

# *Keeping Up* with the Past!

The 46th Annual

MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE

Helena, September 26–28, 2019





(above) Helena's First National Bank, corner of Sixth and Main, 1930 Leslie H. Jorud photographer, MHS Lot 037 CB B13 (front cover) Early day auto racing, Livingston MHS 940-229

## Conference logistics *(see map on page 26)*

The history conference will be headquartered at the Delta Hotels Helena Colonial located at 2301 Colonial Drive. A block of rooms is being held until August 25. Reservations can be made at [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) or by calling (406) 443-2100. **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!**

Additional room blocks are being held at a special History Conference rate until August 25 at Days Inn by Wyndham Helena, 2001 Prospect Avenue, (406) 204-3728 or [www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn). **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!**

Other accommodations can be found at [www.visitmt.com](http://www.visitmt.com).

**Teacher credit:** Up to 23 OPI Renewal Units are available for conference attendees. Teachers desiring renewal units may obtain forms and additional information at the conference registration table.

*Keep Up with the Past!* at **#MThistconf2019**.

## Keeping Up with the Past

Welcome to the 46th Annual Montana History Conference. We're happy to have you in Helena where, in addition to the conference, you can visit Montana's Museum at the Montana Historical Society. This comes at a time when the 2019 Montana Legislature approved the renovation and expansion of the Montana Historical Society and funded a grant program for museums and historic properties all across the state. This is truly a time to celebrate our history!



Each year, the Montana History Conference presents Montana's history—the people, events, and milestones that make our heritage so rich and exciting. This year, the conference theme is **Keeping Up with the Past!** That could mean just about anything, and probably will. You can be assured of terrific speakers and tours, a wide variety of topics, and a whole lot of fun with our friends in the Montana history community.

We have had great partners in preparing the Montana History Conference this year, and especially want to thank those who have been with us year after year: the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Estate of Patricia Hoksbergen, and the Montana History Foundation.

Join us for this unique and always stimulating conference, and take a deep dive into Montana's past. Enjoy seeing friends also attending the conference who share the love of Montana history. While in the state capital, we hope that you will extend your visit a bit and take advantage of the many heritage and cultural amenities that this historic community has to offer.

Please join us in **Keeping Up with the Past**. We know you will enjoy the conference, and we look forward to greeting all of you—our good friends—in Helena.

Bruce Whittenberg  
Director

**Please note:** The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held at the Delta Hotels Helena Colonial. Admission to the Montana Historical Society is free for attendees throughout the conference.

## Thursday, September 26

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- 🕒 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 🕒 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Made in Montana Tour** (departs from the conference hotel; limited to 20. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and weather-appropriate clothing; lunch is included but don't forget money for beer if you are so inclined).



Lewis and Clark County courthouse and jail (now the Myrna Loy Center), ca. 1900 [MHS 953-357](#)

Montana's "Queen City" supports a diverse array of institutions dedicated to the arts. This art-focused tour will stop first at the Montana Historical Society Museum where tour-goers will have time to explore the exhibits that feature both Montana history and art. Subsequent stops include the Myrna Loy Center, the Holter Museum of Art, the Helena Civic Center, and the Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts, a world-renowned ceramic and

educational center created in 1951 in a local brickyard. After lunch at the Bray, the group will tour the pottery and clay works with longtime resident and retired employee, Chip Clawson. The afternoon tour will focus on local artisans including Earl Fred, a wooden mosaic (intarsia) artist; Emily Free Wilson of Free Ceramics, a gallery and studio for ceramic artists; and finally, Al Swanson at his studio and workshop where he creates handcrafted wooden furniture and decorative fly-fishing boxes. This year's tour will end at the Ten Mile Creek Brewery for a brief tour and an opportunity to taste their wide variety of craft beers.

- 🕒 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Educators Workshop** (lunch included)

**No Place Like Home: Teaching Montana History and Geography** The morning session will focus on strategies and lesson plans for teaching Montana history and geography to elementary and middle school

students. The afternoon session will train teachers to find primary sources to complement their lessons and introduce a new primary source–based lesson plan for high school students (and advanced middle schoolers) on allotment and homesteading on the Flathead Reservation.

 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. **Archives Workshop** (lunch included)

**Survival Tips for the “Accidental Archivist”** Are you an “Accidental Archivist”? Someone who has been assigned archives work, but does not have training and/or background in archival studies? If so, this is the workshop for you! Members of the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) will discuss tools, tips, and tricks needed to help you survive your first foray into archival work. This daylong workshop will focus on gaining intellectual control of your collection, storage basics, collection-level processing, creating user-friendly finding aids, triage-level preservation techniques, donor relations 101, and policy creation. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions and requests for guidance.

 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. **CLG Workshop** (lunch included)

**Annual Certified Local Government Meeting and Preservation Workshop** Each year, members of Montana’s CLG program meet to discuss preservation issues from across the state, update each other on local preservation projects, and discuss organizational and funding ideas. This is a public meeting; all are welcome to attend.

