



Charles M. Russell, *Meat for the Wagons* (1925), watercolor, 13 1/2 x 21 1/2" (CM Russell Museum)

## FEATURED COLLECTION: FREDERIC G. AND GINGER K. RENNER SPECIAL COLLECTION AT THE C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM, GREAT FALLS

Today we know that Charles Russell, Montana's "cowboy artist," produced more than four thousand individual works of art in his lifetime, thanks to the life's work of a man named Frederic Renner. During his career in the United States Department of Agriculture, Renner took advantage of his travels across America to view and document purported Russell artwork in private collections as well as public institutions, sometimes taking detours several states wide. Following his retirement in 1961, Renner's research became his primary activity until his death in 1987, when his wife, Ginger, took it over (the pair had married in 1973 following Ginger's own career as the manager of several Western art galleries, each of them the other's third spouse).

The Frederic G. and Ginger K. Renner Special Collection, which now resides in the archives of the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, consists of the Renners' research files, their correspondence and subject files, and a large number of photographic prints and negatives. Within the research files, Fred Renner's card catalog of Russell artwork, books, and collectors is an unusually complete resource; the accompanying collection of catalogs, publications, and ephemera supports research inquiries into commercial uses of Russell's art. Correspondence between the Renners' and art collectors and museums frequently documents art appraisals and sales, as well as other interactions within the Western art collecting community during much of the twentieth century. These resources combined make the Renner Special Collection a powerful resource for tracing the provenance and use of Russell artworks.

# STUDENT ARCHIVIST PROGRAM 2016:



Courtney Kramer, Student Archivist

In March of this year the Montana SHRAB had the difficult job of reviewing many great applications from archives, libraries and museums across the state to host this year's Student Archivist, MLIS graduate student Courtney Kramer (University of Wisconsin-Madison). After reviewing the applications the committee chose two host institutions, the Frontier Gateway Museum in Glendive Montana, and the MonDak Heritage Center in Sidney Montana.

Ms. Kramer started her first work experience on June 13. State Archivist Jodie Foley joined Courtney for two days assisting her in creating a work plan. Following consultation with the host institution, Jodie and Courtney set the following goals:

- Consolidating archival collections to central, secure storage
- Cataloging all archival collections in PastPerfect
- Processing three small collections

Work at the second site started on July 18th. Once again Jodie Foley joined Courtney to review the project plan, consider changes, and establish workflow. With that work in mind Courtney established the following goals:

- Inventory, catalog and rehouse map and oversize collection
- Where needed clean, mend and / or humidify and flatten maps
- Stabilize and rehouse scrapbook collection
- Review and where needed establish collection management policies

Courtney completed her work on August 18th. Both work experiences were very successful for both the student and the host institutions. In their final the Frontier Gateway Museum staff stated *"We are very pleased Frontier Gateway Museum was awarded a grant which provided a Student Archivist.... Our archives will now be searchable by computer and our records more detailed, because of the work the Student Archivist did. We're grateful for her many hours of work."*

Likewise Courtney reported *"I also feel that in working with the volunteers and staff during the past five weeks, there is a better understanding of how to archive documents together as collections. Rather than cataloging each individual item... With this mindset, the archives can seem less daunting to catalog and much more manageable. I feel confident that the work I started at the Frontier Gateway Museum will continue long after I have left."*

Does this project seem like a good fit for your organization? Then please apply to host the 2017 Student Archivist (application form provided in this newsletter). For more information contact Jodie Foley [jofoley@mt.gov](mailto:jofoley@mt.gov).

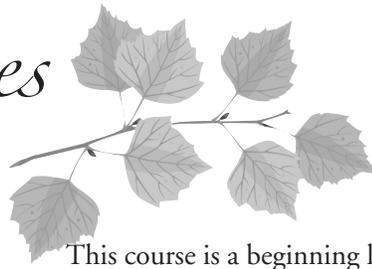


Frontier Gateway Museum, Glendive, MT



MonDak Heritage Center, Sidney, MT

# training opportunities



## 1. Montana SHRAB Digitization Workshop

**Sept. 2, 2016. 9:00-4:00.** Montana History Conference, Hamilton, MT. \$25 registration fee. see <http://svcalt.mt.gov/education/historyconf16registration.asp> Scholarships available.

With the ease and relative low cost of scanners and electronic storage space, it is tempting for cultural institutions to start scanning without any planning for providing long term management of their digital assets. But what happens when you realize you have hundreds, maybe thousands of images and don't really know what you have or how to access them? Does this sound familiar? If so this workshop is for you. This workshop will cover digital project planning strategies; best practices for capture, delivery and storage; and parameters for effective selection of equipment and software. Attendees will also learn about how to use the Montana Memory Project as a platform for providing access to your newly digitized collections. This workshop is a joint project of the Montana Historical Society, Montana State Library and the Montana State Historic Records Advisory Board. For more information contact Jodie Foley, [jofoley@mt.gov](mailto:jofoley@mt.gov).

## 2. AASLH Basics of Archives Online Course

**October 24-November 18, 2016.** 15-20 hours to be completed anytime during the above dates Cost: \$85 members/\$160 nonmembers

The newly revised Basics of Archives online course is designed to give organizations and individuals who are responsible for the care of historical records an introduction to the core aspects of managing and protecting historical records collections, using appropriate principles and best practices.

The course consists of five lessons: Archives and Archivists Acquiring Your Collections Processing Collections Housing Your Collections Access and Outreach The course is web-based and takes 15-20 hours to complete. There are no required times to be online. You may finish the course anytime during the four-week course period.

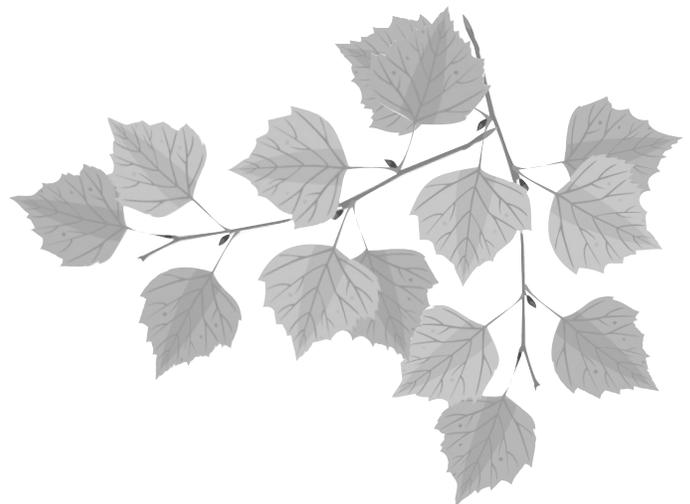
This course is a beginning level course designed for professional staff and volunteers of historical organizations and libraries with historical collections who have little to no experience with archival materials. See more at: <http://resource.aaslh.org/view/basics-of-archives/#sthash.vqurO3LT.dpuf>

Scholarship monies are available. Contact Jodie Foley for more information at [jofoley@mt.gov](mailto:jofoley@mt.gov).

## 3. Society of American Archivists, Digital Repositories Workshop

**October 6, 2016, 8 hours.** Auraria Library/Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists Denver, CO.

A Digital Repositories 101 course! Participate in knowledge-building discussions and activities that focus on defining, selecting, and implementing digital repositories (DRs) as well as a review of basic decisions that must be made before and during the development of a digital collection and digital repository program. The instructors address the role of the archivist in DR construction and deployment; the standards, best practices, and realities of content and metadata deposit; the strategies for developing administrative structures; policies; the long-term preservation concerns; and marketing your repository. <http://saa.archivists.org/events/digital-repositories-1729/707/>





## 1. ExploreBig Website and Mobile App

The Montana Historical Society presents **ExploreBig**, a website and mobile app which supports the discovery of the built environment related to Montana history. The website and mobile app draw on information from over 1500 sites in Montana with historic markers. The result is a website and a mobile app which allows travelers to effectively explore on a walking, driving, or armchair tour of the state.

In this first phase of website development, the MHS is connecting travelers to the broad themes which connect the disparate regions of the state. Early Montana, Mining, Railroads, Homesteading, and Tourism are just a few of the big themes in Montana history for which a tour is being developed. The URL for ExploreBig is [explorebig.org](http://explorebig.org) and the mobile app is available for Android and iOS devices through Google Play and the Apple App Store.

In keeping with the mission of the MHS to provide access to Montana's historical resources, the site is free to Internet users worldwide. No fees or subscriptions are required.

The Montana Historical Society will continue to add thematic tours to the site in order to link the broad themes of the state's history. In the next phase of project development, local organizations—museums, libraries, historical societies—will be invited to contribute digitized images for districts and buildings in order to expand tours for local audiences. Interested organizations may check our community contribution guide at <http://mhs.mt.gov/research/online/explorebig> or contact [mhsdigital@mt.gov](mailto:mhsdigital@mt.gov) to share ideas or information about the resource.

## 2. The Montana Memory Project:

The Montana Memory Project (MMP) provides access to digital collections that relate to Montana's cultural heritage and government. All Montana libraries, museums, archives, and schools are encouraged to become contributors to the Montana Memory Project.

The MMP is a collaborative project of the Montana State Library and the Montana Historical Society, which share the responsibility of providing technical and cataloging support, as well as training and consultations for current and potential participants in the MMP.

The MMP makes previously unavailable historic and cultural content available to the general public. The software

used to host and present the digital images makes them discoverable. A separate long-term storage and preservation solution for master images is available to contributors.

This project is funded with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) monies provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and through a funding partnership with the Montana Historical Society. All Montana libraries, museums, archives, and other cultural institutions are invited to contribute to the Montana Memory Project. Individuals who would like to contribute to the MMP must work in collaboration with a participating institution.

## 3. Montana Newspapers Online:

The Montana Historical Society is pleased to offer a new online resource for Montana history. More than 352,000 pages from 44 Montana newspapers dated 1885-2014 are now available on MONTANA NEWSPAPERS, a freely accessible, full-text searchable database and web site available at this URL [montananewspapers.org](http://montananewspapers.org).

The new site, designed specifically for digitized newspapers, offers more effective search, browse, and display of newspaper content. The content in MONTANA NEWSPAPERS was previously available on the Montana Memory Project. The Montana Memory Project continues to offer thousands of digitized photographs, manuscripts, and books related to Montana's heritage.

Funding for MONTANA NEWSPAPERS was provided by the Montana Historical Society, the Montana State Library, and libraries and other contributors across the state. Montana's participation in *Chronicling America* was made possible by grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In addition to developing and publishing this new resource, the MHS is now offering a new service to the state. The Society's Digital Services Group will work with Montana communities to digitize more of Montana's historical newspapers. Interested parties should contact [mhsdigital@mt.gov](mailto:mhsdigital@mt.gov).

## 4. Academy of Certified Archivists:

The Academy of Certified Archivists, founded in 1989, is an independent, nonprofit certifying organization of professional archivists. Individual members qualify for certification by meeting a series of defined professional standards. For more information about the exam and continuing education options see <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/>

# publications



## Society of American Archivists

### 1. Digital Preservation Essentials (print)

Digital Preservation Essentials is part of the series Trends in Archives Practice. It includes two modules by Erin O'Meara and Kate Stratton:

**Module 12: Preserving Digital Objects.** Explores concepts of digital preservation in the archival context, focusing on standards and metadata required to make digital objects accessible and understandable over time.

**Module 13: Digital Preservation Storage.** Provides an introduction to digital storage best practices for long-term preservation, including terminology, hardware, and configurations.

See <http://saa.archivists.org/store/digital-preservation-essentials/5285/>

### 2. Teaching With Primary Sources is part of the series Trends in Archives Practice.

It includes three modules:

**Module 9: Contextualizing Archival Literacy** by Elizabeth Yakel and Doris Malkmus examines the evolving theory of archival literacy in relation to domain knowledge, primary source literacy, and information literacy to facilitate meaningful use of archival and manuscript collections.

**Module 10: Teaching With Archives - A Guide for Archivists, Librarians, and Educators** by Sammie L. Morris, Tamar Chute, and Ellen Swain provides practical guidance to archivists, librarians, and educators on teaching with archival materials, offering tips for beginners as well as seasoned instructors.

**Module 11: Connecting Students and Primary Sources - Cases and Examples** by Tamar Chute, Ellen Swain, and Sammie L. Morris offers readers an analytical guide and example assignments for teaching with primary materials, based heavily on first-hand case study accounts and interviews with practitioners and experts in the field.

See <http://saa.archivists.org/store/digital-preservation-essentials/5285/>

## AASLH

### 3. Technical Leaflet 246: How to Plan Your Digitization Project

Digitization projects require research and feasibility studies just like any other museum project. Leigh A. Grinstead outlines the steps necessary to undertake a digitization project, from considering audience and funding to the continued support and sustainability of the project. Grinstead emphasizes understanding audience and collaboration for increased access to the digitized content. This leaflet explains the necessary steps for planning a digitization project and how to manage the workload rather than the technical tools for creating a digital database.

See <https://aaslh.site-ym.com/store/ViewProduct.aspx?id=6440961>

## Help us Help You!!!

Please write us to let us know your training needs. Do you need help with preservation, accessioning, donor relations, electronic records or ?????? Let us know so we can plan our workshops to meet your needs.

