

The Montana Archivist

Summer 2004

Volume 5, Number 3

SHRAB MEETING HELD IN BUTTE IN MAY

The first of the Montana SHRAB's biannual meetings was held at the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives in Butte on May 26. All board members were present. The board heard reports on the status of the current administrative grant, including the scholarship awards and a poster to be printed this fall. Reports were also offered on the NEH Preservation grant the board received in January and the status of the Northwest Digital Archives.

In old project, board members discussed the need to update the current strategic plan and discussed ideas on how to accomplish that update. New projects introduced during the meeting including the possibility of future regrant projects and the 2005 administrative grant from NHPRC. A discussion of term expirations and renewals was also included.

The next board meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual Montana History Conference in October in Whitefish. For complete minutes of this meeting, please contact Molly Kruckenberg at mkruckenberg@state.mt.us.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO ATTEND MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER

Through grant funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the SHRAB is pleased to announce the availability of two professional development scholarships. The scholarships will allow each recipient to attend the annual Montana History Conference in Whitefish, Montana, including the pre-conference workshops. The scholarships will cover the conference registration fee, travel costs, lodging and a per diem for food for two individuals. For information on the Montana History Conference, visit their website at <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/histconf.asp>.

The scholarships will awarded based upon a demonstrated lack of funding for professional development and need for training. Applicants will be asked to complete a brief application form and submit it to the SHRAB for review. Applications are due October 4 and an announcement of the award will be made the second week of October. The application form and instructions are included in this newsletter. For additional information on the scholarships, contact Molly Kruckenberg at 444-7482 or mkruckenberg@state.mt.us

The Montana SHRAB will be sponsoring a full-day workshop on Best Practices for Historical Repositories in conjunction with the conference.

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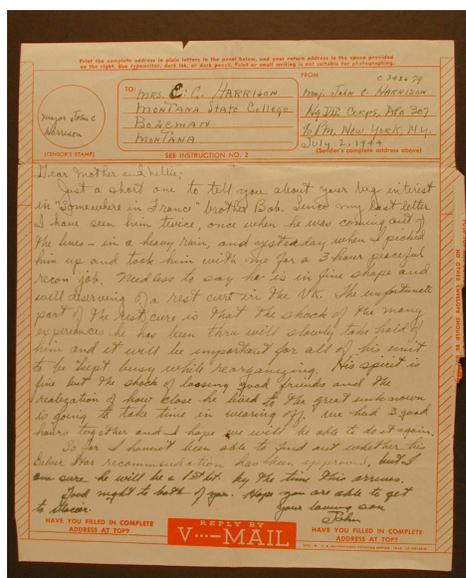
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DIGITAL IMAGES WANTED FOR ARCHIVES POSTER

The SHRAB will be publishing and distributing a poster this fall to celebrate national Archives Week in October and to advertise the importance of historic records in preserving our heritage. We are searching for digital images of historic documents (see example below) or historic photographs that illustrate Montana's history. If you are interested in submitting an image for inclusion in the poster, please send it, via email to Molly Kruckenberg at mkruckenberg@state.mt.us or on cd to her at PO Box 201201; Helena, MT 59620-1201.

Images must be received by August 31 and should be in jpg format (as opposed to gif or tiff) with no less than a 300 dpi resolution. Proper credit will be given to all institutions whose images are used in the final poster.

If you have any questions, please contact Molly at the email or address above.



NORTHWEST DIGITAL ARCHIVES UPDATE

—Elizabeth Nielsen, NWDA Consortium Manager

The NWDA database of EAD finding aids will be available for users in July 2004. In preparation for public announcement of this enhanced access to archival and manuscript materials in the Northwest, the NWDA website is being re-designed and a new stylesheet is being programmed. A link to the search page for the finding aids database will be available from the NWDA homepage: <http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/>

As of mid-June, the database includes 872 finding aids from 12 repositories. The database will include more than 2500 finding aids by the conclusion of the project in December 2004.

A variety of activities have occurred during the spring of 2004 in preparation for the public launch of the NWDA database: Washington State University purchased and installed a new server to host the database, increasing search speed and delivery of retrieved finding aids. Stephen Yearl, Systems and Digital Resources Archivist at Yale University, was selected by the NWDA Executive Committee to refine and complete programming of a stylesheet for web presentation of the NWDA finding aids. This work will be completed by late June. The Usability Testing Working Group has developed an instrument for evaluation and testing of the NWDA database to begin in July.

NWDA project directors and other key personnel met in Olympia, Washington, in early May in conjunction with the Northwest Archivists annual conference. Staff from several NWDA institutions attended the SAA Stylesheets for EAD Workshop in Olympia on May 5-6. The Project Directors will have a final meeting for this grant period in Pullman, Washington, on Sept. 13-14.

