

Archives Move: Keeping Montana's Stories Alive

The staff of the Montana Historical Society took great care in boxing up and temporarily relocating the stories of Montana that truly are the memory of its people.

It took nearly four weeks of physical labor to clear out the archives storage area in the basement of the Society to make room for the installation of high-density mobile shelving that will ease the overcrowding MHS is experiencing in all of its programs.

Although the staff prides itself in making those collections available to the public, MHS has had to restrict access to the archives until the project is complete. The thirty-five thousand linear feet of materials in the collection have been moved to a secure location off-site. It is expected that the archives will open again by April 15. The Research Center and



In what is truly a massive change for the Montana Historical Society archives, the staff spent nearly four weeks packing up and moving thousands of boxes of precious Montana documents to clear the way for installation of new high-density mobile storage shelving.

Photograph Archives remain open with limited access to collections.

To understand the scope of the project, imagine each individual file box lined up end to end. They would stretch out over seven miles.

The collection is considered one of the best not only on the history of Montana but also on the

history of the American West. It is used by authors, filmmakers, researchers, and those who want to learn more about the history of their own families.

The Legislature provided \$402,000 for the project, which will take seven months to complete. The new shelving will

Archives (cont. on p. 4)



Cowpunchers didn't have to mess with any Longhorns when the first cattle came into Montana. MHS Photograph Archives, Helena, 981-429

Longhorns Not the First Montana Cattle

In the fifty years following the end of the Civil War, nearly 6 million Longhorn cattle were herded north out of Texas. In the 1880s, Montana cattlemen brought in hundreds of thousands of these Texas Longhorns.

The Texas Longhorn is now an instantly recognizable icon of the open-range years. But when they arrived in Montana from the south, there were already herds of another, much different type of cattle here to greet them.

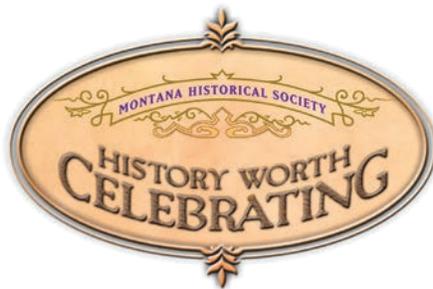
MHS museum technician Vic Reiman has been researching the cattle industry in Montana and has come up with some fascinating new findings on how cattle got here.

The first cattle in Montana came from the area of the Columbia River basin that is now eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, and northern Idaho. Montana stockmen called these animals simply "Oregon cattle."

Oregon cattle (cont. on p. 4)

The Year of the 150s

BY BRUCE WHITTENBERG



A year or so ago, the Montana Historical Society adopted a new slogan, “History Worth Celebrating.” Although that has a broader connotation, the next eighteen months will truly be a celebration of our shared heritage. I call it the “Year of the 150s.”

The year kicks off on March 19, 2014, with the celebration of the 150th birthday of Charles Marion Russell. Charlie is an iconic figure in Montana and the American West. He was a midwestern teenager who dreamed of being a cowboy and pursued that dream to Montana in 1880. By living his early life among the wranglers of the Judith Basin ranch lands, Russell developed the themes for what has become one of the most important bodies of western art in America today. The Montana Historical Society is proud to hold one of the great collections of Russell works. On March 19, 2014, we will be celebrating the Russell Collection with a redesigned Mackay Gallery of C. M. Russell Art along with a birthday celebration for our favorite western artist. Later in the year, we will release *Montana’s Charlie Russell*, the first-ever comprehensive catalog of the Montana Historical Society Russell collection.

On May 28, 1864, the Montana Territory was established by an act of Congress and signed into law by

President Abraham Lincoln. The forty-first Montana History Conference, “Montana Milestones,” will highlight that sesquicentennial with three days of programming, September 18–20 in Helena.

Also in 1864, gold was discovered in the Prickly Pear valley in what became known as Last Chance Gulch. That led to the establishment of the mining town that in October of that year adopted the name of Helena. Helena became territorial capital in 1875 and was voted state capital in 1894.