 1:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. **Cemetery Preservation Workshop**

**Saving Montana’s Burying Grounds** Historic cemeteries provide a lasting reminder of earlier generations, but they are often in a state of neglect and disrepair. This workshop will highlight some innovative technologies available to help locate, map, protect, and preserve historic cemeteries. Preservation officer for the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County Pam Attardo will discuss preservation efforts at the Silver City Cemetery north of Helena; Ethan Ryan, archaeologist/GPR specialist and PhD candidate at the University of Montana, will illustrate the uses of ground-penetrating radar for subsurface analysis; and Montana History Foundation president/CEO Dr. Charlene Porsild will highlight additional resources available for cemetery preservation training and potential funding sources. This two-part workshop will begin with presentations at the conference hotel and continue with a field

trip to the Silver City Cemetery. Sturdy walking shoes and layered clothing are recommended.

🕒 5:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M. **Montana Historical Society**



**Opening Reception—Flashback: Montana 1969** 2019 marks the fiftieth anniversary of diverse milestones in American history such as the Woodstock, New York, music festival and man landing on the moon. Back home in the Treasure State, Montana’s first McDonalds opened in Billings, high school administrators debated banning men’s long hair (they lost), and Governor Forrest Anderson vetoed a bill that would have legalized “vicious” bingo. So, dust off your bell bottoms and love beads, let your hair down, and come party like it’s 1969! Enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres and a no host bar while you chat with fellow history enthusiasts about what they were doing fifty years ago. Also, view a new “Montana 1969” slide show

by MHS historian Christine Brown, see moon rocks from the Apollo 11 mission, or go behind the scenes to get a glimpse of treasures from the 1960s (as well as other eras!) in MHS artifact storage. Prizes awarded for the best 1960s attire.

## Friday, September 27

🕒 7:00 A.M.—5:30 P.M. Conference registration

🕒 7:45 A.M.—9:00 A.M. Plenary breakfast

**Pure Quill** Throughout her long career, acclaimed photographer Barbara Van Cleve has used her camera to capture the spirit of the West. Deemed a “Treasured Montana Artist,” Van Cleve has documented western ranch life from the mid-twentieth century continuing through today. In **Pure Quill**, Van Cleve will cover her life story in photography from the beginning on her family’s ranch, the Lazy K Bar, which was situated on the slopes of the Crazy Mountains.

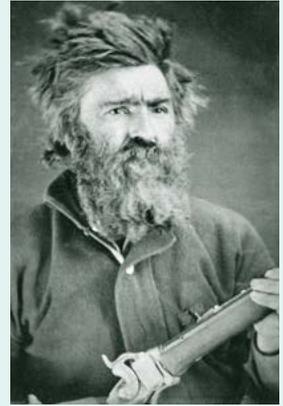


She will trace her photographic journey through its transformation from an avocation into a vocation, her efforts setting up projects whose stories had to be told photographically, and finally, her contributions sharing her vast knowledge with high school age youngsters as well as adults.

 9:15 A.M.—10:30 A.M. Concurrent sessions

**Man-Eaters** In her talk **Cannibal Frontier: The Emeline Fuller Story**, Montana Historical Society editor Dr. Diana Di Stefano will explore the disasters that befell the Utter-Van Ornum Party on the Oregon Trail in 1860. In particular, she will focus on the experience of one of the survivors, Emeline Fuller, who was forced to eat her siblings to survive. Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline will examine **The Sagas of Liver Eating Johnston and Boone Helm, or How to Build Your Reputation as a Cannibal**. Stories of cannibalism on the American frontier are legion. All involved somehow going to the extreme to survive, but a few reputed cannibals really seemed to enjoy their reputations as man-eaters—whether they actually were or not.

**Bad Blood** The reports of Lieutenant William Barrett Pease—Blackfeet agent during the crisis of Major Eugene Baker’s massacre of Heavy Runner’s peaceful and friendly Piegiens—contributed greatly to a nationwide debate about the “Indian Question.” In his talk, **A Thorough Investigation**, Penn State University associate professor of history, emeritus, Dr. Rodger Henderson will examine how Pease’s reports laid the foundation for the Piegan perspective of the massacre, a counter-narrative to the military viewpoint. In **Blood Quantum and the Blackfeet**, Montana state senator and Blackfeet tribal member Susan Webber will speak about how the use of blood quantum—or degree of ancestry—as the sole qualifier for tribal enrollment has impacted the Blackfeet Tribe and families over the last century. Webber will also shed light on what the continued use of blood quantum, rather than other criteria for membership, means for the future of the Blackfeet Nation.



*“Liver Eating” Johnston,*  
ca. 1877 John H. Fouch  
photographer, MHS 943-008

**Fallen Women** Montana State University graduate student Katie McLain will discuss **Hooked: A Historical Look at Women and Drug Use in Montana**. Looking backward from the vantage point of today’s substance use crisis,

McLain will survey the changes over time in drug use, distribution, and enforcement in the American West, focusing on the role of asylums and public health interventions over the last one hundred years. The Extreme History Project director Crystal Alegria will present **A Landscape of Vice: Montana's Red-Light Districts in the Progressive Era**. Alegria will examine the political and social complexity of red-light districts and the women who were, for a time, able to navigate that complexity to prosper in these commercialized centers of vice. As the Progressive Era came to a close and reform movements peaked, however, once-tolerated houses of ill repute were moved out and closed-up, never to reopen.