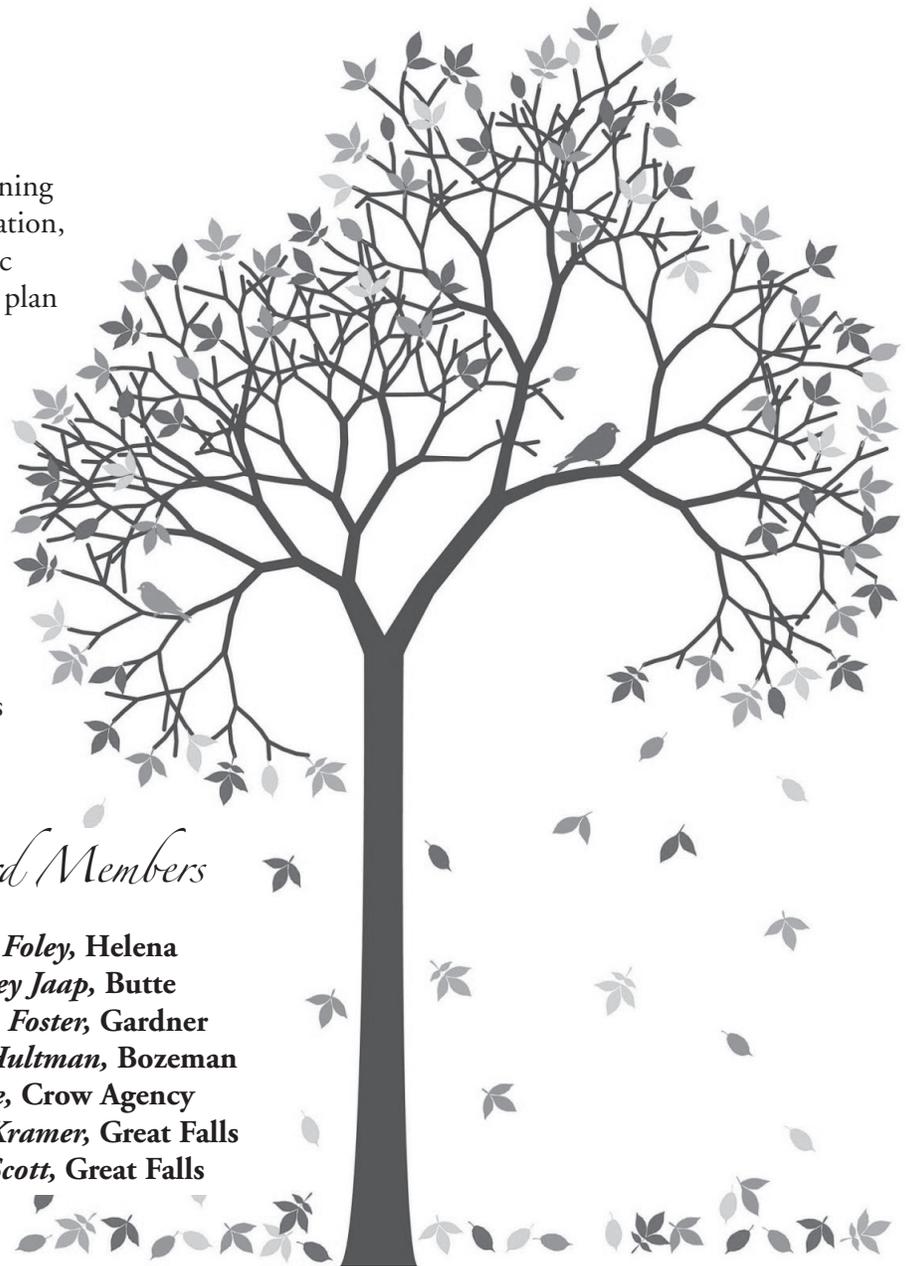
You can send an email or letter to:

Jodie Foley, Montana  
SHRAB Coordinator  
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jofoley@mt.gov

Also... If you would like to receive this newsletter as a pdf via email please send your email address to:  
jofoley@mt.gov

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## *upcoming conferences 2016-2017*

**Sept. 22-24, 2016.** Harvest a bumper crop of history at the *43rd Annual Montana History Conference*, Hamilton and Stevensville

**Sept. 25-27, 2016** *Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA)* Annual conference, San Antonio Texas



**the montana archivist**

**Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.**  
**Montana**  
**Historical Society**

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