

# MONTANA ARCHIVIST



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**Archives BLITZ! 2017: The Montana SHRAB's inaugural Archives BLITZ! Grant was awarded to the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorders Office. Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson submitted her successful grant request for assistance with historic county maps. The work including cleaning, repairing, inventorying and rehousing maps dating from the 1880s to early 20th century. Ms. Benson gathered a group of 15 eager volunteers to receive training to participate in the BLITZ! Event.**



Robin Benson and volunteer inventorying plat map of Lincoln County.

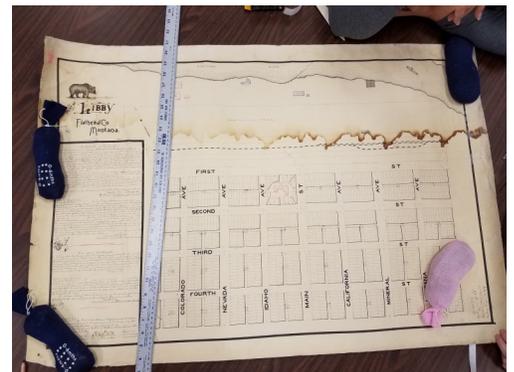
The day long training was provided by members of the SHRAB, Jodie Foley (Montana Historical Society), Anne Foster (Yellowstone National Park) and Heather Hultman (Montana State University). Training included basic preservation techniques and tips for hosting the BLITZ! The Blitz was held the week of October 9 at the City County Building in Libby. Volunteers clocked 335 hours, treated and rehoused 140 maps, and are planning a follow-up event to complete the remaining maps. Benson reported:

“The training and event gave the Clerk & Recorders Office staff valuable information about archiving, cleaning and restoring not only maps, but other historical documents that will be beneficial as the Clerk and Recorder’s Office acts as the “record keeper” for Lincoln County. There are still maps to be processed that are rolled up in the vault ... I am pleased to say the volunteers are eager to do this again!! “

**Great Job Team Libby!** If this program would benefit you and your organization see the application form attached to this newsletter for deadlines and details.



SHRAB BLITZ! Training event in Libby.



1897 plat map of Libby, Montana.

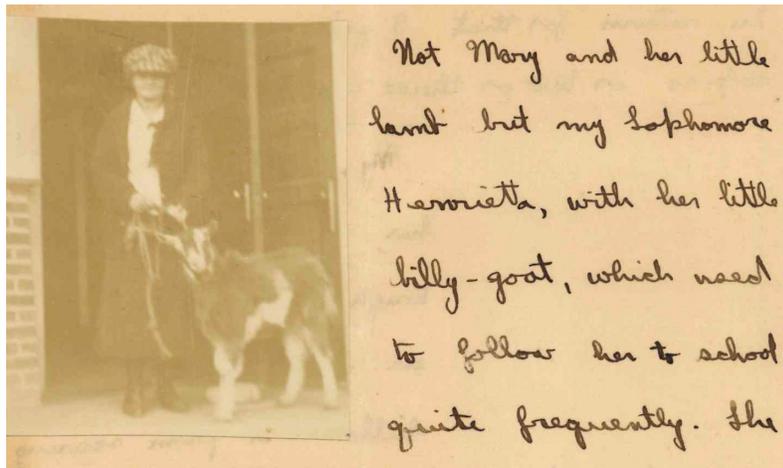


## Featured Collection: Mary Parle Letter (MHS)

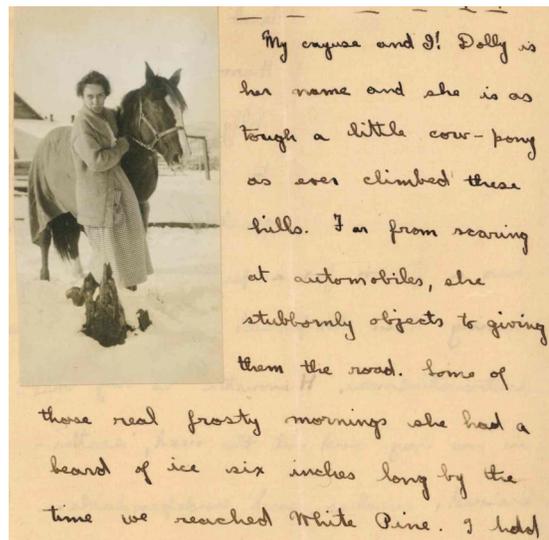
Historic documents often can transport you to another era. The language, images, and descriptions make you feel as if you are sitting next to the creator. Such is the case with this letter written to Mary Parle of Chicago by a young teacher in Alger Montana. The letter, written at Christmas time 1919 begins:

“You are a peach to send me such a dandy big box of candy.  
It came right on Christmas day as special after-dinner treat.”

The writer, “Julie” (no other name found) once lived in Chicago, but moved to Montana to teach. She seems to have taken to her new life nicely. She playfully describe her life as one of two teachers in the small k-12 school, as being “Superintendent, principal, assistant principal, head of Commercial Department, the Mathematics Department, the English Department, and recently because of illness, janitress.” ). The letter lovingly describes the school and the children of this small town in northwest Montana. Including this wonderful image and description of a student's unusual pet:



She includes this image of herself and her “Cayuse” mugging it for the camera.