Lounging prostitutes, Saltsee, ca. 1910 MHS PAC 2002-12.2

🕒 10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Concurrent sessions

**Moving Images** In **Dynamic Montana in Time Lapse: From Early Heyday to the Present**, Missoula author Dr. Doug Ammons will use time-lapse photographs, converted into videos, to illustrate how key parts of Montana have evolved over the past one hundred years. The short, reversible videos illustrate specific changes over time, and are presented with tight background stories in a remarkable method that allows viewers to see how the past has evolved into the present. The Moving Image Archives at the Montana Historical Society currently houses over ten thousand items across thirty-one distinct audiovisual formats. In **The Edmund B. Craney Film and Media Archives: Preserving Montana's Audiovisual Heritage**, Montana Historical Society moving image archivist Kelly Burton will provide an overview of the collections and discuss the preservation steps taken to extend the life of Montana's aging audiovisual history. Clips from recent digitization projects will be shown to highlight the importance of these vital (and entertaining!) cultural resources.



Great Falls broadcaster Norma Ashby interviewing actor Clint Eastwood KRTV Moving Image Collection, MHS MOV 0139

**Montana Medicine Show** Dr. Todd L. Savitt, historian of medicine at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine, will discuss **Montana's First Licensed Physicians: Stories and Statistics**. Before 1889, Montana exerted little oversight of those who claimed to be healers. Starting that year, however, the state required all medical practitioners

to register with the newly formed State Board of Medical Examiners. This paper will give a group demographic picture of the doctors who did (and did not) register and tell stories of some particularly interesting physicians in that group. Todd Harwell, administrator for the State of Montana’s Public Health and Safety Division, will present **“The Biggest Public Health Experiment Ever”:** **Montana’s Contribution to the Eradication of Polio in the United States.** Polio crippled children for centuries before the cause was clearly identified and an extraordinary prevention strategy was developed. Harwell’s talk will review the history of polio and efforts to treat it before a vaccine was available, and follow Montana’s use of the vaccine to eradicate the disease during the 1950s and 1960s.



Reproduction of a Great Northern Railway promotional brochure by Robert F. Morgan MHS

**Western Trips for Eastern People** Since 1882, when the Treasure State’s first transcontinental railroad line was completed, Montana has enjoyed connections with the rest of the United States by way of the finest passenger train service on the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Milwaukee Road, and Amtrak railways. In **From Steam to Superliners**, railroad historian Dale Paterka will present a brief history of passenger trains in Montana illustrated with images taken by noted railroad photographers Ron Nixon and Warren McGee. Early railroad companies quickly realized that the beautiful scenery along their routes would be an attraction to Americans enthralled by the romance of the West. In **The Call of the Mountains: Art of the Railroads**, Montana Historical Society outreach and interpretation

program manager Kirby Lambert will illustrate how advertising campaigns featuring beautiful promotional art lured adventure-seekers—and paying customers—to experience firsthand the spectacular scenery of national parks and other scenic wonders of the West.

 12:30 A.M.–1:45 P.M. Luncheon

**Public Memory and the Mann Gulch Fire: Historical Narratives in Film, Television, and Literature** In 1949, Mann Gulch—located north of Helena on the Missouri River—was the scene of a devastating wildfire

that claimed the lives of thirteen firefighters. Four well-known accounts describe this tragedy: *Red Skies Over Montana*, a 1952 feature film, loosely based on the fire; *Young Men and Fire*, written by Norman Maclean and published in 1992; *Escape! Fire in Mann Gulch*, a 2004 History Channel documentary; and *A Great Day to Fight Fire: Mann Gulch, 1949*, written by Mark Matthews and published in 2007. Each narrative presents the Mann Gulch story from a different vantage. Drs. Brant Short and Dayle Hardy-Short, both professors of communication at Northern Arizona University, will explore these narratives and consider how public memory about the fire emerges in these diverse, readily accessible accounts.



Dr. Brant Short



Dr. Dayle Hardy-Short

🕒 2:00 P.M.–3:15 P.M. Concurrent sessions

**Saints Preserve Us** Founded by Fr. Pierre De Smet in 1841 and set against the backdrop of the majestic Bitterroot Mountains, St. Mary’s Mission played a significant role in the early story of the Treasure State. In **St. Mary’s Mission: Then and Now**, staff members Susan Doverspike and Lyn Graves will explore St. Mary’s history from its origins as “the place where Montana began” to its role as a historic site and museum today. Doverspike will present an overview of the mission’s history from its founding to its closure in 1954. Graves will present the trials and tribulations of preserving historic buildings—which date back to 1861—plus the challenges of creating new exhibits to tantalize return visitors.

