

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
presents

Montana Milestones

150 Years of Montana History

The 41st Annual
MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE
September 18–20, 2014, Helena



Montana Milestones President Abraham Lincoln signed Montana Territory into existence on May 26, 1864. In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of that momentous event, the 41st Annual Montana History Conference will look at landmarks of the Treasure State's past. Beginning with the First Peoples, who called this place home long before Montana became Montana, conference sessions will highlight notable people and events that continue to impact life under the Big Sky today—Native peoples' sustainable lifeways; Cowboy Artist Charlie Russell and Senator Lee Metcalf; the founding of Missoula, Helena, and Butte; the abandonment of eastern Montana homestead-era communities; the women's suffrage movement; the 1972 Constitutional Convention; the 1964 flood; and the rise and fall of the Ku Klux Klan in Montana. Thursday's workshops will offer hands-on, practical experience, while Saturday's field trips will provide a firsthand glimpse of some of Helena's historic treasures.

Conference logistics: Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena. Field trips will depart from and return to the hotel. Thursday night's opening program will be held at the Montana State Capitol, 6th Avenue and Roberts Street, followed by a reception at the Montana Historical Society across Roberts Street from the Capitol. Thursday's gravestone preservation workshop will be held at the Benton Ave. Cemetery (registrants will be provided with more specific details).

The Red Lion Colonial Hotel is offering special rates to conference-goers. Rooms are being held until September 2, 2014. **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!** Call (406) 443-2100 or visit <http://helenacolonial.redlion.com>.

Additionally, two nearby hotels are also offering special rates to conference attendees. **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!**

Hampton Inn, 725 Carter Drive, (406) 443-5800, or <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/montana/hampton-inn-helena-HELMTHX/index.html>. Rooms are being held until August 27, 2014.

Days Inn, 2001 Prospect Avenue, (406) 442-3280, or <http://www.daysinn.com/hotels/montana/helena/days-inn-helena/hotel-overview>.

Other nearby accommodations can be found at www.visitmt.com.

Teacher Credit: Up to 22 OPI Teacher Renewal Units are available for conference attendees. Teachers desiring renewal credits may obtain forms and additional information at the conference registration table.

Twitter users: follow the conference using hashtag #MTHistory2014.

Please note: The conference schedule is subject to change.

Cover photo: Road into Bannack, Beaverhead County, April 1942. John Vachon, photographer. Library of Congress-USF34-065456-D

Pre-conference Opportunity *Wednesday, September 17*

5:30 P.M. **Montana Preservation Alliance Historic Preservation Excellence Awards**, *Montana Club, 6th and Fuller*

Each year the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) honors a new crop of Montana preservationists who have gone above and beyond to preserve and protect a historic building or place for the next generation. Join MPA for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and their compelling awards presentation. For more information, contact Christine Brown at (406) 457-2822.

Something New! Have a burning question about Montana history? For the first time this year we will be offering a **"History Bulletin Board."** Attendees will be encouraged to post research topics and questions as an easy way to gather information from fellow conference-goers. Materials and instructions will be provided onsite.

Thursday, September 18

7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. *Conference Registration*

8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M. **Made in Montana Tour** (*lunch included; vans depart from the Red Lion Colonial Hotel; limited to 20 participants*)

This year's tour features a visit to the Helena offices of Montana Rail Link, which runs freight between Laurel, Montana, and Spokane, Washington, on BNSF trackage. The Helena Yard Master will lead a tour of the yards while providing a history of MRL and its operations. A tour of the historic Sixth Ward (adjacent to the MRL depot), led by historians Ellen Baumler and Jon Axline, will follow. Boeing Helena is next, with a unique opportunity to watch the machining of wings for the Boeing 747 and 787. A tour of Al Swanson's Gallery & Craftsman Studio will follow. Swanson has been creating custom hardwood furniture for home and office since 2000. The day concludes with a tour of Triple Divide Spirits, Helena's only producer of a distilled spirit—vodka. Wear sturdy shoes or boots.

9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. **Gravestone Preservation Workshop** (*lunch included; Benton Avenue Cemetery; limited to 30 participants*)

Nationally known gravestone conservator Jonathan Appell of Hartford, Connecticut, will lead participants in a hands-on workshop designed to help concerned citizens preserve their local cemeteries. Participants will learn how to identify different monument types, clean gravestones using appropriate

materials, repair damaged monuments, and reset leaning or fallen headstones. Helena's historic Benton Avenue Cemetery will serve as the classroom for learning techniques that can be taken home for use in historic cemeteries statewide. Co-sponsored by the Museums Association of Montana. Registrants will be provided with additional information before the workshop.

