Biennial Report to the Governor and the Legislature
Of the Activities of the Montana Historical Society
For Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020

Molly Kruckenberg,
Director
The Montana Historical Society, founded in 1865 by the Montana Territorial Legislature, continues to pursue with passion the mission of promoting an understanding and appreciation of Montana’s cultural heritage. Through collecting, preserving, and providing access to fine art, artifacts, photographs, and documents, we strive to educate Montanans and visitors through programming, publications, research collections, fine art and artifact collections, online resources, and, of course, the exhibits within Montana’s Museum.

**Strategic Activities**

A key aspect of the mission of the Montana Historical Society is **education**. Our vast collections and many publications are accessible to all for research, learning, exploration, and enjoyment. Our work with teachers throughout Montana, in and out of the classroom, is expansive. Our Teacher Leaders in History program brings instruction to teachers from around the state to promote Montana history instruction. In the past two years, educators from 13 towns across Montana participated in this program.

The Montana Historical Society aims to continually increase **engagement and access** with our visitors. We strive to engage with Montanans and all our visitors through exhibits, programming, digitized collections, online programming, and web-based resources. This biennium our online engagement increased significantly through Montana Newspapers, a freely accessible online database that hosts newspapers from 48 Montana towns. Our annual Montana History Conference and other public programs reach thousands of people every year, as well.

**Collecting the resources** that document Montana’s history and heritage is fundamental to the work of the Montana Historical Society. The Museum and Research Center programs continually acquire art, artifacts, books, maps, photographs, archival documents, state records and many other types of materials that tell the stories of Montana’s many peoples. Below are highlights of the acquisitions from the past two years.

**Art and Artifact Acquisitions:**

- 6 pieces of art by John W. "Jack" Beauchamp.
- Trunk and other personal items originally belonging to C.W. Cook.
- Joe Gans collection of Archie Bray art.
- Artifacts relating Alexander Swayne's long carrier in the military from the Spanish American War, WWI, and after.
- Watercolor painting, “Portrait of an Indian,” by CM Russell.
- 16 items related to the O'Brien stagecoach stop in Sidney.
- Chair that was originally part of the Capitol furnishings, possibly dating from when the Capitol was housed in the Lewis and Clark County Court House.
- Pair of Cree or Ojibwe gauntlet beaded gloves.
- Late 1800s farrier cabinet or chuck-wagon box with painted brand on left and right sides (Miller, McCown & Co.).
• Two bronzes by Montana artist Ralph "Tuffy" Berg, “Mountain Sheep” and “Mountain Goats.”
• John Clarke carving, “Wolf.”
• 9 cartoon sketches by Mary C. Wheeler.
• Ace Powell painting titled “Sod Buster.”
• 11 Montana Senior Olympics sports medals won by Flora Wong.
• Card table, ca. 1940s, that once belonged to Octavia Bridgewater.
• Buffalo coat, hat, and mittens originally belonging to post trader Joseph Sherburne.
• Original painting by Maynard Dixon, “Old Many Guns.”
• 186 items from the estate of Joseph Scheuerle’s grandson, including art by Scheuerle, J.H. Sharp, CM Russell, and Maynard Dixon.
• Lee Metcalf’s personal footlocker from WWII made from a German gasmask case.
• 1939 WPA sign from Wolf Point.
• Book, Congressional Directory 1st Session, 51st Congress belonging to T. C. Power.
• Book, Blackfeet Indians, by Winold Reiss, with personal annotations by Elizabeth Lochrie.
• Hexagonal star quilt, quilt owned by the family of Grace Stone Coates.
• 40 pieces of art from the William M. and Barbara J. Spilker Collection.

Photograph and Manuscript Acquisitions:
"Star Shower" by Barbara P. Van Cleve
"Three Chiefs" orotone by Edward Curtis
"Yellowstone Pete" Photographs
“A Journey & it's Impressions from Madison, WI"
AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization)
Al Furstnow Shop records
Allis Stuart papers
Ancient Order of United Workmen records
Armstrong, Dahler & Co. records
Arthur M. Hough papers
Beaverhead County Watchmakers Ledger Books
Ben Pykoski letter
Brooke & Stanley Family papers
Brown Family / Leslie Jorud Photographs
Butte Clerks' Protective Union No. 12 records
California Mining Co records
Canyon Ferry Recreation Association records
Centennial Farm and Ranch records
Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad postcards
Citizens Opposing Political Corruption Website records
Claudette Morton papers
Cora House Swedblom Albums

David A. Julian papers; Daniel M. Popovich papers
Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry
Department of Montana, G.A.R. Wadsworth Post #3, Helena Roster of Members
Dorothea M. Susag papers
Earl Barlow reminiscence
Eastern Montana Photographs album
Edward Camillus Mulreany Scrapbook
Elmer "Deke" Reish transcript
Evening Quartz Lode mine lease
Evening Quartz Lode mine lease
Fairgrieve and Wayman families Photographs
Fairgrieve Family papers
Fannie Sperry Steele Photographs
Faulstich and Robison Family Photographs
Faulstich Family papers
Flathead Backcountry Horsement records
Flathead Valley Girl Scouts Scrapbook
Glacier National Park Photograph Album
Glacier Park Photograph Album
Governor Rickards papers
Granite Mountain Mine Maps (digital)
Harold Craven papers
Harvey Syverud papers  
Helena Abstract and Title Company  
Helena Pioneer Cabin History manuscript  
Hellgate Cash Book  
Henry H. Swain papers  
Home Ground Radio  
Home Ground Radio  
Isdell Mercantile Company  
Jack Hayne’s Family Videos  
James and Ruth McIntyre papers  
James F. Watkins papers  
James McIntyre Photographs  
Jeanette Rankin papers  
Jessamine Spear Johnson and Elsa Spear  
Edwards Byron Photographic Album  
Jim Posewitz papers  
John Boland Photographs  
John Driscoll papers  
John Joseph Holmes papers  
John Tubbs Photographs  
John W. Bonner papers  
John Wheeler, Jr. Moving Images  
Joseph Gardepi Photographs  
Kampgrounds of America Photographs  
Keas Family Photographs  
King Mine (Kentucky Vermillion Mining Company) Report  
KRTV Audiovisual Materials  
Lee Sam Fong papers  
Leonard Acton papers  
Les Jorud Family Photograph Albums  
Lillian P. Russell album  
Louis E Fowler Papers  
Lyman C. Harris Family Photographs  
Marilyn Grant research collection  
Mary Cochran Autograph Book  
Mary Emma "May" Fletcher letter  
Mary Gertrude Schenck Shaffer Riordan and Georgiana Frances Dalin papers and photographs  
McBee Family Photographs  
McCullough Family letters  
Migngon Waterman papers  
Mike O’Connor Photographs  
Miles City Saddlery Co. records  
Mills and Purcell Family photograph collection  
Montana Air National Guard Photographs  
Montana Archaeological Society  
Montana Bird Records Committee records  
Montana Chapter of the National Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association Beauty Salon Week Scrapbook  
Montana Girl Scouts Scrap Book  
Montana Library Association records  
Montana Pioneer Farms  
Montana postcard views  
Montana Public Employees Association  
Montana State Prison Warden Louis Boedecker collection of autographed portraits  
Mueller Family papers  
National Organization of Women Yellowstone Valley Chapter records  
Norman and Belle Fligelman Winestine collection  
Northern Pacific Rail Road Co. Treasurer’s Office correspondence  
O’Brien family Photographs  
Oro Fino Mine Custom Ore Settlement Padden Family Letters  
Parchen Family Photographs  
Parrott Family papers  
Patricia Helvey Photographs  
Photograph of Andes School in Andes, Montana  
Photographic print view of Flathead Lake  
Photographic views of Earthquake Lake (Quake Lake)  
Photographs of Northern Pacific Land Office (#118) and the National Biscuit Company building (#141) Helena, Montana in October 1935.  
Photographs of 1953 Helena City Commission  
Photographs of All Class Reunion in Edgar, Montana  
Photographs of Birken Foot Form Store in Billings, Montana  
Photographs of Broadway Mine in Silver Star, Montana  
Photographs of Great Northern Railroad construction in northern Montana  
Photographs of Jardine, Montana  
Photographs of Montana State Legislators of the Twelfth Legislature  
Photographs of the 1935 Earthquake  
Pioneer Mountain Farm Photographs  
Plevna, Montana Photograph
The State Historic Preservation Office, a program of the Montana Historical Society, works with all Montanans for the **Preservation of Historical Places, Sites and Monuments**. SHPO is responsible for the statewide historic preservation plan, documenting historic buildings and archaeological sites, listing Montana sites on the National Register of Historic Places, assisting local governments with historic preservation; administering federal tax incentives for the preservation of historic buildings; and assisting federal and state agencies to identify and protect historic properties and archaeological sites affected by their projects. In meeting these goals and responsibilities, SHPO completed the following work.