**Racing the Wind** In **Running under the Big Sky: Horse Racing in Montana**, Helena attorney and author Brenda Wahler will detail the history of this ancient sport in the Treasure State. Native peoples raced horses long before Euro-Americans arrived, bringing their own racing traditions with them. Whether horses ran down the dusty streets of mining towns or past the glorious grandstands of the Gilded Age, Montanans gathered through prosperous times and downturns to watch the sport of kings. In **Indian Relay**, Kendall Old Horn—a member of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation and relay practitioner and advocate—will examine this thrilling sport. Widely enjoyed by men and women from tribal nations across the Rocky Mountain West, Indian relay is an action-packed mix of daring and horsemanship that evolved from traditional practices into a fully organized, professional sport.

**Conflict and Hard Times** In his presentation **Putting “out the fires of discontent”: The Montana Loyalty League’s War on Socialism, 1918–1920**, Montana Historical Society senior archivist Rich Aarstad will examine the battle waged by *Helena Independent* editor Will Campbell against the twin threats to American democracy—the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), who advocated revolutionary industrial unionism; and the Non-Partisan League, which called for the takeover of farm-related industries from corporate control. At the close of World War I, post-war dynamics, drought, and more combined to create one of the worst crises in Montana history. In her talk, **“To Afford Such Relief As May Be Possible”: Montana’s 1919 Extraordinary Session**, Montana Historical Society reference historian Zoe Ann Stoltz will discuss the events leading up to homesteading’s bust and the special legislative session’s attempts to alleviate the looming disaster.

 3:30 P.M.–4:45 P.M. Concurrent sessions

**Living History** Between 1906 and 1926, Charlie and Nancy Russell spent every summer in Glacier National Park at their beloved Bullhead Lodge where they entertained friends and prominent artists, explored the park, and reveled in the rugged beauty of the mountains. In her presentation, living-history interpreter Mary Jane Bradbury will share the story of **An Artist, His Wife, and the Land of Shining Mountains**. In **Shovel, Ax and Bucket**—one in his twenty-part Education Through Entertainment series—Polson performing artist and Governor’s Arts Award winner Neal Lewing will salute the U.S. Forest Service, national parks, and the timber industry. Lewing incorporates music, lies, legends, and a few laughs into a lively and entertaining history lesson.

**A Buried Past** Random burials and early cemeteries lie scattered across Montana’s vast landscape, under roads, fields, housing developments, shopping centers, and other areas. Forgotten dead have surfaced at one time or another in most Montana communities. Such unexpected discoveries make grisly surprises for those unaware of the history that lies beneath. From her forthcoming book on Montana’s cemetery history, retired Montana Historical Society interpretive historian Dr. Ellen Baumler will examine **Life of the Afterlife under the Big Sky**, sharing some of these discoveries, the problems they created, and the stories they tell. In **“With all the Mystic Rites of the Orient”: Chinese Religious Traditions and Burial Practices in Montana**, Mark Johnson—a University of Notre Dame Fellow with the Institute for Educational Initiatives—will explore Chinese religious traditions and burial practices, focusing specifically on China

Row Cemetery in Helena and Mount Moriah Cemetery in Butte. Johnson will examine the religious traditions maintained in Montana's Chinese communities and their cultural practices surrounding death, including the burial rituals, exhumation, and return of remains for reburial in China.



Green Clay Smith CREDIT?

**Men to Match My Mountains** In **The Shaping of an American Legend: Green Clay Smith, Montana's Second Governor**, *Yellowstone History Journal* editor Bruce Gourley will tell the story of General Green Clay Smith, who arrived in Montana Territory a Civil War hero, former U.S. congressman, and champion of the Thirteenth Amendment. As governor, Smith cast a prescient vision for the future of Montana while struggling to resolve numerous pressing territorial problems. Bozeman historian and author John Russell will discuss **Treasure State Tycoon: Nelson Story and the Making of Montana**. Russell will recount the remarkable tale of a colorful and contradictory figure whose influence on Montana's development was profound. After striking it rich in the goldfields of Alder Gulch, Story drove the first

herd of cattle from Texas to Montana, then built a commercial empire of diverse interests, crafted with determination and ingenuity as well as a penchant for fraud and deceit.

🕒 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Cocktails and conversations

🕒 6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Awards banquet

**Celebrating the contributions of Mardell Plainfeather, The Extreme History Project, and Dr. Larry Len Peterson** The Montana Historical Society's Board of Trustees' Heritage Guardian and Heritage Keepers Awards honor exemplary work, commitment, and effort in identifying, preserving, and presenting the history and heritage values of Montana for current and future generations. The award recognizes those individuals, families, organizations, educators, historians, and others whose efforts have had a significant impact on generating interest in, and the preservation of, the rich and diverse history of Montana.

## Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

### Mardell Plainfeather

Mardell Plainfeather's Crow name—Baa Hinnaché, or Always Working—reflects her tireless spirit and dedication to preserving, documenting, promoting, and teaching the history, culture, and identity of the Crow Apsáalooke people.