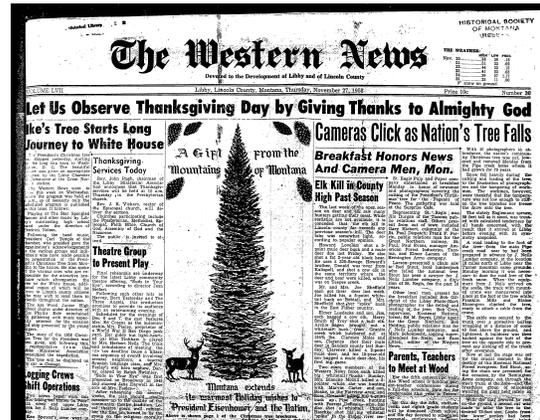


Reading this simple letter from a city girl turned county school marm, to her “big city” friend, gives a strong sense of this vibrant woman’s personality and the charms of her life in a small Montana town. Do you have a collection you would like to highlight? Contact Jodie at [jofoley@mt.gov](mailto:jofoley@mt.gov) and we will include it in the next SHRAB newsletter.

## Montana History in the News:

### **National Christmas Tree:**

As the National Christmas tree makes its way from Montana to Washington D.C. this year, we were reminded that this was not the first time a Montana tree has graced the Capital during Christmas time. It was not even the first time the tree came from the Kootenai National Forest! In 1958, during the Eisenhower administration, Montana provided a stately Engelmann Spruce.



The Western News covered the event from "Timber!" to tree trimming as shown above. For more information on the history of Montana's Christmas Tree industry see the article by Rich Aarstad (MHS Senior Archivist) in the Winter 2016 issue of Montana The Magazine of Western History.



### **Morrow, MHS Photograph Archivist retires after 40 years of service**

Dolores Morrow, Photograph Archivist for the Montana Historical Society Photograph Archives retired this summer after serving 40 years in that position. Lory was hired in 1977 as a consultant and stayed! With an encyclopedic knowledge of the over 600,000 images in the Montana Historical Society collection, Lory's dedication to building, preserving and providing access to the rich collection is renowned. Her efforts have resulted in the donation, cataloging and preservation of works by renowned Montana photographers

such as L.A. Huffman, F.J. and J. E. Haynes, N.A Forsyth, and Evelyn Cameron. She will be missed by staff and patrons alike! Congratulations Lory!

### Training opportunities:

**NEDCC Preservation 101:** Preservation Basics for Paper and Media Collections course gives participants the foundation needed to be effective collections stewards. This comprehensive introduction prepares participants to complete a preservation needs assessment and provides structured guidance on developing an institutional disaster plan. Revised and updated, the course uses the free online version of Preservation 101 as its textbook, adding expanded resources and assignments, interactive discussions, and new content covering audiovisual and digital formats and digital preservation. Putting theory into practice, participants will develop recommendations for improvement and a long-range preservation plan. Preservation 101 is a hybrid course. A series of ten live webinars builds on self-paced study through assigned readings. Feedback will be provided by the instructor. The webinars are interactive, and are supported by NEDCC's Preservation 101 Education Classroom. Participants will have access to webinar recordings, readings, and additional resources, and can communicate with the instructor and fellow participants. Cost for training is \$500. Registration deadline is January 2, 2018. More information at <https://www.nedcc.org/preservation-training/training-currentlist>.



## Training Opportunities continued:

**2018 Western Archives Institute** will be held in San Diego State University. The Western Archives Institute (WAI) is an intensive, two-week program that provides integrated instruction in basic archival practices to individuals with a variety of goals, including:

- those whose jobs require a fundamental understanding of archival skills, but have little or no previous archives education
- those who have expanding responsibility for archival materials
- those who are practicing archivists but have not received formal instruction
- those who demonstrate a commitment to an archival career

The Institute also features site visits to historical records repositories and a diverse curriculum that includes history and development of the profession, theory and terminology, records management, appraisal, arrangement, description, manuscripts acquisition, archives and the law, photographs, preservation administration, reference and access, outreach programs, and managing archival programs and institutions.

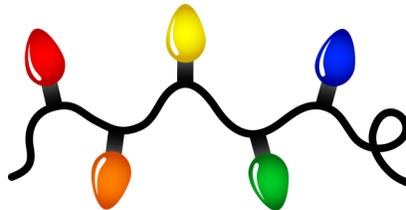
See <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/admin-programs/western-archives-institute/> for application deadlines and fees.

**SAA Online Learning Portal:** This online catalog provides lots of options, including webcasts, online courses, and publications. See <https://www.pathlms.com/saa>

### **Publications:**

Highlighted SAA Publication: Moving Image and Sound Collections for Archivists by Anthony Cocciolo.

This book is for every archivist (or archivist-in-training) who has opened a box or file cabinet or otherwise unearthed some carrier of moving image and sound and has wondered what to do. You may have not recognized the format, you may have not known if it held video or audio, and you may have not known how to describe the item. It's even possible that you did not recognize it as a carrier of moving image and sound. Most archivists encounter and most archives contain some form of moving image and sound material. These can include recordings of events on video, oral histories captured on audiotape, and films created by independent filmmakers. Here's practical guidance on how to preserve and make accessible the moving image and sound record, from the most relevant legacy formats to born-digital formats. See <https://saa.archivists.org/store/moving-image-and-sound-collections-for-archivists/5698/>



**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

Upcoming Events, Conferences and Training Opportunities 2017

- March 8-10, 2018, Helena Museum Association of Montana Annual Conference (see <http://montanamuseums.org/> )
- April 11-14, 2018, Bozeman Montana Library Association Conference (see <http://mtlib.org/mla-annual/>)

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



“Christmas Day in the Rockies”, N.A. Forsyth, ca 1900,  
MHS Photograph Archives