- Adding 1,915 new properties to the Montana cultural resource site files and state antiquities database.
- Adding 1,129 new reports of cultural resource survey and studies to the statewide inventory files and Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography System database and clearinghouse.
- Overseeing the acceptance of The *Sentinels of the Airways: Montana's Airway Beacon System, 1934-1979 MPS* documentation by the Keeper of the National Residence.
- Adding 24 Montana properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrus Hotel</td>
<td>Dillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottler, Frederick and Josephine, House</td>
<td>Emigrant vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon Resort Airways Beacon</td>
<td>Dillon vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cougar Peak Lookout</td>
<td>Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo NF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow Creek Skirmish Historic District</td>
<td>Winifred vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow Island Landing Skirmish Site</td>
<td>Winifred vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon City Hall</td>
<td>Dillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Park Women's Club</td>
<td>East Glacier Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn's Dam Historic District</td>
<td>Anaconda vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestake Airway Beacon</td>
<td>Butte vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Canyon Highway Historic District</td>
<td>Cardwell Vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lookout Cave</td>
<td>Zortman vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyman-Neel Residence</td>
<td>Helena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCrossin Cabin</td>
<td>Hamilton Vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Eagle (boat)</td>
<td>Glacier County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinn's Garage</td>
<td>Augusta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaffer's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church</td>
<td>Butte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Bow Airway Beacon</td>
<td>Ramsey vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver City Cemetery</td>
<td>Silver City vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stillwater County Courthouse</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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• Awarding $450,000 to 8 historic rural Montana properties through the Revitalizing Montana’s Rural Heritage brick-and-mortar grant program, including: Basin Creek Caretakers House, Butte-Silver Bow; Broadway Apartments, Lewistown; Central School Apartments, Roundup; Dion Block, Glendive; F. M. Mack Mercantile, Augusta; I. G. Baker House, Fort Benton; Montana Hotel, Anaconda; and the Waterworks Museum, Miles City.

• Administering the federal tax credit program for the rehabilitation of commercial, income-producing historic buildings at the state level. Among recent successfully completed projects is the Freedom’s Path project at Fort Harrison Veterans Administration, Helena, which is an $11,370,000 project. Freedom’s Path rehabilitated 11 formerly mothballed buildings to establish 42 residential units for military veterans and their families at risk of homelessness.

• Sub-granting $163,281 (10% of its federal preservation funding) to local communities and counties participating in the Certified Local Government program for historic preservation. Grants were awarded to local historic preservation offices in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Billings-Laurel-Yellowstone County, Bozeman (Gallatin County), Butte-Silver Bow County, Carbon County, Columbus-Stillwater County, Deer Lodge (Powell County), Great Falls-Cascade County, Hardin-Big Horn County, Havre-Hill County, Helena-Lewis & Clark County, Lewistown (Fergus County), Livingston (Park County), Miles City (Custer County), Missoula (Missoula County), and Virginia City (Madison County).

**Programs and Projects:**
In support of the strategic activities that sustain the mission of the Montana Historical Society to promote an understanding and appreciation of Montana’s cultural heritage, MHS offers many different programs and services.

