

# MONTANA ARCHIVIST



## In this issue:

- Student Archivist Report
- Archives BLITZ!
- Featured Collection:
- History in the News
- Training and Resources
- Archives Month

## Student Archivist Program 2017

This year's Student Archivist, Ruth Slagle, arrived in Virginia City on June 15th to begin her internship with Madison County Clerk and Recorder Kathleen Mumme. The two will work together for 10 weeks inventorying, cataloging, and rehousing records dating back to the 1860s. All the work is in an effort to provide better access and preserve the permanent records of Montana's first county.

Kathleen is very excited to have the assistance of a professional archivist. Ruth, a recent graduate of the University of Chicago, Urbana-Champaign, is a

native of Florida and is very excited to get "real world" experience, and to be in the West for the summer.

**Archives BLITZ! Program 2017:** The SHRAB is pleased to announce that the first annual Blitz! Grant has been awarded to Lincoln County. The Archives BLITZ Program provides funding, training and support for one heritage institution to host a processing BLITZ. So what is a processing BLITZ? It is a week-long backlog reduction project, planned and executed by the host agency with assistance from SHRAB members and area volunteers, that focuses on processing archival collections on a high level. The host applicant will be given training on how to host a successful BLITZ including collection selection, attracting/choosing volunteers, establishing project workflow and documentation, promoting the project, and celebrating achievements! Applications for next years grants will appear in the next newsletter. For more information, contact Jodie Foley [jofoley@mt.gov](mailto:jofoley@mt.gov) or 406 444-7482.



*"Madison County has been so fortunate to have had Ruth here this summer! She and her SHRAB mentors are moving us in the right direction in conserving, organizing and cataloguing our county records. Ruth has accomplished so much in her short time here, and we thank her and all of you for this great opportunity!"*

" "

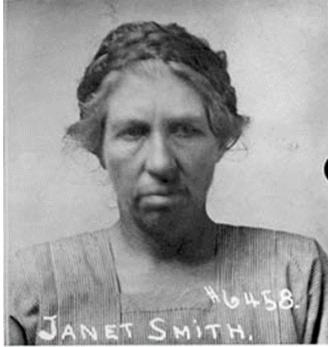
*2017 host institution, Madison County Clerk and Recorder Kathleen Mumme*



2017 Student Archivist, Ruth Slagle,

## Featured Collection:

### Montana State Prison Records, Sedition Convictions



Prison photo from Prison Description sheet, RS 197

April 6, 2017, marks the hundredth anniversary of America's entry into World War I. It is an opportunity to highlight archival records that tell the stories of Montana's at that time, both on the battlefield and the home front. One of those stories involves prisoners at the Montana State prison who served time for Sedition.

**DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF THE CONVICT**

Required by the State Board of Prison Commissioners Upon Receipt of the Convict at the Penitentiary

OFFICE OF THE WARDEN OF THE STATE PRISON  
Deer Lodge, Montana — November 5th 1918-191

To the President of the Board of Prison Commissioners:  
In accordance with the requirements of the Board of State Prison Commissioners, I have the honor to report:

- That ~~191~~ Janet Smith, a Convict, was received at the penitentiary on the 20th day of October 1918.
- Age 32 years.
- Born in ~~1984~~ Iowa or Foreign Country.
- Occupation Housewife
- Complexion Light
- Height 5 feet, 6 inches.
- Weight 150 pounds.
- Convicted of Sedition
- Sentenced October 15th 1918.
- Term of Sentence is 5 to 10 Years and Months
- Crime Committed in Sayre Town, Custer County
- Number of Previous Convictions in this or any other State, and in what County and State none
- Where and by Whom Employed, Previous to Coming to Montana,
- Date of Arrival in Montana, and by Whom Employed, Since Arrival in Montana 12 yrs
- If Married, Wife's Address Husband, W. K. Smith
- Names and Addresses of Parents Brother, Hugh Mathian, Alberton Mont  
Sister, Mrs Kemper, Los Angeles, Cal.
- Health of Convict, whether free from disease
- Did You Plead Guilty? or Stand Trial? Yes
- Was the Sentence Fixed by the Jury, or by the Court?
- Warden's Remarks:  
Mall yes, Shoes 4, Eyes Blue, Hair Grey, Teeth Good, Tob. No, R. & W yes,  
Feat full, Relig. Chrketian,  
Large mole on right shoulder, Long scar on right foot.