Plainfeather is an enrolled member of the Crow (Apsáalooke) Tribe, a member of the Big Lodge clan, and a Whistling Waters child. She speaks fluent Crow and is adopted in the Sacred Tobacco Society of the Crow—the original “medicine” of the tribe. She is a member of a Crow Women's Language Club, a small group of women who gather frequently to practice language, have discussions, share food, and do beadwork; they say, “Our language is our identity.”



Throughout the 1980s, Plainfeather was Plains Indian Historian Park Ranger at Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, and she taught classes at Little Bighorn College from 1986 to 1988. She spent seven years as Supervisory Park Ranger of Interpretation and Visitor Services at Fort Smith National Historic Site in Arkansas. She “retired” from the Park Service and returned to Montana in 1997 to direct her immense energy toward interpreting and preserving Crow tribal history.

Over the past twenty years, Plainfeather has been instrumental in developing and completing a wide range of museum, tourism, and public outreach projects on Crow history through partnerships with a wide variety of organizations. From public lectures, museum exhibits, and tribal tourism initiatives to extensive oral history projects, articles, and books, her collected work comprises an invaluable contribution to the permanent record of the Crow people. Her 2012 book, *The Woman Who Loved Mankind: The Life of a Twentieth-Century Crow Elder* (co-authored with Barbara Loeb), is the autobiographical life story of Mardell's mother, Lillian Bullshows Hogan. The book is a major contribution to Native American history, women's studies, and interpretive autobiography, and is a groundbreaking work of ethnopoetry.

With great awe and admiration, we recognize Mardell Plainfeather with the 2019 Heritage Keepers Award.

## Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

# The Extreme History Project

As noted by Humanities Montana director Ken Egan, "It's tempting to describe The Extreme History Project as the little engine that could, but it's not a little engine. It's a big engine, a game changer, a risk taker, a path breaker." With a small staff and growing list of volunteers, not only has the Bozeman-based



Crystal Alegria

nonprofit achieved a dizzying array of preservation projects, but it has succeeded in drawing attention to overlooked topics while closing the relevance gap between the past and present.

The Extreme History Project was founded in 2011 by Marsha Fulton and Crystal Alegria. Initially inspired by their research on the first Crow Indian agency at Fort Parker, Fulton and Alegria worked to help document Montana's Native American experience. The result was, in 2015, the preservation of Fort Parker along with more than fifteen oral histories with Crow tribal members. Extreme History's work bringing attention to

underrepresented communities and overlooked historical subjects progressed exponentially with the launch of its website, social media platforms, and public lecture series in 2012.

Since 2013, Extreme History has championed efforts to draw attention to a wide range of lesser-known histories through both conventional and offbeat presentations that reach a wide audience. "After Dark" ghostly living-history tours, "Red Light" district tours, bus tours, workshops, live theater plays, teacher workshops, and college courses call out hidden-away history and show how it informs us today.

More recently, the Making History Relevant Workshop Series offered three daylong workshops aimed at teaching citizens how to conduct historic building, genealogy, and archival research. Future projects include publication of the *Historical Activist Handbook*, a guide to preserving and promoting "Extreme History" at the community level.



Marsha Fulton

For its energy, commitment, and innovation in exposing history while tying it to current issues, The Extreme History Project has proven its ability not only to *keep* heritage, but to make it thrive.

## Board of Trustees' Heritage Guardian Award Recipient

### Dr. Larry Len Peterson

Born and raised in Plentywood, Montana, Dr. Larry Len Peterson's outstanding efforts to preserve and promote Montana history and culture by writing



beautiful, engaging books about Montana's historic artists is a model for future generations to follow. Through these publications, Peterson has not only dedicated his efforts to well-known artists like Charlie Russell and L. A. Huffman, but also brought to light less well-known, but extremely significant, Montana artists like John L. Clarke, John Fery, and a variety of artists who worked in Glacier National Park.

Peterson has published a prolific eight books relating to Montana artists, and his non-art, 2017 master work, *American Trinity: Jefferson, Custer, and the Spirit of the West*, has won several prestigious awards. The book exposes the history of the treatment of Native Americans by non-Indians and explores the origins, development, and consequences of hatred and racism.

To add to Peterson's impressive record of advancing Montana history, he has gifted the proceeds of his efforts to various Montana Historical Society (MHS) causes. Most recently, he donated the royalties from *American Trinity* to the Montana Historical Society to provide travel scholarships for reservation schools to bring students to Helena to visit the Society. He is giving royalties from his new book on John L. Clarke to MHS to benefit art-related exhibits. Peterson's befriending of MHS is ongoing and extensive. In addition to the above-mentioned support, he has donated multiple copies of both *Photographing the Legend* and *American Trinity* to the Society's Outreach and Interpretation Program to distribute to classrooms and school libraries around the state. He presents public programs at MHS and other venues, and enthusiastically promotes MHS, our resources, and our staff at venues ranging from the C. M. Russell Museum in Great Falls to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Peterson's contributions to MHS and to Montana history, and the spirit in which he has made them, qualify him as a true Heritage Guardian.