When the Montana territorial legislature convened in Virginia City in late 1864, one of the first orders of business was to consider the preservation of the documents, artifacts, and records that would tell the story of the early history of the territory for future generations. What great vision our founding fathers had to recognize that the story of Montana must be collected and shared in perpetuity.

On February 2, 1865, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Montana enacted and Governor Sidney Edgerton signed into law the establishment of the Historical Society of Montana. On that date, 150 years later, we will all celebrate the Montana Historical Society and its importance to Montanans—past, present, and future.

Yes, there are several “150s” in the next year or so. These points in time mark the establishment of the place we know today as the State of Montana, but they by no means encompass the full history of those who have lived on this land for many centuries. As we look back, we honor those who came before, their vision, their sacrifices, and the incredibly hard work that brought us to this point in time. History is being made every day in Montana and will be captured and shared by the Montana Historical Society. We will continue to grow, to expand the reach of our work, and to pursue the shared vision of renovated and expanded facilities.

The history of this place we love, held in trust for 150 years by the Montana Historical Society, is truly “History Worth Celebrating.” ★

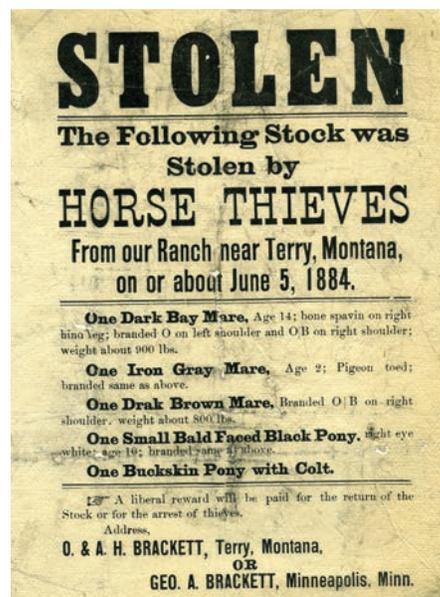
About Us

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

- MHS Director: Bruce Whittenberg
 - Membership Coordinator: Rebecca Baumann (406) 444-2918
 - Editor: Tom Cook (406) 444-1645
- www.montanahistoricalsociety.org

SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD: TREASURES FROM THE SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

The Montana Historical Society Research Center recently acquired this wanted poster featuring thieves who rustled horses from a ranch near Terry, Montana. In Montana, horse and cattle rustling constituted a major crime from early days on. In fact, during this same time period, a spate of cattle rustling in central Montana precipitated the vigilante killings of fifteen rustlers by “Stuart’s Stranglers,” led by Montana icon Granville Stuart. ★



High Line Heritage House Museum

Havre is rich in history, and now it has another attraction that shows it off.

Emily Mayer opened her home as the High Line Heritage House Museum in Havre in 2012 using

her own money and labor. The home was constructed in about 1895 and was owned by Daniel and Elizabeth Boone. The couple opened a drugstore, and their “cottage,” as they called it, was a hub



for Havre society. Among other things, Emily said, it had the first residential bathroom in the community.

She opened her museum in conjunction with Hill County's Centennial Celebration. The museum reflects her love of history, her private collection, and the stories of a fifth generation of Hill County residents.

In addition to tours, Mayer also hosts tea parties to raise money for her ultimate goal, which is to rehabilitate the nearby Mathew's Mansion, move the house museum there, and also operate it as a bed and breakfast. “It needs everything, but the mansion and its history are worth saving,” she said.

For tour and other information, call (406) 265-6233. The house museum is at 132 Third Street in Havre. ⚡

SOCIETY STAR PROFILE

Zoe Ann Stoltz: A Lady of—and with an Answer for—all Seasons



Zoe Ann Stoltz is like the teacher you always wanted.

As the reference historian in the MHS Research Center, she makes everyone she helps feel as if he or she has the best and most exciting question she has ever heard. Then she gently teaches each person how to look for the answer with some help from her along the way.