Frank C. [Signature]

21. Date of Expiration I-20-25 Warden

\* Full Name of the Convict to be Inserted Here.

Montana's sedition law, enacted in February of 1918, served as the model for the national law and was very wide reaching. It criminalized any language considered negative to the country, flag, soldiers or constitution.

The broad net of the law caught 79 people who served an average of 19 months in the Montana State Prison. Janet Smith, the only woman convicted, was reported to have called for revolt against food restrictions.

All the sedition convictions were pardoned by Governor Brian Schweitzer in a ceremony at the Montana Capitol rotunda on May 3, 2006. Members of the prisoner's extended families were in attendance and were grateful to have their family members exonerated.

What stories can you tell from the records in your holdings? Please let us know and we will highlight some of them in our next newsletter! Contact jofoley@mt.gov.

### **History in the News:**

The Montana Historical Society has launched a new website to commemorate and encourage study of the impacts of WWI on Montana. "Montana and the Great War" (<http://mhs.mt.gov/education/WWI>) describes collections, historic sites, and published resources from MHS collections related to the years just before, during and after the War to end all wars.



Women who cleaned engines for Northern Pacific Railroad shop, example of jobs traditionally done by men done by women in wartime.

The site includes an interactive map that highlights people, events and locations across the state that tell the story of war and the home front, as well as providing the broader context for the conflict.

### **Training opportunities:**

AASLH Basics of Archives: online course: November 15-December 15, 2017, 15-20 hours to be completed anytime during these dates Cost: \$85 members/\$160 nonmembers – Information and registration at: <http://resource.aaslh.org/view/basics-of-archives/#sthash.vqurO3LT.Mwrz452l.dpuf>

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. Reminder: there are SHRAP Scholarship monies available for training. Contact Jodie Foley for more information at [jfoley@mt.gov](mailto:jfoley@mt.gov).

### **Highlighted Archival Resource:**

NEDCC Audio Preservation Service (<https://www.nedcc.org/audio-preservation/about>) The Center's Audio Preservation Service provides digitization of audio media using traditional and optical-scanning technologies for open reel quarter-inch audio tape; compact cassette tape; digital audio tape (DAT); wax cylinders; metal master discs; lacquer discs; and other rare formats. Transfers are 100% attended, and deliverables are monitored 100% by ear (not software) for quality control. So, if you have boxes of tapes, reels, and more, these folks can help!



**Publications:**

Highlighted SAA Publication: Digital Preservation Essentials, Edited by Christopher J. Prom & featuring modules by Erin O'Meara & Kate Stratton. 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.

As University of Illinois Preservation Librarian Kyle R. Rimkus notes in the introduction, "The successful archivist needs a grounding in the fundamental concepts of digital preservation, a command of its key terminology and practices, and an ability to build effective programs and practices. These modules provide an excellent point of entry."

**Archives Month:**

October is Archives Month, which in the high time of summer seems far away. But to have great Archives Month event start planning now. Since 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Entry in WWI, you may want to highlight related holdings. Some ideas include:

- A readers theater in which local students read from war time letters or reminiscences.
- An open house that highlights your holdings, but also encourages a "show and tell" time for community members to share their WWI heirlooms or stories.
- An exhibit with images of soldiers with short bios and photographs
- An evening event that highlights stories and music from that time

**Upcoming Events, Conferences and Training Opportunities 2017**

September 21-23 Helena Montana History Conference ( <http://svcalt.mt.gov/education/historyconf17registration.asp>)

**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**  
**225 North Roberts**  
**Helena MT 59620**

**[jofoley@mt.gov](mailto:jofoley@mt.gov)**

**Montana SHRAB Board Members**

**Jodie Foley, Helena**  
**Aubrey Jaap, Butte**  
**Anne L. Foster, Gardner**  
**Heather Hultman, Bozeman**  
**Jon Ille, Crow Agency**  
**Kathryn Kramer, Great Falls**  
**Kristi Scott, Great Falls**