Dissemination of information about the NWDA continued through the spring. Janet Hauck (Whitworth College) presented a well-received poster at the National Council on Public History and the Society for Environmental History joint meeting in Victoria, British Columbia in April. Jodi Allison-Bunnell (University of Montana) reflected on the changing tools for archival research and discussed the NWDA database in a session at
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COSHRD ISSUES LETTER SUPPORTING THE NEW ARCHIVIST OF THE U.S.

President Bush announced on April 8, 2004, his intention to nominate Allen Weinstein to become Archivist of the United States.

Some members of the COSHRC Board of Directors have communicated with Dr. Weinstein on several occasions since his nomination was announced. These discussions led the Board to recommend that COSHRC prepare a letter in support of Dr. Weinstein's nomination.

On July 16, 2004, COSHRC members in attendance at the annual business meeting in Phoenix unanimously accepted the Board's recommendation.

On July 20, 2004, a letter of support was faxed to Senator Susan Collins, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, which will hold hearings on Weinstein's nomination on Thursday, July 22. A copy was also faxed to Senator Joseph Lieberman, ranking member on the committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-----------------|---|
| Sept 29-Oct 3 | Oral History Association conference, Portland, OR |
| Sept 29-Oct 2 | American Association for State and Local History Conference, St. Louis, MO |
| Oct 1 | Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists meeting, Golden, CO |
| Oct 28-30 | Montana History Conference, Whitefish |
| Apr 14-16, 2005 | Jt Meeting, Northwest Archivists, Conference of Intermountain Archivists, Society of California Archivists, & the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, Las Vegas, NV |

LORY MORROW RESIGNS FROM SHRAB; SEAN CHANDLER ACCEPTS APPOINTMENT

Lory Morrow of the Montana Historical Society Photograph Archives will resign her position on the SHRAB board, effective September of this year. Lory has served on the board since 2000 and her presence will be missed. The board thanks her for her service and hard work over these last four years.

Sean Chandler of Fort Belknap College will take Morrow's place on the board this fall. Chandler directs the archives program at Fort Belknap College and is also an instructor in their American Indian Studies program. He received a BA in 1997 and an MA in Native American Studies from Montana State University—Bozeman in 2003. Chandler is a welcome addition to the SHRAB and we look forward to working with him in the next two years.

NWDA UPDATE, CONT.

the joint NWA – Pacific Northwest History Conference in Olympia. The session was well-attended by archivists, academic historians, and contract researchers and included a lively discussion.

A proposal for funding to support continued development and enhancement of the NWDA finding aids database will be submitted in July to the National Endowment for the Humanities by Oregon State University. Seven new institutions are planning to join the project: Idaho State Historical Society; Gonzaga University; Eastern Washington State Historical Society; Seattle Museum of History and Industry; Washington State Historical Society; Oregon University System; and City of Portland.

The Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA) is an NEH grant-funded project to provide enhanced access to archival and manuscript materials in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington through a union database of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids. The project began on July 1, 2002 and has been extended from the original ending of June 30, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

Please direct any questions regarding the Northwest Digital Archives to: Elizabeth Nielsen; NWDA Consortium Manager; <http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu>; 541-737-0543; Elizabeth.Nielsen@oregonstate.edu.

Montana Archivist

Montana State Historical
Records Advisory Board

Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201

Published Quarterly
Molly Kruckenberg, Editor

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NWA ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Northwest Archivists, Inc. offers an annual professional development scholarship of \$500 to to promote the professional development of practicing regional archivists, by such means as attendance at workshops, institutes, conferences or other training opportunities. In particular, it is intended as a resource for colleagues who are self-employed or receive inadequate employer-provided assistance.

Applicants must be currently engaged in the archival profession, broadly defined, in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho or Montana, and have a minimum of one year FTE paid or unpaid professional experience. They should be members of the Northwest Archivists, and have limited or no access to institutional funding for continuing education activities. Nominations of a third party and applications involving purchase of supplies or equipment will not be considered. Members of the NWA Scholarships Committee are ineligible during their term of service and for one year afterward.

Current members of the Northwest Archivists Scholarships Committee will review applications and select an annual recipient. The application postmark deadline is **November 15** and all applicants will be notified by December 31. The scholarship may be used any time throughout the subsequent calendar year. Scholarship forms are available on the Northwest Archivists website at www.lib.washington.edu/nwa/dev_sch.html.

PUBLICATIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Three educational publications recently printed by the SHRAB, *Records at Risk, So You Have a Box of Papers...* and the Preferred Practices for Historical Repositories are still available, free of charge. If you are interested in obtaining copies of these publications, please contact Molly Kruckenberg at the Montana Historical Society with your name, mailing address, and the name and number of the publication(s) in which you are interested. She can be reached at (406) 444-7482 or mkruckenberg@state.mt.us.