A powerful and gentle person, she is proud to say that she wouldn't be where she is without

the support of her friends and her three daughters, Kerensa, Savenna, and Breana.

The native Montanan earned an associate degree from the Libby campus of Flathead Community College before she finished raising her daughters. After all three had graduated from high school, she decided it was time to do something new with her life.

“I sold just about everything I had, including my 1957 International four-wheel-drive truck that I called Jed,” she says. Without the support of her family and friends, she says she could never have done it. “Essentially, they all kicked me out of town,” she jokes.

With her possessions in her suitcase, Stoltz went off to Massachusetts to attend prestigious Mount Holyoke College. She came

back to her beloved Montana with a degree in history with an emphasis on U.S. history—and she graduated magna cum laude.

“I was the token middle-aged Montanan on campus,” she said.

She became a teaching assistant for noted Montana historian Harry Fritz at the University of Montana. She finished classwork in 2004 and defended her master's thesis in 2011.

In 2006, she became the reference historian at MHS, and she credits all of her life experience for how she does her job. “I spent the best part of twenty-four years as a housewife, and I was proud of it. My home was open to anyone and anybody. I hope that is what I convey to the public in my job,” she said.

“I didn't know where life would lead me. But I am happy to be where I am. The only thing I miss is Jed—with the rifle rack in the window, he was like a pink umbrella,” she said. ⚡

Archives (cont. from p. 1)
increase storage capacity by about 40 percent as well as offer better protection for the collections.

“I am extremely proud of the staff that pitched in to get this job done. It was physical work, so we had to have safety classes to make sure no one injured themselves in the move,” MHS director Bruce Whittenberg said.

MHS is doing all it can to maximize the space that it has in the

current building that was built in 1952—more than half a century of history ago.

“We appreciate the support of Governor Steve Bullock and the Legislature for improving conditions for the State Archives,” Whittenberg said. “The State Archives have been growing since 1865, and this emphasized the need for the new facilities that have been on the drawing board for several years.” ⚡



The MHS staff celebrates the final box in the State Archives relocation.

Oregon cattle (cont. from p. 1)

Today, Oregon cattle have almost completely disappeared from memory. They were descended, in part, from cattle the American settlers herded with them along the Oregon Trail on their epic trek in the 1840s and 1850s. The Oregon-bound settlers' cattle were English-American breeds and included many Shorthorns.

The original Shorthorns were dual-purpose cattle—the cows were good milk producers, but the breed also produced excellent beef.

In the early 1860s, several residents of what are now the western valleys of Montana had small herds of Oregon cattle herded in on the newly opened Mullan Road. Later, the influx of gold seekers into southwestern Montana created a huge demand for beef. In

the spring of 1866, future cattle magnate Conrad Kohrs, in partnership with Ben Peel, brought in three to four hundred “fine” steers from Walla Walla.

After the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883, tens of thousands of Oregon cattle were shipped to eastern Montana by rail. After 1890, the flood of Oregon cattle into Montana slowed to a trickle.

Today, Oregon cattle are gone from Montana and from the Columbia River basin. On the Montana open range, their genetic heritage was diluted by interbreeding with the other types of cattle. Still, it is fascinating to wonder if, in the back pasture of some Montana ranch, there is a nondescript bovine with some of the genes of the long-gone Oregon cattle. ⚡

Women's History Matters

Montana women received the right to vote in 1914, six years before the passage of the Twentieth Amendment, which guaranteed women's suffrage nationwide. Women's History Matters is a Montana Historical Society initiative to recognize the 2014 centennial of women's suffrage by looking inclusively at women's history in Montana. Expanding the focus beyond suffrage was important to the Society in part because Montana's Indian women did not gain the vote until 1924, with the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act.

At the heart of the Women's History Matters project is a dedicated website, montanawomenshistory.org, which debuted January 1, 2014. Over the course of the year, the front page of the site will highlight Montana women's topics and individuals, including women homesteaders and bootleggers, deaconesses and prostitutes, politicians, warriors, and community activists. Readers are encouraged to subscribe to the site's RSS feed to make sure they see the twice-weekly features.