 9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. **Educators Workshop** (*lunch included*)

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Montana, this year's Educators Workshop will focus on **Teaching Montana's Women's History**. Participants will come away with practical classroom lessons and techniques for engaging students from grades 4 through 12. Special attention will be paid to



Fort Shaw Indian School classroom 1871

integrating primary sources into instruction and alignment with the Common Core. The workshop will provide educators with a greater understanding of how women's lives differed from—and paralleled—their male counterparts', as well as with an increased knowledge of available resources to help them integrate primary sources into their classrooms while addressing Common Core Reading and Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies.

 10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. **Archives Workshop** (*lunch included*)

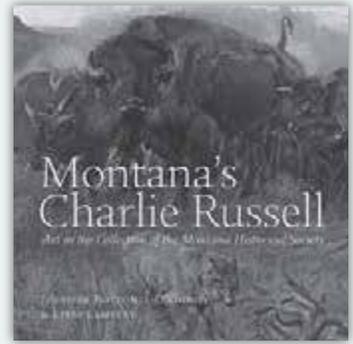
All Points Access: Physical Preservation and Virtual

Access. Preservation and access, the two main tenets of archival work, will be the subject of this workshop. MHS staff and State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) members will go “old school” and “cutting edge,” teaching attendees traditional preservation techniques including cleaning, repairing, and rehousing paper records, and then discussing ways those newly stabilized records can be served up to the public via social media. Attendees will learn ways to use Facebook, Twitter, blogs, Instagram, Pinterest, and more!

🕒 6:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M. *House Chambers, Montana State Capitol*

Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society

Set against the backdrop of Russell's masterpiece, *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole*, co-authors Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney and Kirby Lambert will share insights gathered while researching the Historical Society's forthcoming catalog of its world-class collection of Russell art. Like Montana Territory itself, the Cowboy Artist was born in 1864, and his story—and his art—continue to play a defining role in the Treasure State's self-perception.



🕒 7:00 P.M.—8:30 P.M. *Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts*

Opening Reception After learning what makes the state's collection of Russell art so incredible, venture across the street to the Montana Historical Society to examine the Russell collection in person and peruse two new exhibits: *Montana's Territorial Legacy: The Montana Historical Society* and *Montana's Mining Frontier: Then and Now*, an exhibition of vintage engravings and contemporary black-and-white photographs produced by Missoula photographer Lee Silliman. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar while you visit with fellow history enthusiasts.

Friday, September 19

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

🕒 8:00 A.M.—9:15 A.M. *Plenary session (breakfast included)*

Montana 1864: Clash of Nations Following breakfast and a brief welcome by MHS director Bruce Whittenberg, Humanities Montana Executive Director Ken Egan will examine the newly created Montana Territory as a battleground of national aspirations: Native American tribes, Union true believers, and Confederate sympathizers. Egan will reveal these clashing national visions—which, as a result of the gold rush, were brought into collision by a rapid influx of emigrants from all parts of the United States—by focusing on paired historical figures: Gad E. Upson and Bull Lodge; Sidney Edgerton

and Mary Ronan; Pretty-shield and Crazy Horse; Sitting Bull and Alfred Sully; and Pamela and James Fergus.

 9:30 A.M.–10:45 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*

Far from the Battlefield In **Montana and the Civil War**, Great Falls historian Ken Robison will examine the influx of Confederate soldiers and sympathizers that led to the formation of Montana Territory in 1864. He will discuss reasons for their migration to the

distant west as well as their influence and contributions to the territory during and just after the Civil War. In **Lost or Found?**, Deer Lodge historian Lyndel Meikle will tell the little-known tale of World War II soldier Frank Young, who returned from the European theater with a bullet hole in his helmet. Young spent the remainder of his life on a mining claim on Montana's Pikes Peak. Was he a victim of what is now called PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), or a man whose brush with death made him realize what was most important to him?

Trails and Bricks in the Town That Gold Built The history of Helena's oldest territorial period neighborhood includes a colorful mix of miners, prostitutes, and bootleggers. MHS Interpretive Historian Dr. Ellen Baumler will explore the evolution of this historic area and its remarkable preservation in her presentation, **From Pioneers to Pensioners at Reeder's Alley**. By the 1860s Helena was at the center of a network of toll roads that were critical to the mining camp. In his presentation, **All Roads Lead to Last Chance Gulch**, Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline will take you on a trip over the Benton and Frenchwoman's Roads and explain their significance to Montana's history 150 years ago.