The **Publications** program produces the award-winning journal *Montana The Magazine of Western History* as well as books from the MHS Press. In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the Publications program published John C. Russell’s *Treasure State Tycoon: Nelson Story and the Making of Montana* and received several awards for magazine articles.
• Flannery Burke’s “‘Worry U.S.A’ Dud Ranch Advertising Looks East, 1915-1945,” (Summer 2019) won the 2020 Western Writers of America Spur Award.
• David Beyreis’ “If you had fought bravely I would have sung for you’: The Changing Roles of Cheyenne Women During Nineteenth-Century Plains Warfare” (Spring 2019) won the 2020 National Cowboy Museum and Western Heritage Center Wrangler Award.
• Richmond L. Clow’s “Crossing the Divide from Citizen to Voter: Tribal Suffrage in Montana, 1880-2016” (Spring 2019) won the 2019 Paladin Award.
• Rodger C. Henderson’s “The Pikuni and the U.S. Army’s Piegan Expedition: Competing Narratives of the 1870 Massacre on the Marias River” (Spring 2018) won the 2019 Arrell M. Gibson Award and was a 2019 Finalist for the Western Writers of America Spur Award.
• Peter H. Hassrick’s “Art, Agency, and Conservation: A Fresh Look at Albert Bierstadt’s Vision of the West” (Spring 2018) won the 2019 Western Writers of America Spur Award.

The 2009 Montana Legislature created the Montana Centennial Farm and Ranch Program to recognize and commemorate the agricultural traditions of Montana. Through this program, farm and ranch families that have owned or lived on their land for 100 years or more may be recognized for their contribution to Montana’s history. Thirty-six farms and ranches located in 17 counties were recognized for this accomplishment.

In 2019 MHS expanded and renamed our place-based history website and app to better reflect its content and appeal to a broader audience. Historic Montana now contains interpretive text and photographs for 1,798 National Register-listed properties and 74 curated historic district and themed tours from around Montana.

Montana’s Museum features both long-term and temporary exhibits featuring the many collections preserved by the Montana Historical Society. Currently, three long-term exhibits—the Montana Homeland Exhibit including a new installation Montana in the Time of the Ice Age, Neither Empty nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark, and the Mackay Gallery of Charles M. Russell Art—provide a big-picture overview of Montana history. In the past two years the Museum mounted multiple special temporary exhibits, including Times of Trouble, Times of Change: Montana and the Great War; Hooked; Fishing in Montana; Straight-Shootin’ Women; Joe Scheuerle and His Remarkable Indian Gallery; Good Beer Here: Montana’s Brewing History; Through the Eye of the Needle: A Detailed View of Historic Textiles and a special exhibit at the Original Governors’ Mansion - Doing Our Bit: Montana’s Home Front during the Great War.

The SHPO’s ongoing project Identifying Montana’s African American Heritage Places expanded over the past two years, as MHS received grants from the Montana Cultural Trust, Humanities Montana, and the National Park Service, to support the documentary film “Documenting and Sharing Montana’s African American History.”
Critical Issues for Achieving the Goals of the Montana Historical Society

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted normal visitation, reference services, and programming at MHS. MHS closed its doors in March, with the Governor’s stay at home directive. We were able to reopen our exhibits and research functions in June, with the necessary restrictions and sanitization protocols in place, but public gatherings have continued to be shuttered. Despite these issues, senior management and staff at MHS have found creative ways to continue to connect with patrons. Our online resources – the MHS website, African American Heritage Resources, Montana Memory Project, Montana Newspapers, and many others – have been promoted to remote users and have seen increased usage. Our “Quarantine Activities” webpage invited Montanans to explore how pandemics have affected Montanans in the past and provided activities for individuals and families to use at home to explore their experience with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Outreach & Interpretation program designed and hosted an array of entertaining and informative online sessions for the 47th Annual – and 1st virtual – Montana History Conference.