**Schedule at a Glance** The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at the Delta Colonial Hotel. Admission to the Montana Historical Society is free for attendees throughout the conference.

Thursday, September 26

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- 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Made in Montana tour (limited to twenty, lunch included)
- 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Educators workshop (lunch included)
- 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. Archives workshop (lunch included)
- 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. CLG workshop (lunch included)
- 1:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. Cemetery preservation workshop
- 5:30 P.M.–8:00 P.M. *Opening Reception*, Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts

Friday, September 27

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- 7:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. *Plenary breakfast, Pure Quill*
- 9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*
  - Man-Eaters
  - Bad Blood
  - Fallen Women
- 10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*
  - Moving Images
  - Montana Medicine Show
  - Western Trips for Eastern People
- 12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. *Luncheon, Public Memory and the Mann Gulch Fire*
- 2:00 P.M.–3:15 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*
  - Saints Preserve Us
  - Racing the Wind
  - Conflict and Hard Times
- 3:30 P.M.–4:45 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*
  - Living History
  - A Buried Past
  - Men to Match My Mountains
- 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations

6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Awards Banquet, *Celebrating the contributions of Dr. Larry Len Peterson, Mardelle Plainfeather, and the Extreme History Project*

Saturday, September 28

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7:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M. Conference Registration

7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. *Plenary breakfast, Blackfeet John L. “Cutapuis” Clarke and the Silent Call of Glacier National Park: America’s Wood Sculptor*

9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*  
The Business of History  
The Formative Years  
A Toxic Past

10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*  
Digging up the Past  
Timber!  
Picture Perfect

12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. *Plenary luncheon, Cheyenne and Lakota Women and the Battle of the Little Bighorn*

2:00–4:30 P.M. *Post-conference field trips*  
Medicine and Health from Gold Camp to Capital  
Montana Historical Society  
Hidden Helena

Photograph by Barbara Van Cleave





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# THE MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION



The Montana History Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation preserving the rich legacy of Montana's past – one story, one community, one project at a time.

Visit our website to find out how we can help your community preserve the past.

(406) 449-3770 • [www.mthistory.org](http://www.mthistory.org) •  “Like” us on facebook



**MONTANA PRESERVATION**

**ROAD SHOW**

Once again, it's time to grab your walking shoes, hop on the tour bus, and join us for a Preservation Road Show in **White Sulphur Springs, June 10-13, 2020!** Ride along with historians, authors, professors, preservationists, and archaeologists as we visit historic trails, barns, churches, grain elevators, schoolhouses, downtown storefronts, and more.

For more information, visit [www.preservemontana.org/2020-road-show](http://www.preservemontana.org/2020-road-show)

NEITHER  
*the* LIFE  
OF AN *individual*  
NOR THE  
HISTORY  
OF A *society*  
CAN BE  
UNDERSTOOD  
*without understanding*  
BOTH

- C. Wright Mills -

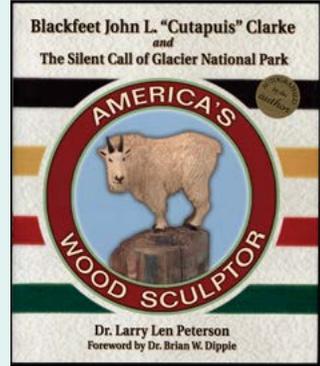
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WASHINGTON  
FOUNDATION

# Saturday, September 28

- 🕒 7:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 🕒 7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. Plenary breakfast

## Blackfeet John L. “Cutapuis” Clarke and the Silent Call of Glacier National Park: America’s Wood Sculptor

Raised at the edge of what would become Glacier National Park on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and robbed of his hearing by scarlet fever at age two, John L. Clarke overcame many hardships to become a celebrated and widely collected artist. He rose to fame by applying his passions for the Glacier area, its wildlife, and Native Americans to the arts of wood carving, sculpture, sketching, and painting. Author Dr. Larry Len Peterson will share the tale of this Blackfeet icon, providing a unique view of the artist’s historical and cultural milieu—a view at once panoramic and intimate.



- 🕒 9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. Concurrent sessions

## The Business of History

In **The Bone Hunters: New Visions of an Ossified Past**, Montana State University PhD student Casey Pallister will examine the buffalo bone industry of the 1880s through a cultural lens. After briefly outlining the industry, Pallister will consider such factors as who participated in bone hunting, how hunters and non-hunters envisioned their labors, and



Métis bone pickers and Red River carts at the Northern Pacific Railroad yards in Minnewaukan, Dakota Territory, 1886 F. Jay Haynes photographer, MHS H-1702

the ways in which gender roles, racial dynamics, and imaginings of the West impacted the practice and its place in memory. Montana State University PhD student Micah Chang will present **Oasis of the Hi-Line: The Continuity of Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs**. The Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs near Saco has been a cornerstone of continuity and community pride for the last century. The popular attraction defied decades of regional economic decline throughout the twentieth century and provides suggestions for how the Hi-Line can continue forward in a time of depopulation.