Montana's Built Environment In **Native American Influences in Montana Architecture**, Missoula historical architect Paul Filicetti will explore the ways in which professional architects have utilized Native American patterns, forms, styles, and architecture in buildings and structures to emulate Native American



Placer mining in Nelson Gulch near Rimini, ca. 1905

MHS Lot 26 Box 6 F 1

design, setting, materials, and associations. His presentation will showcase both historical and modern examples. Bozeman historic preservation architect Lesley Gilmore will examine **Mission 66's Groundbreaking in Yellowstone**. Gilmore will discuss the development at Canyon Village, which National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth touted as the first project begun under the nascent Mission 66 program. That program was intended to improve the national parks, which had fallen into disrepair during the war years. The design aspects incorporated at Canyon Village set the stage for ensuing Mission 66 projects throughout the nation.

 11:00 A.M.–12:15 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*

Governing Montana In his talk, **Forrest Anderson and the Reshaping of Montana State Government**, MHS Library Director Brian Shovers will explore Anderson's wide-ranging political career, the circumstances that allowed monumental changes in state



MHS Museum, 2014-09-01

government to occur, and the pivotal moments in the endeavor to trim 161 state agencies, departments, and commissions to 19, as well as to create a consensus among one hundred delegates to modernize Montana's nineteenth-century constitution. In his presentation, **Balancing Power and the Purse: 40 Years of the Legislative Fiscal Division**, historian and fiscal analyst with the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) Dr. Stephen Forrest will examine how the role of the LFD—which was founded in the wake of the 1972 Constitutional Convention—has evolved from budget accountants to legislative policy consultants, emerging as a fundamental shaper of Montana government and society.

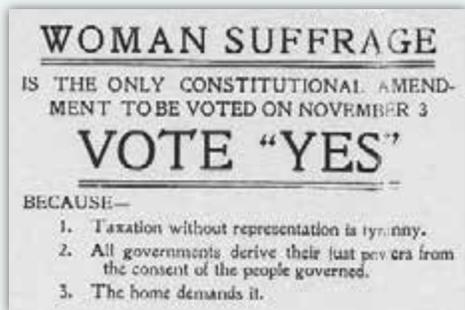
First Montanans In **Women of the First Nations**, independent scholar Laura Ferguson will share highlights from her research and writing on American Indian women as part of the MHS's yearlong project, Women's History Matters. Little Shell tribal historian James Parker-Shield will present a **Native American Hall of Fame: A Contemporary Perspective**. Parker-Shield will focus on notable figures who have made significant contributions to Montana, including author James Welch, curator George Horse Capture, policy advocate Forrest Gerard, Métis leader Louis Riel, state senator Walter "Blackie" Wetzels, the world champion Ft. Shaw Indian School girls' basketball team, and others.

Fighting Words Join MHS archives staff members Jeff Malcomson, Rich Aarstad, and Jodie Foley in a historical dramatization featuring a debate between Republican Wilbur Fisk Sanders and Democrat Samuel Word. Although fictionalized, the dialogue will be drawn from the writings of the two men held in MHS collections, and the context will reverberate **Civil War Politics in Montana Territory**. Martha Edgerton Plassmann will be on hand to moderate this “historic” debate.

🕒 12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. *Lunch*

Taking Action: A Political History of Women in Montana

Women have always been actors in Montana’s political history. In her presentation, Missoula historian and former state representative Diane Sands will survey the role of Montana women beginning with suffrage campaigns conducted during territorial days through their 1914 victory granting women the vote. Sands will explore the political work of diverse groups—such as the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, the Montana Negro Women’s Clubs, and the League of Women Voters—on behalf of women and families.



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

Boom and Bust In her talk, **Energies of Exchange: A Comparison of the Social and Economic Impacts of Oil Development in the Cat Creek Formation and Williston Basin, 1920–1960**, Montana State University graduate student Amy Dixon will focus on two remarkable oil booms to analyze the relationship between energy technologies and homesteaders as a hallmark of twentieth-century Montana history. In his presentation, **Montana’s Agricultural Ghost Towns**, Professor of Anthropology Dr. Douglas Midgett will follow the rise and fall of the eastern Montana agricultural centers that developed as a result of the unprecedented influx of settlers in the second decade of the twentieth century, and whose fate was tied to that of the homesteaders they served.

History in Black and White In **Terwilliger’s War: The Ku Klux Klan’s Battle for Relevancy in the Big Sky**, Dr. Chris Erickson, Associate Professor of History, Indiana University, Purdue University, Fort Wayne, will discuss former Livingston mayor Lewis Terwilliger’s futile attempts to establish the Klan as

a major political force in Montana during the 1920s. In **A Black Homesteader's Struggle**, Philip Burgess, Missoula poet and writer, will tell the tale of an African American family that relocated from the post-Civil War South to eastern Montana. Although they found dignity and independence on a beautiful and isolated homestead, they still had to deal with the less virulent but more complicated racial attitudes of Richland County, as well as the vagaries of Northern Plains weather and the wandering Missouri River.

