Friday and Saturday, November 9 –10, 2018
Montana and the Great War: Looking Back 100 Years
Montana Historical Society

"Three More Cheers” Peace Parade, Miles City, 11-11-1918
MHS PaC 2013-50 #0621

Friday, November 9

12:00 – 1:30 - Charlie Russell and Jeannette Rankin Go to War
Once the United States entered War World I in the spring of 1917, no Americans were more committed to the cause than Montana’s Cowboy Artist Charlie Russell and America’s first female member of the U.S. Congress. How were celebrities like Charlie Russell supporting the war? What was Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin doing after she voted against the U.S.’s entry in the conflict? Their surprising stories are an exciting part of the story as Montana and the U.S. as they moved rapidly from peace to war. Following his talk, Ken Robison will sign copies of his new book, World War I Montana: The Treasure State Prepares.

2:00 – 3:30 – “Doing Our Bit” Original Governor’s Mansion Tour
Join MHS Historical Interpreter Bobi Harris at the Original Governor’s Mansion, 304 N Ewing, for a new, in-depth, hands-on look at the contributions that Montana women and children made to the war effort. Posters, magazine articles, photographs, artifacts, and hands-on activities show visitors how Montanans “did their bit” in homes throughout their communities. Newspapers, letters, and telegrams offer a glimpse of the issues facing Governor Sam Stewart, the First Family, and all Montanans during the Great War.

Saturday, November 10

10:00 – 11:00 – Armed with Past Voices—Searching for WWI Documents
Natasha Hollenbach, digital projects librarian, and Zoe Ann Stoltz, reference historian, will showcase WWI-era documents, publications, and photos pulled from
the MHS Research Center. They will also discuss how to locate your own discoveries from both online searches as well as in-person visits to the Research Center.

11:00 – 12:00 – Times of Trouble, Times of Change
MHS Outreach and Interpretation Historian Martha Kohl will introduce the Society’s special WWI website, Montana and the Great War. Following Kohl’s brief presentation, MHS Curator of History Maggie Ordon will share the background behind, and give a guided tour of, the Society’s acclaimed WWI exhibit, Times of Trouble, Times of Change: Montana and the Great War.

12:00 – 1:00 – Lunch
A Red Cross canteen-style lunch will be available in the MHS lobby from the Helena High Culinary Arts class.

1:00 – 2:00 – Seed, Sedition, Suffrage, and Sobriety: Montana’s Extraordinary Session of 1918
The World War I era in Montana was marked not only by combat in Europe and the Middle East but also by violence that occurred here at home in response to radical activity across the state. MHS Senior Manuscript archivist Rich Aarstad will examine the reasons that Governor Samuel V. Stewart called a special session of the legislature in 1918 as the men and women of Montana went to war overseas, while on the home front their families, friends, and neighbors went to war with each other.

2:00 – 3:00 – “Can the Kaiser”: The Politics of Food during World War I
Eat your turnips, can your beans, bake war bread. During WWI, the U.S. Food Administration exhorted women to serve the country by serving wheatless and meatless meals, canning vast quantities of produce, and growing gardens in vacant lots. MSU Distinguished Professor Dr. Mary Murphy will explore the ways in which food brought a new politics to Montana’s domestic sphere and how women’s relationship with wartime food had implications for how they would see themselves as active citizens.

3:00 – 4:00 – “No More War, No More Plague” The Spanish Influenza Pandemic Toll on Montana
Todd Harwell, administrator for the Public Health and Safety Division in the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, will examine the impact of the Spanish Influenza pandemic on Montana communities. Data from the 1918 and 1919 Montana death records and other historic 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.

Admission is free.
For more information call 406-444-4741 or email klmabert@mt.gov