**The Formative Years** In **Concretizing Montana**, Montana State University graduate student Kirke Elsass will investigate why Montana's built environment has as much concrete as it does. He will also examine the way in which the concretization of Montana—between 1880 and 1910—illustrates the entanglement of peoples' material experience and their modes of thinking, as well as the intersection of geologic and human histories. Bozeman preservation architect Lesley Gilmore will relate **The Life of the LOMIC Building**. Crowning a prominent hillside in Bozeman, the Life of Montana Insurance Company (LOMIC) building is often perceived as a modernist temple, but research reveals that it was not built until 1979, years after its Neo-Formalist stylistic cousins were constructed. Gilmore will unveil how this came to be and why LOMIC vacated the building as early as 1984.

**A Toxic Past** In **An Air That Kills**, *Montana Standard* editor and author David McCumber will discuss the investigative work that he and his partner, Andrew Schneider, conducted into health issues surrounding the mining of asbestos in Libby. McCumber will provide the backstory behind the pair's journalistic efforts as well as the far-reaching impacts their award-winning articles had in uncovering a national scandal. Libby's past was based in natural resource extraction, predominately logging and mining. Today, however, neither industry exists to underpin the economy and provide employment. In **Libby, Montana: Incorporating a Toxic Past into the 21st Century**, Montana State University PhD candidate Jennifer Dunn will examine what aspects of its history Libby chooses to highlight as it re-creates its image as a pristine outdoor destination.



The overflow spillway at Anita Reservoir on the Huntley Project, built by Civilian Conservation Corps workers ca. 1934 MHS PAC 2003-47-135

**Digging up the Past** Montana State University instructor and PhD student Nancy Mahoney will consider **Indians, Amateurs, and Archaeologists: Artifact Collecting in Montana 1880–1950**. Although home to indigenous nomadic peoples for over ten thousand years, Montana remained one of the last regions to attract academically trained archaeologists. This lapse allowed a thriving community of amateurs and avocationalists to amass collections of Native artifacts, a practice that has ongoing consequences for the public stewardship of Montana’s prehistoric past. University of Montana professor of anthropology Dr. Doug MacDonald will examine **Yellowstone Obsidian: Making It Accessible to the Public**. Native Americans were Montana and Wyoming’s original hard-rock miners, conducting extensive pit and trench excavation at important sources of stone, including several obsidian sources in Yellowstone National Park. In his talk, MacDonald will describe the traditional use of two important obsidian sources in Yellowstone—Obsidian Cliff and Cougar Creek—and propose ideas on ways to better utilize these sites in interpreting the park’s Native American past.



*16,130 ft. of Logs, Hauled by Baker Brothers with a Single Team, March 17, 1900* MHS 949-126

**Timber!** Three panelists will discuss **Timbering in Montana and the Evolution of Public Forest Management**. Dr. Greg Gordon, professor of environmental history at Gonzaga University, will examine **Poaching, Politics, and Profits: A. B. Hammond and the Birth of Montana’s Timber Industry**. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, capitalism and conservation collided in the forests of western Montana, where the practice of timber poaching was widespread. Adept at both political and business manipulations,

timber baron A. B. Hammond emerged as one of Montana’s wealthiest and most powerful individuals. Dale Burk, owner of Stevensville’s Stoneydale Press and a former journalist, will explore the **Clear-cut Crisis: Montana’s Bitterroot Forest Controversy of the 1970s**. Clear-cutting on the Bitterroot National Forest during the 1950s and 1960s, and Burk’s reporting in the *Missoulian* during the early 1970s ultimately led to a major reform of logging practices on U.S. Forest Service lands nationwide. Retired Montana Historical Society library manager Brian Shovers will discuss **The Survivors: The Changing Face of the Montana Timber Industry**. At their peak, Montana lumber mills employed more than 13,000



C. Owen Smithers advertising photograph, 1927 Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, C. Owen Smithers Photograph Collection, Smithers.46.142.03

workers in over three hundred sawmills. Today fifteen mills with 2,700 employees remain. Shovers will examine the reasons for the decline and the persistence of smaller family-owned mills.

**Picture Perfect** In **Snapshot of the Past**, Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives staff members Aubrey Jaap and Harriet Schultz will tell the tale of Butte photojournalist C. Owen “Snapshot” Smithers, who from 1920 to 1970 captured every event, large and small, in the Mining City. Jaap and Schultz will use Smithers’s diary to share the story behind a selection of images illustrating his fifty years of work. Montana Historical Society photograph archives manager Jeff Malcomson will examine a **Window to Helena’s Past: The Leslie Jorud Photograph Collection**. From the 1930s into the 1960s, the name Les Jorud was synonymous with photography in Helena. Beginning in his adolescence, Jorud photographed his hometown, documenting its people through group portraiture of families, wedding parties, and a wide variety of community groups. His commercial photography business specialized in photographic work for commercial businesses, government agencies, lawyers, and insurance companies, but Jorud also captured downtown street scenes, special community events, and natural disasters. Jorud’s photography not only reflected the life of the capital city, but also helped shape its identity.