Confluence of Cultures In her presentation, **Merging of the Indian and European Cultures in Salish Country**, Colleen Meyer, executive director of Historic St. Mary's Mission, will detail the unique circumstances that led to the establishment of the Treasure State's first church and the first permanent settlement, twenty-three years before Montana became a territory. Meyer will relate the history of St. Mary's Mission and the remarkable people from two very different cultures that merged there. Dr. Nicholas Vrooman will shed light on the little-known **Nehiyaw Pwat/Iron Alliance in Montana**.

A familial, social, economic, political, and military formation comprised primarily of the Cree, Assiniboine, Ojibwa, and Michif (Métis) peoples, this aboriginal society matched step for step and head to toe the development and expansion of Euro-American society west of the Mississippi drainage to the Columbia Plateau during the nineteenth century.



Salish Indians at St. Mary's Mission, 1891

MHS PAC 77-6-6

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

The Big Sky before “Montana” Dr. Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfeet/Métis), faculty in the Environmental Studies program at the University of Montana—along with Environmental Studies graduate students Anne Grant (Blackfeet/Gros Ventre) and Quentin Means (Northern Cheyenne)—will discuss the multiple relationships that Native people had with the ancient landscape of this place we now call Montana. For more than 10,000 years, Native Americans were sustained by hunting, fishing, gathering, and their traditional ecological knowledge. This session will explore how Native people lived sustainably and shaped their ecosystems.

East Meets West Montana State University doctoral candidate Clinton Colgrove will explore **Eastern Education and Western Applications: Migration of Science and Engineering in Nineteenth Century America**. Colgrove will trace the lineage of a network of scientists, educators, institutions, and industries that linked Columbia University and Montana, as well as the story of how science, engineering, and technology migrated from the eastern United States to the West. In his presentation, **From Anaconda to Ashio: Copper and the Convergence of Global Societies**, Dr. Timothy LeCain, Associate Professor of History at Montana State University, will explore the role that material factors—exemplified by copper—have played in shaping cultures and societies. His discussion will develop the thesis that the sociocultural convergence between mining regions in the United States and Japan was to a significant degree a result of the copper deposits both nations possessed and aggressively developed.

Butte: As Old as Montana Three Butte residents actively involved in preserving and promoting the Mining City’s rich heritage will share the past in song. In **A Red Metal River: Butte’s Blood in Song**, Mark and Nicole Reavis will perform tunes that place Butte firmly in the history of the growing state of Montana as well as the nation. Many of these songs grew out of strife, violence, and disaster. Nicole will also sing an original number that “compresses” Butte’s history into a single song. Richard Gibson, dressed as IWW labor organizer Frank Little, will present **Solidarity Forever—Union Strife in Butte**. Gibson will recount the development of organized labor in the Mining City and its relationship to state and national labor laws. He will end with a rousing rendition, with audience participation, of the song *Solidarity Forever*.



MHS 946-030

Butte City, M.T., 1876

A LEGACY TRUE TO MONTANA VALUES

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation has marked a quarter-century of philanthropy, in which time it grew from the inspiration of a Montana construction worker and a school teacher into a multi-million dollar force to benefit the communities where the Washington Companies do business, and nationally.

Over 25 years the Foundation has expanded its reach and deepened its commitment

25 1988-2014
years

INVESTING IN PEOPLE
TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY
OF THEIR LIVES

to giving people, especially youth, the tools they need to be successful. Supported by the Washington Companies and the Washington Family, the Foundation looks forward to coming years with great anticipation, knowing the legacy established in 1988 will endure and flourish.

DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
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Learn more about the
Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation online
at www.dpwfoundation.org

Schedule at a Glance

The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel.