The website features resources for teachers, researchers, and the general public—including suggestions for ways that communities across Montana can celebrate during the anniversary year. Explore the website to find links to *Montana The Magazine of Western History* articles on women's history, information about historic places associated with women, lesson plans for classroom use, and links to early twentieth-century Montana newspaper editorials advocating (or opposing) suffrage.

Funding for this website—and other aspects of the Women's History Matters project—was provided in part by Montana's Cultural Trust. ⚡

Darrell Robes Kipp: A MAN FOR ALL PEOPLE

Darrell Kipp was first and foremost a leader for his Blackfoot Tribe, but he was also a man who taught all people what it means to be proud of heritage and history.

A founder of the Piegan Institute in Browning, Kipp—who died in November of cancer—left behind a rich legacy as an educator, author, historian, and filmmaker.

His Blackfoot name was Apinikio Peta, which translates as Morning Eagle. He taught young Blackfoot children to respect and preserve their culture using im-

mersion in their language in what he called total physical response.

When Montana and the rest of the nation were in the process of planning the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Kipp was quick to point out that his tribe and others saw it not as a celebration but as a commemoration of something that changed the way of life of many people—not always in a good way.

Kipp and composer Robert Kapilow collaborated on a choral work called *Summer Sun, Winter*

Moon that told the story of the expedition from a Native American point of view.

Born in 1944, Kipp went on to earn a master's degree from Harvard University. His grandfather was a survivor of the tragic Baker Massacre of 1870 and yet was proud of his service in the U.S. military. One of the things Kipp taught was that a true understanding of history allows all people to overcome the things that have divided them in the past. He will be missed. ☼

Women's Group Grant Helps Bison Project

The Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma has stepped up to support a project to clean and conserve the bison display in the MHS Museum.

"This is a great example of how groups can work with the museum staff to find projects that fit the mission of their organization and also help preserve Montana history," MHS curator of collections Amanda Trum said.

The bison exhibit is located near the buffalo jump diorama in the museum and is a favorite of children, whose education is important to the Alpha Chapter of Helena.

"The exhibit is one that many of us remember from our visits to the museum as children," sorority member Carole Plymale said.



Alpha Chapter members (left to right) Shirley Thomas, Jan Peterson, Leola Tusler, Thea Swenson, and Carole Plymale in front of the bison exhibit with MHS's Amanda Trum and Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney.

Trum said any organizations looking for projects that benefit Montana history can contact her at 406-444-4719 or e-mail atrumstreeter@mt.gov. ☼

Visit the Original Governor's Mansion When in Helena

The Original Governor's Mansion was built in 1888 and was home to nine Montana governors from 1913 to 1959. It has been restored and decorated to reflect the period of Governor Sam Stewart's residency, 1913–1921. Restoration of the mansion began in 1969 with the support of the City of Helena, and it is administered currently by MHS with the support of the

private-sector Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Society.

From October 1 to April 30, tours start on the hour from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays only. From May 1 to September 30, the OGM is open Tuesday through Saturday with tours on the hour from noon to 3 p.m. For special group tours or school tours, call (406) 444-4789. ☼

More Historic Newspapers to Be Published Online

The MHS Research Center is happy to announce that it has received a third National Digital Newspaper Program grant award of \$250,000. The funds were awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and will be used to digitize one hundred thousand more pages from historic Montana newspapers. The digitized images will be added to the existing Montana newspapers on the Library of Congress's Chronicling America website, located at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.