In 2019 the Montana Legislature passed the Montana Museums Act to provide additional funding for the Montana Heritage Center project. In partnership with the Department of Administration, Cushing Terrell, and Sletten Construction, MHS has moved forward with construction of the Montana Heritage Center. In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, site selection and design development were completed. The new Montana Heritage Center will reflect Montana while being respectful to and compatible with the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Montana Heritage Center will directly improve MHS’s ability to achieve our mission. It will feature exciting new spaces while addressing critical collections storage concerns. A commons area will provide vital, interactive public space connecting a café, gift shop, exhibits, research area, and event center while offering views of the Capitol and surrounding landscape. The event center will provide a multipurpose space for large group meetings, conferences, and public events. New and reconfigured gallery spaces will deliver expanded opportunities for a revised and inclusive interpretation of Montana history. A new reading room will afford up to date technologies and better access to collections. Additional and renovated behind the scenes spaces will support increased collections storage, improved conservation and exhibit design areas, and enhanced staff workspaces. Progress on the project can be followed at montanasmuseum.org.
The Montana Historical Society has begun planning for a capital campaign to raise $10 million in private funding, in compliance with SB338 of the 2019 Legislature. Pledges and other gifts designated for the Montana Heritage Center project, amounting to $5 million, have been received.

In addition, the following issues have been identified as critical areas of work for the Montana Historical Society. Institutional tactics have been developed by MHS senior management to address these issues.

Marketing and development:
• Maintain continuity in our public message and refine our branding.
• Utilize customer research and data in decision making.
• Strengthen and strategize private funding for projects and publications.
• Promote and celebrate MHS work and success stories in communities across Montana.
• Consider how the Montana Heritage Center project affects marketing and development.

Digital Strategies
• Back up digital content to the Miles City data center to ensure preservation of critical digital resources.
• Implement preservation of digital materials, including archival and government records; develop a plan for sustainability of digital projects; and explore transfer of Electronic Records Archivist position and funding from Legislative Services Division.
• Implement digital options for publications.
• Sustain social media activities, including analytics, platforms, usage, and effectiveness.
• Keep the MHS website fresh and innovative, recognizing it as an important portal to the MHS Experience.
• Maintain and enhance email strategies for efficiency and quality in community with stakeholders.
• Continue improvement in integration of online customer service functions and upgrade of business systems by maximizing the capabilities of Versai; utilize the support of ITSD effectively.
• Continue growth of SHPO State Antiquities Database.

Collections: Access, Preservation, Acquisition and Security
• Continue to improve security functions, skills, and technology.
• Consider space and storage needs, completion of storage projects in the Museum and Scriver Center, highway storage, and new Montana Heritage Center facilities.
• Assess public spaces for safety, comfort, access, support.
• Implement HVAC improvement for climate control and health issues utilizing NEH implementation grant; integrate into plans for the Montana Heritage Center.

Outreach and Relationship-Building
• Pursue opportunities for outreach outside of Helena, particularly in eastern Montana.
• Improve tribal outreach; utilize photograph collections and publications to develop new projects with tribal stakeholders.
• Develop strategic partnerships with Universities, tribal agencies, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and students.
Long-Term Strategic and Operational Planning

- Address changing staffing needs, reporting relationships, skills and priorities, while maintaining a solid base of qualified historians; take advantage of our various memberships for training and learning opportunities.
- Develop a career ladder to address pay levels to bring MHS employees closer to current market values for compensation and provide professional development incentive, subject to Legislative approval and funding.
- Pursue position re-classification with the Department of Administration as appropriate.
- Develop a long-term funding model for the MHS Press.
- Continue succession planning, identifying key positions and high growth potential individuals.
- Pursue state general fund appropriations for certain SHPO functions.
- Address critical needs of the current building, in the context of MHC planning.

Leadership Succession

On September 30, 2020, Bruce Whittenberg retired as Director of the Montana Historical Society. His nearly decade-long tenure saw many changes as MHS, including securing funding for the Montana Heritage Center project. Bruce will be missed, but his legacy will have an impact on MHS. On October 1, 2020, Molly Kruckenber took over as Director of the Montana Historical Society.

On behalf of the MHS Board of Trustees and our excellent staff, we thank you for your continued support to ensure that Montana’s history and our shared cultural heritage are preserved and available to the people of Montana.