Thursday, September 18

- 7:30 A.M.—5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 8:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M. Made in Montana Tour (lunch included, limited to 20, departs from Red Lion Colonial Hotel)
- 9:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M. Gravestone Preservation Workshop (lunch included, limited to 30, Benton Ave. Cemetery)
- 9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. Educators Workshop (lunch included)
- 10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. Archives Workshop (lunch included)
- 6:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M. Montana’s Charlie Russell, House of Representatives, Montana State Capitol
- 7:00 P.M.—8:30 P.M. Opening Reception, Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts

Friday, September 19

- 7:00 A.M.—5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 8:00 A.M.—9:15 A.M. Plenary Breakfast—Montana 1864: Clash of Nations
- 9:30 A.M.—10:45 A.M. **Concurrent sessions**
Far from the Battlefield
Trails and Bricks in the Town That Gold Built
Montana’s Built Environment



Bull Team Just in from the Mountains, Ft. Benton

MHS 947-073

- 11:00 A.M.—12:15 P.M. **Concurrent sessions**
 Governing Montana
 First Montanans
 Fighting Words
- 12:30 P.M.—1:45 P.M. Lunch—Taking Action: A Political History of Women in Montana
- 2:00 P.M.—3:15 P.M. **Concurrent sessions**
 Boom and Bust
 History in Black and White
 Confluence of Cultures
- 3:30 P.M.—4:45 P.M. **Concurrent sessions**
 The Big Sky before “Montana”
 East Meets West
 Butte: As Old as Montana
- 5:30 P.M.—6:30 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations
- 6:30 P.M.—8:30 P.M. Awards Banquet—A Society of Your Own Creation

Saturday, September 20

- 7:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M. Conference Registration
- 7:30 A.M.—8:45 A.M. Bradley Breakfast—“I Go North Tonight”:
 The XIT Ranch Invades Montana
- 9:00 A.M.—10:15 A.M. **Concurrent sessions**
 Summer of ‘64
 Building Missoula
 Women’s History Matters
- 10:30 A.M.—11:45 A.M. **Concurrent sessions**
 Montana Medicine
 Preserving Montana’s Great Outdoors
 A Great Place to Visit
- Noon—1:30 P.M. Lunch—Hangtown: Montana Territory’s First Gold,
 Gamblers, and Gallows
- 1:45 P.M.—3:45 P.M. **Post-conference tours of the “City that Gold Built”**
 Women’s History Tour
 (limited to 25, departs from Red Lion Colonial Hotel)
 West Side Walking Tour
 (limited to 15, departs from Red Lion Colonial Hotel)

MHS Board of Trustees

2014 Heritage Keeper Award Recipients

Eastern Montana

Mary Allen

Those who know her well report that “Mary Allen exemplifies the very definition of ‘heritage keeper.’” Allen grew up in Billings, but adopted the Roberts community as her own when she married local rancher Joseph Allen, whose family homesteaded near Roberts in 1908.

Allen’s commitment to preserving Roberts area history is matched only by her passion for educating Roberts’s next generation, and her best work has come when she has combined the two by challenging the town’s students to explore, preserve, and appreciate their family and community history.

The longtime Roberts High School librarian’s work in heritage education began a quarter of a century ago, when she embarked on a school-wide project in which students interviewed Roberts residents. She then helped the students refine and publish their work to create a “gift of scholarship” for the community.

Those interviews and essays came in handy when Allen helped organize the Roberts History Group in 2010. The group’s goal was to publish a local history book in time for the 2013 Roberts All-Class Reunion. Allen once again included the youth of Roberts, convincing the school board to allow her to offer a special class in historical research and writing. Under Allen’s tutelage, high school students joined adult members of the Roberts community to research and draft family histories.

While many people contributed to the 556-page book, *Trails, Tracks and Tribulations . . . a History of Roberts, Montana*, no one did more work than Allen herself, who spent thousands of hours interviewing old-timers, scanning photographs, scouring historical newspapers, applying for funding (including a grant from the Montana Historical Society), and writing and editing articles.

In addition to her publishing endeavors, Allen has helped organize important community celebrations, from all-school reunions to the 1993 celebration of Roberts’s centennial, which featured, among other events, a parade with period costumes, an exhibit of Roberts history and memorabilia, and historical presentations.

Allen’s remarkable commitment to preserving Roberts’s history—and to passing on her passion to the next generation—makes her a model to emulate. It is an honor to recognize Mary Allen with the 2014 Heritage Keeper Award.



Western Montana

Kim Briggeman

Kim Briggeman grew up in a house that bordered the Mullan Road, a lucky coincidence that sparked a lifelong interest in Montana history—especially in this important Montana route. Briggeman taught history for several years in Valier and Hall, Montana, before returning to Bonner to work as a sports reporter for the *Missoulian*. Wherever he lived, he spent his spare time traveling the back roads, visiting, researching, and writing about Montana’s historic places.

A polished speaker who communicates equally well with octogenarians and eighth graders, Briggeman brings historic figures to life during Missoula’s annual “Stories and Stones” Cemetery Tour and for many years published historical articles in the *Missoulian*. He has shared his love of Montana history through public and academic presentations and articles, bicycling and walking tours, and dramatic performances. In recognition of his commitment to preserving and promoting Missoula County history, he received the Missoula Historic Preservation Award in 2010.



