valley?



14. What native Montanan was the only pitcher to hit a grand-slam home run in World Series history?

15. From Montana's Triple Divide Peak, water flows in to which three major North American watersheds?

16. In what town was a temporary White House established for President Teddy Roosevelt when he visited Montana in 1902?

ANSWERS ON THE BACK PAGE



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Win over \$200 in prizes!

Scan this code to take our annual patron survey and be entered for a chance to win a prize basket from the MTHS Gift Shop!



<http://bit.ly/4pkFWs9>

Montana Authors word search

X T D C D E B R A M A G P I E E A R L I N G
Y S G K H B R K T H O M A S M C G U A N E U
D E N D T R W E C A F B V L J O A R S N F O
U Z K E Y N I O L O Z G Q V H Y G E O C H P
I J E R M C U S N M C U N S E Z C M S V Q Q
P N A B U M Y L L O U A Z R P F C A R E B T
M O I M S B A R B A R A E H R E N R E I C H
R M J L E S E U A Y T M B P E M Q T B P P J
U V O S O S A E Q M D R A N G A R Y S V E E
S F E R Y A W B L S C U A N E U Q W E K T Y
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L V E A C Z X W F B M S G S K K W T H D L W
A C C U E F W I L L I A M K I T T R E D G E
N D R Q E P G N F R K M S J W R R D O B Z Z
D X O F A N A M R O N T I M C A H I L L Q T
L N W G Z O N H D O G U H D R A H C I R J H

Word search key:

Rick Bass

Ellen Baumler

Judy Blunt

Peter Bowen

James Lee Burke

Tim Cahill

Ivan Doig

Debra Magpie Earling

Barbara Ehrenreich

Norman A. Fox

Pete Fromm

Richard Hugo

William Kittredge

Chris LaTray

Norman Maclean

Cyra McFadden

Thomas McGuane

Joe Medicine Crow

Christopher Paolini

Doug Peacock

Betsy Gaines Quammen

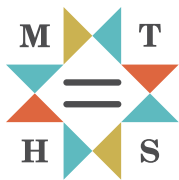
Russell Rowland

Pretty Shield

Gary Svee

James Welch

Can you find all 25 renowned Montana authors hidden in this puzzle?



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MTHS DEVELOPMENT

Honoring Early Support: Opportunity Bank of Montana

Opportunity Bank of Montana has been a steadfast partner in preserving and sharing Montana's history. In 2019, under the leadership of then-president and CEO Pete Johnson, the bank made an early pledge of \$100,000 to the Montana Heritage Center capital campaign. That gift set a powerful example for other independent and Montana-based banks, inspiring them to join in support of this historic project.

The bank's commitment has continued under the leadership of current president and CEO Laura Clark, reflecting a long-standing dedication to the Montana Historical Society. Beyond their capital campaign pledge, Opportunity Bank has supported the Society



through sponsorship of the Montana History Conference and Lecture Series.

Today, Pete Johnson continues his service as a member of the MTHS Board of Trustees, ensuring his passion for Montana history remains deeply connected to the work of the Society. We are honored and grateful for Opportunity Bank of Montana and their early leadership and ongoing support as we move closer to opening the Montana Heritage Center. ■



Right: Molly Kruckenberg and Pete Johnson hold a giant check in 2020 during the Montana Heritage Center capital campaign kickoff.

16. Cinnabar
15. The Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Hudson Bay
14. Dave McNally
13. Allenspur Dam
12. 201 feet
11. Helen Pictopowaka Nichols
10. Lolo Hot Springs
9. Golden Valley
8. Bannack, Virginia City, and Helena
7. Great Falls Tribune
6. Bozeman
5. Lizette Charbonneau
4. July 4, 1923
3. Northfork
2. Makoshika
1. 1887

Answers to Montana history trivia quiz on page 11:

