

One Thousand Is a Lot!

This fall, the MHS Research Center obtained its one-thousandth Montana cookbook. Hobson's celebratory 2008 *Pride of the Judith* cookbook is a gem! The authors included everything necessary for a coveted community cookbook, including family information, personal commentaries, photographs, and recipes. They also gave more than a nod to local history by featuring advertisers and

recipes from the *Ladies Aid Cook Book* published by the nearby Moccasin Presbyterian Church in 1920. Two decades ago, MHS's cookbook collection consisted of less than one hundred volumes. Then, in 2002, Maureen Hathaway donated almost three hundred community cookbooks from across the Treasure State. Since that time, the collection has grown, usually a few volumes at a time, but sizable contributions from collectors Carol Power Gilluly and Bessie Kocar Eggum added significantly to our holdings. To date, the 1881 *Montana Cook Book Edited by the Ladies of Butte City* is the oldest book in the collection. Contributors hailed from Walkerville, Meaderville, Deer Lodge, and Helena. Other collection highlights include a ca. 1907 *Red Lodge Cook Book* compiled by the Ladies Society of the Congregational Church; a ca. 1927 *Montana Federation of Negro Women's Clubs Cook Book* (now on display in Washington, D.C., at the National Museum of African American History & Culture); multiple homestead-era editions of *Daily Bread* sponsored by the "Home Workers" Society of the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown; the 1968 and 1969 *Blackfeet Cookbooks* coordinated by the Blackfeet Vista Workers; and the Miles City Range Reps' 1976 *Grandma's Favorite Recipes*. The Yaak Women's Club's 1999 *Yaak Cookbook* proudly documents the northwest Montana valley's culture with photos, contributors' names, and the chapter "Recipes Native to the Yaak"—like wine-drenched Cougar Casserole followed with Huckleberry Buckle! Community cookbooks—also known as fundraising and charitable cookbooks—not only document Montana foodways, but they also offer insight into local society, evolving culture, and family histories and provide access into countless women's lives and kitchens. The collection holds great value to cooks and scholars alike. *Pride of the Judith* is the one-thousandth publication to be added to MHS's Montana cookbook collection.