Briggeman has put his journalism training to work for the community of Bonner, writing the centennial history of Bonner Catholic Church and helping to write and edit an updated version of the town’s community history book, *A Grass Roots History: The Story of Bonner, Montana*. Among his largest contributions, however, has been his work rescuing and then cataloging the Jack Demmon Photograph Collection.

Briggeman discovered the collection of 1,600 historical photographs on poster boards stored in a janitor’s closet. He had the photos moved to the Bonner School library and began the painstaking task of researching, cataloging, and indexing them. Digitized in 2007 by the University of Montana, the photographs, now “the pride of the community of Bonner,” are available to researchers worldwide.

Through his work as a writer, historic preservation advocate, and community historian, Kim Briggeman has embraced every aspect of the Montana Historical Society’s central mission: to preserve, protect, and promote our shared history. For this reason, the Montana Historical Society is pleased to honor him with the 2014 Heritage Keeper Award.

Montana History Foundation



The Montana History Foundation is a proud sponsor of the 41ST ANNUAL MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE. Our vision is to be the leading source of contributions and funding to preserve and protect history resources throughout Montana. Go to MTHistory.org to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how you can help us continue our important work of preserving Montana's history.



Question: What do **women homesteaders**, **Montana's "Danish Colony,"** and **lighted airway beacons** have in common?



Answer: All are featured in videos on the Montana Historical Society's YouTube Channel. Visit [YouTube.com/user/MtHistoricalSociety](https://www.youtube.com/user/MtHistoricalSociety) to watch these and other great programs.



Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana
Historical Society

225 N. Roberts
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-2694

 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. *Cocktails and Conversations*

Visit with fellow conference-goers while presenters who have authored books sign copies of their work. No-host bar.

 6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. *Awards Banquet*

About the Award The Montana Historical Society’s Board of Trustees Heritage Keeper 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 by generating interest in and preservation of the rich and diverse history of Montana.



MHS 952-767

Montana Historical Society ca. 1903,
State Capitol

A Society of Your Own Creation In 2015, MHS will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Among other commemorative efforts planned for next year, the Society will publish a book highlighting **150 Years of Montana History in 150 Objects**. Following the presentation of the 2014 MHS Board of Trustees Heritage Keeper Awards, the book’s authors—including MHS staff and independent historian Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs—will kick off a sesquicentennial celebration of the oldest historical society in the American West by providing a sneak peek into the forthcoming publication.

Saturday, September 20

 7:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. *Conference Registration*

 7:30 A.M.–8:45 A.M. **Bradley Breakfast**

“I Go North Tonight”: The XIT Ranch Invades Montana In 1890, the Texas-based XIT Ranch sent more than 10,000 head of cattle north to Montana’s “finishing” range; many thousands followed in the years to come. In his presentation, Bradley Scholar Michael Miller—a PhD candidate at the University of North Texas—will investigate the environmental, political, and

economic conditions that influenced the activities and direction of the XIT Ranch. Miller will also examine the social and cultural role that ranches like the XIT played in defining a lasting character, real and imagined, for the people and places in which they operated, as well as the complexities of the modern cattle business that emerged from the classical “open-range” period.



XIT Chuck Wagon, Evelyn Cameron, photographer

 9:00 A.M.—10:15 A.M.
Concurrent sessions

Summer of '64 Vic Reiman—MHS Museum Technician and then-resident of Great Falls—will share **Eyewitness to a Deluge: Central Montana’s 1964 Flood.**

Reiman will discuss the causes, devastation, and lasting effects of the widespread disaster, interspersing personal memories into the bigger story. MHS Photograph Archivist Matthew Peek will examine **Lee Metcalf and the Summer of 1964: How Major State and National Events Affected the Passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act.** Peek will discuss Metcalf’s role in President Lyndon B. Johnson’s “Great Society” program, which culminated on September 3, 1964, with the signing of the Wilderness Act. As one of the original



MHS 946-875

Flood waters near Browning, 1964

sponsors of early versions of the Wilderness Act in 1956–1957, Metcalf did more than any other single U.S. congressman to bring about the act’s passage.