One of the great advantages of digitization is that the text of these newspapers is keyword searchable. Users can enter a surname, place name, topic, or phrase and retrieve every page on which it appears. Among the newspapers to be digitized in 2013–15 are the *Bozeman Chronicle*, the *Dillon Tribune*, and the *Butte Miner* (1880s), the *Neihart Herald* (1890s), the *Kalispell Bee* (1900–1903), the *Western News* (1900–10), the *Roundup Record* (1908–1913), the *Cut Bank Pioneer Press* (1910–17), and the *Glasgow Courier* (1915–22). For more information about the project, contact the Montana Digital Newspaper Project's coordinator, Christine Kirkham, at ckirkham@mt.gov. ☼

New MHS Trustees Join an Already Great Team

The addition of retired bank executive Ed Jasmin of Helena, former University of Montana president and historian George Dennison of Missoula, and lawyer, rancher, and aircraft entrepreneur Cliff Edwards of Billings brings additional spirit and enthusiasm to the MHS Board of Trustees, board president Crystal Shors said.

“I think we have some challenges ahead, and I think the new energy that the newly appointed trustees bring will be very helpful,” she said. “We continue to try to get the Heritage Center approved and built.”

They were appointed to the fifteen-member board by Governor Steve Bullock, who has voiced his support for the new MHS Heritage Center. Although MHS was established in 1865, the first Board of Trustees, appointed by the governor, was created in legislation in 1893.

“If you look back on the board through the years, it’s been kind of a who’s who of Montana,” MHS director Bruce Whittenberg said.

Shors and Whittenberg said that the skills, contacts, and relationships that the new trustees add to the fifteen-member board, who



Ed Jasmin



George Dennison



Cliff Edwards

are appointed from across Montana with overlapping terms, will be important as MHS continues to grow in the twenty-first century.

Jasmin graduated from the University of Montana in 1959 and began his thirty-five-year banking career as a trust officer at Norwest Bank Helena. He retired in 1993 as Vice Chairman of Norwest Investment Management, which is now Wells Fargo. He was president of the Montana Bankers Association in 1989 and 1990.

Dennison began his academic career as a student at what was then known as the Miles City Community College, going on to the University of Montana, where he received his master’s degree in history, and the University of Washington, where he received

his Ph.D. in history in 1967. He was professor and administrator at several other colleges before becoming president and professor of history at the University of Montana from 1990 to 2010.

Edwards has deep roots in the Judith Basin of central Montana, where he grew up in the tiny town of Denton. He did his undergraduate work at Carroll College in Helena and got his law degree from the University of Montana. He went on to become one of the top trial lawyers in the state and founded the law firm Edwards, Frickle, Halverson & Anner-Hughes in Billings. He also owns the 80,000-acre Edwards Angus Ranch near Denton and the Edwards Jet Center, which operates about fifty charter aircraft. ★

MHS Museum Store Has a Charlie Russell Deal for You

The MHS Museum Store has a great deal on a limited edition Charles M. Russell print that is available until it is sold out.

Only 250 prints of *The Chaperone* were commissioned by MHS. They are framed with a solid frame, matte, and UV Plexiglas cover and are signed and numbered by former MHS director Robert Archibald.

They originally cost \$425 but are being offered at a special price of \$250 plus \$35 shipping.

They are available by calling the store toll-free at (800)243-9900 or by ordering online at



www.montanahistoricalsociety.org under the “Museum Store” tab. The framed image size is 27.5 inches by 35.5 inches.

The original watercolor belongs to the C. M. Russell Museum in Great Falls. It was part of the *Romance Maker* exhibit there and is featured in the companion book *Romance Maker: The Watercolors of Charles M. Russell*.

Don’t forget the Museum Store when you are looking for a special gift for family or friends. ★

Memorials to MHS over the Past Year

Thank you to those who made honor and remembrance gifts in support of the programs of MHS. Donations were received in memory of:

Betty Babcock—Former first lady of Montana, member of the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention, and avid supporter of Montana history and MHS.

Virginia Barfknecht—Raised in Bozeman and graduate of Montana State College, Virginia Howell married Jim Barfknecht in 1945. She moved to Helena in 1953 and was active in many community organizations, including PEO, Friendship Force, and the American Red Cross.

Wilda Axelson Bell—Bozeman native and graduate of Montana State College, she owned and managed Richards Funeral Home in Butte with her husband, Arlo Axelson. She later married Wilford Bell and became the first woman to serve as secretary of the Montana Funeral Directors Association.