 12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. Luncheon

**Cheyenne and Lakota Women and the Battle of the Little Bighorn** Dr. Leila Monaghan, professor of anthropology at Northern Arizona University, will provide insight into the important, but little known, material, military, and spiritual assistance that women provided before, during, and after the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Using the testimony of Cheyenne and Lakota women—Antelope, Pretty White Buffalo, Moving Robe, Julia Face, and others—Monaghan will describe the battle as women experienced it: ensuring their family’s safety, rallying



their warriors with “strongheart songs,” capturing runaway horses, nursing the wounded, landing death blows to injured enemy soldiers, engaging in direct combat, and performing rites for the dead.

## Post-conference Field Trips

 2:00 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Medicine and Health from Gold Camp to Capital** (transportation provided, departs from the conference hotel; limited to 25. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and weather-appropriate clothing).

From surgery at home and early quarantine laws to the evolution of its hospitals, a healthy Helena has always been the goal of medical professionals and public officials. This unusual tour, led by retired Montana Historical Society interpretive historian Ellen Baumler, will take you to the sites that interpret the history of health and medicine in the local community and the state. Learn about the first deaths in the mining camp, the first cemetery, the first hospitals, and the efforts of the first doctors who battled epidemics in primitive conditions. Discover the early sites of the House of the Good Shepherd, the first Montana Children’s Home, and other places that gave relief to the community.

 2:00 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Montana Historical Society** (transportation on your own, 225 North Roberts)

A trip to Helena isn’t complete without a stop at the Montana Historical Society. Come visit with Montana Historical Society curator of collections Amanda Streeter Trum while exploring our new exhibit on the ice age; talk with “Nancy Russell” (Mary Jane Bradbury), wife and business manager of Montana’s Cowboy Artist, in our Mackay Gallery of C. M. Russell Art; and watch selected films from the Society’s ever-growing Moving Image Archives.

 2:00 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Hidden Helena** (transportation on your own, directions will be provided. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and weather-appropriate clothing).

You are invited to join the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) on a new self-guided tour into some of the Helena Valley’s most spectacular rural historic sites. Participants will explore homesteads, mountain towns, schoolhouses, and other sites not ordinarily open to the public. Proceeds from this tour benefit MPA. For more information, visit [www.preservemontana.org/hidden-helena-2019](http://www.preservemontana.org/hidden-helena-2019).

## 20/20 Vision: Looking Clearly at the Past

**Save the date** for the 47th Annual Montana History Conference,  
September 24–26, 2020, in Butte!



*Lewis's First Glimpse of the Rockies* by F. Pedretti's Sons, 1902, Montana State Capitol  
MHS X1902.04.13

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# Helena



## Conference Venues

Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts St.  
Delta Hotels Helena Colonial, 2301 Colonial Dr.

# Montana History Conference, September 26–28, 2019

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Box No. \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions (i.e. vegetarian, kosher, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Pre-registration closes Friday, September 20. Limited on-site registration will be available beginning Thursday, September 26, if space allows.**

**Full conference registration** includes reception on Thursday; all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and banquet on Friday; and all sessions, breakfast, and lunch on Saturday. Workshops and field trips are extra, as indicated below. All amounts are U.S. currency.

	<b>Advance registration (by Sept. 20)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<input type="radio"/> Regular	\$165	_____
<input type="radio"/> College student (ID required)	\$95	_____
<b>Workshops &amp; Field Trips</b>		
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Made in Montana Tour (limited to 20, lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Educators Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday Archives Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: CLG Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Saving Montana's Burying Ground	Free	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Medicine and Health from Gold Camp to Capital	\$20	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Montana Historical Society	Free	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: MPA's Hidden Helena	\$20	_____
<b>Single Day Registration</b>		
<input type="radio"/> Friday only (includes all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and awards banquet)	\$125	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday only (includes breakfast and lunch)	\$50	_____
<b>Extra tickets for guests of attendees</b>		
<input type="radio"/> Extra tickets, Thursday night reception	\$20	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Friday noon	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra banquet tickets, Friday evening	\$45	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Saturday noon	\$25	_____
	<b>Total</b>	_____
<input type="radio"/> <b>Note: MHS Prospector (\$200 level) Members or higher</b> receive a 15% discount on the total amount. Member #: _____	-15%	_____
	<b>Amount due</b>	=====

**Note: Payment is due at the time of registration. Cancellations received before September 20 will be refunded in full less a \$20.00 handling fee. No refunds can be made for cancellations received after September 20.**

## Method of payment

Check enclosed      Charge to my:  MasterCard    Visa    Discover    American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail registration form and payment to:** History Conference, Montana Historical Society, P.O. Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-1201. Or register on-line at <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/ConferencesWorkshops>.

**For conference questions call (406) 444-1799 or email [jlewis@mt.gov](mailto:jlewis@mt.gov).**

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

225 N. Roberts St.  
P.O. Box 201201  
Helena, MT 59620