Building Missoula In his talk, **Improving the Garden City: Missoula’s Concrete Men**, historic masonry preservationist Scott Loken will tell the story of Missoula’s development through an examination of its roads, bridges, and sidewalks. Loken will provide a chronological overview, beginning with the Mullan Road and continuing through the Works Progress Administration in

the 1930s. Historian Dr. Greg Gordon will answer the question **Who was A. B. Hammond?** through an overview of his new book, *When Money Grew on Trees: A. B. Hammond and the Age of the Timber Baron*. Gordon will explore the legacy and reputation of one of Missoula's—and Montana's—most important, albeit extremely unpopular, historical figures.

Women's History Matters Montana State University PhD candidate Mary Biehl will provide insight into one Montana woman in her presentation, **Mary Meigs Atwater: The Successes and Failures of a Montana Businesswoman**. In addition to other pursuits, Atwater operated the nationally renowned Shuttle-Craft Weaving Guild for thirty years, while the Black Beaver Fur Farm near Basin and the Ennis-area cattle ranch she operated with her son Monty yielded only financial hardship. In her tribute to the **Queens of the Clouds**, MHS Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton will explore the lives of Montana's first aviatrixes. Like their counterparts throughout the nation, Montana's female pilots received accolades and the attention of the press, but their celebrated achievements were presented as curiosities, and only rarely resulted in long-term careers.

 10:30 A.M.—11:45 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*

Montana Medicine Dr. Jennifer Hill, who completed her PhD in American Studies at Montana State University in 2013, will share her research into **Birth under the Big Sky**. Drawing on oral histories and archival research throughout Montana, this presentation will use the experiences of a wide range of Montana women to describe the unique conditions of birth in Montana, the troubling consequences of rural reproduction, and the adaptations and resilience of women and families throughout Montana history. Dr. Todd Savitt—historian of medicine at East Carolina University—will discuss **Disease and Doctoring in Montana at the Dawn of Modern Medicine**. Savitt will utilize three small archival collections to describe what the practice of medicine was like for doctors who chose to live and work in Montana in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Preserving Montana's Great Outdoors In his presentation, **75 Years and Counting: The Montana State Park Story**, Ken Soderberg will explore the rise of the State Park idea on a national level and then focus on the development of the State Park system in Montana. Soderberg—who is the Interpretation and Volunteer Program Specialist for Montana State Parks—will discuss key individuals, civic organizations, federal programs, local issues, state legislators,

and state legislation that influenced the growth of the system. Dr. Janet Finn, Professor of Social Work at the University of Montana, will examine the contributions of **Alma Higgins: Conservatoinist Extraordinaire**. Higgins was a leader in Montana's woman's club movement, lobbied for the establishment of the School of Forestry at the University of Montana, actively promoted community forestry, and campaigned for Arbor Day programs in Montana public schools. She faced her biggest challenge when, in 1920, she moved to Butte, where she launched a campaign for city beautification, toured the state promoting urban gardens, and became host of a weekly radio show.



MHS ST 001:481

Entrance to Morrison Cave ca. 1910,
N. A. Forsyth, photographer

A Great Place to Visit In her presentation, **Hunter's Hot Springs: A Milestone on the Yellowstone**, Dr. Henrietta Shirk, Associate Professor of Communication at Montana Tech, will detail the history of this once prominent resort. In addition to providing specific information on Hunter's Hot Springs, Shirk will use the resort to illustrate the way in which other early Montana hot springs resorts were developed into centers for health purposes as well as for social, recreational, and cultural exchanges. In an excerpt from his new book, *Montana Then and Now*, University of Great Falls English Professor Dr. Aaron Parrett will discuss **A Vacation in the Big Sky Country: Tourism in Montana**. Tourism has been a key factor in the development of Montana since the first organized expeditions of predominantly white Europeans started traveling up the Missouri corridor in the 1800s. Parrett will explore the parallels between tourism in the early nineteenth century and the early twenty-first century in Montana.

Save the Dates! Hit the trail to Bozeman for the 42nd Annual Montana History Conference, September 23–25, 2015. And mark your calendar for the 43rd Annual Montana History Conference, September 22–24, 2016, in Hamilton and Stevensville, where St. Mary's Mission will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding.

 Noon–1:30 P.M. *Lunch*

Hangtown: Montana Territory's First Gold, Gamblers, and Gallows

In 1862, gold was taken from Gold Creek in the Flint Creek Mountain Range, initiating a rush of miners, merchants, and settlers that would result in the formation of Montana Territory. But the discovery also attracted the territory's first professional criminals—card cheats. Dealing Three Card Monte, they inspired both swindles and shootouts and led to the region's first socially directed hanging. Author and magician Marty Demarest will detail how these events help to explain Montana's tangled history of gaming regulation, and delineate the social and economic values that motivated the region's earliest citizens. A decisive step toward the formation of Montana's Vigilantes, the story of Hangtown reveals Montana's first attempt at reconciling both its treasure and the trouble it attracts.