Max and Zorka DaSilva—Max was a WWII Marine veteran. He married Zorka Tyanich, who was also a Marine and later worked for state government. Max spent his career at Caird Engineering until retirement in 1987.

Frankie Finnegan—When she was eighteen, Frances (“Frankie”) moved to Helena and learned the art of coloring photographs as an employee of Jorud Photo Shop. She later worked for Pioneer Mutual Insurance and was a stalwart volunteer for the Lewis and Clark Cancer Committee.

Leland Greb—Leland was assistant editor for *Roun Town Review* in Butte. He helped many nonprofits with their newsletters and was active in Butte environmental issues. He was a Navy veteran and a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the BPO Elk organization.

Kay Hardin Hansen—A graduate of the University of Montana

and a journalist for newspapers in Lewistown, Helena, and Billings, Kay loved history and was a great supporter of MHS and arts in Montana.

Helen Gleich Hauck—Born in North Dakota, she was a longtime resident of East Helena. Helen was raised on her family’s wheat farm and spoke only German at home. She was active in church and community activities.

George Horse Capture—A proud member of the Gros Ventre tribe, he was a Montana State University graduate and later taught there and at the College of Great Falls. George was a nationally known historian of Plains Indian culture and was deputy assistant director of the National Museum of the American Indian. He also served as an MHS trustee.

Mae Laurence—She and her husband, Louis, were familiar figures in Butte, where they ran Matt’s Place. Mae took delight in serving her customers and received several awards over the years, including Butte Business Woman of the Year.

Stan Lynde—Stan was celebrated worldwide as a cartoonist, author, and historian. He was also a great friend of MHS. He and his wife, Lynda, donated a large collection of cartoon strips and other memorabilia from over the years to MHS.

Doris McMurray—Born in Choteau, she graduated from the University of Montana and lived for a time in Nevada and Colorado before she and her husband, George, retired to Helena. She was a stalwart and loyal MHS volunteer.

Arthur Rossberg—An Army Corps aviation veteran of WWII, the Conrad native had a lifelong passion for flying after getting

First Door on the Left

BY REBECCA BAUMANN

We have something new for our supporters who own their own businesses—the Business Membership. You can take advantage of one of six new levels of membership from \$200 to \$5,000. In addition, business owners will enjoy the added benefits of their affiliation.

Each new or upgraded membership provides business owners an opportunity to thank their best clients with a thoughtful gift. It also provides a creative way to advertise your business to the thousands who are interested in history and who devotedly read *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. Your business will be acknowledged in the MHS lobby area, and you will receive gift memberships, museum passes, discounts on facility rental, and more.

If you are looking to make the most of your MHS membership and reach a larger audience, then this is the opportunity for you. Please contact me at (406) 444-2918 or rbaumann@mt.gov to learn more.

As always, thank you for being a member of the Montana Historical Society because *history is worth celebrating!* 🌟

his pilot license at age sixteen. He went on to a successful career in banking and finance with Northwestern Bank Company.

James and Billie Louise Sharpe—Residents of Fort Worth, Texas, the couple made annual trips to Montana to visit family and enjoy the outdoors. Jim was a Korean War veteran and owned his own insurance agency. Billie loved children and devoted much of her time as a kindergarten school aide. The Sharpes were the parents of MHS Board of Trustees member James Utterback. 🌟

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

225 N. Roberts, P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201

Inside

- ▼ Herculean archives move 1
- ▼ Cows came home 1
- ▼ Year of 150s 2
- ▼ Women's history 4
- ▼ Life of Darrell Kipp 5



The Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office's annual Archaeology Day in October got students aiming high as they learned how to use tools of Montana's earliest people. Here, a student braves the elements to learn how to throw an atlatl, which was used to bring down game as big as woolly mammoths. Besides atlatl throwing, Society and state archaeologist Stan Wilmoth and his team of public- and private-sector archaeologists taught students flint-knapping and other ancient skills. SHPO reaches out to people across the state to save the important historic structures, places, and archaeological sites of Montana.

We are thankful for our members!