Archives and Special Collections, Mansfield Library,
University of Montana–Missoula, 770195

Unidentified card players, French Gulch, 1904

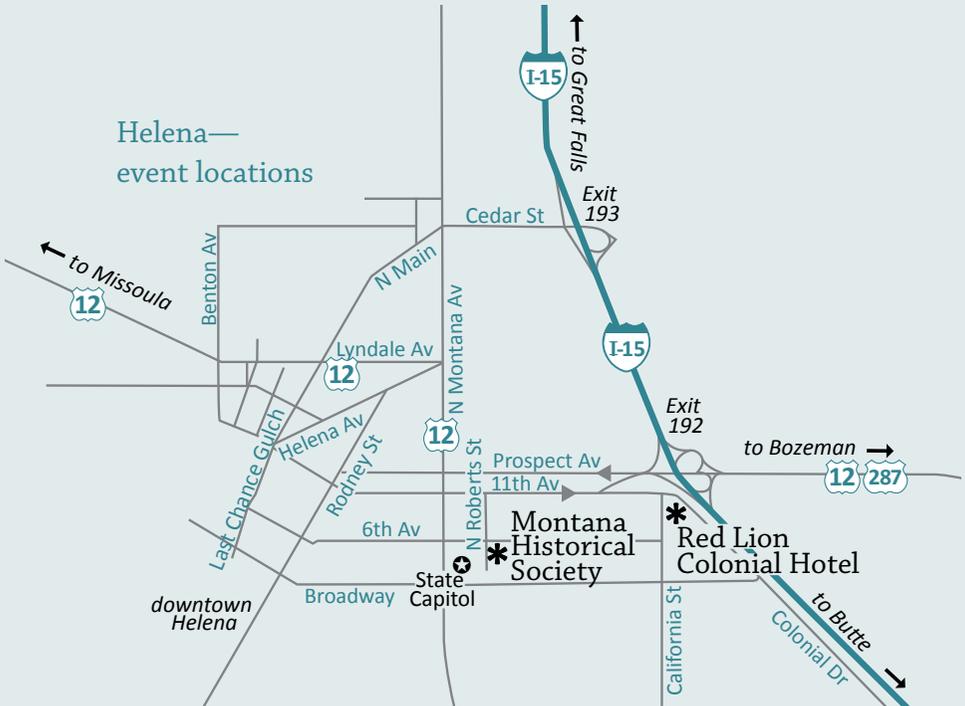
 1:45 P.M.–3:45 P.M. *Post-conference tours of the “City That Gold Built”*

Women's History Tour (limited to 25) From pioneer wives, teachers, and doctors to artists, clubwomen, and prostitutes, women have always lived in, and shaped, the Capital City. Explore their legacies through a tour of Helena's prominent places and lesser-known sites with MHS Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler.

West Side Walking Tour (limited to 15) Helena's West Side graces the city with exquisite and varied architectural styles. Nationally recognized architects contributed to the neighborhood's designs throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Join MHS Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton on a walking tour of this distinctive neighborhood, which will highlight the stylistic trends and works of architectural masters.

*We would like to thank the following
for their generous support of the
Montana History Conference*

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
The Montana Heritage Foundation
Dr. Volney Steele, Bozeman



Montana History Conference, September 18–20, 2014

Register on-line at <http://mhs.mt.gov/museum/historyconference2014.aspx> or complete this form and return it to the address below.

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 12. Limited on-site registration will be available beginning Thursday September 18, if space allows.

Full conference registration includes admission to reception on Thursday; all sessions, breaks, 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.

	Advance registration (by Sept. 12)	Amount
<input type="radio"/> Regular	\$145	_____
<input type="radio"/> College student (ID required)	\$95	_____
<input type="radio"/> MHS Prospector Members or higher membership levels, call (406) 444-2918 for discount information	call	_____

Workshops & Field Trips

<input type="radio"/> Thursday Educators' workshop (lunch included)	\$30	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday Archives workshop (lunch included)	\$30	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday Gravestone preservation workshop (lunch included; limited to 30)	\$75	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday Made in Montana Tour (lunch included; limited to 20)	\$30	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday Helena Women's History field trip (limited to 25)	\$10	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday Helena walking tour (limited to 15)	\$5	_____

Single Day Registration

<input type="radio"/> Friday only (includes all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and awards banquet)	\$115	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday only (includes breakfast and lunch)	\$50	_____

Extra tickets

<input type="radio"/> Extra reception tickets, Thursday night	\$15	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Friday noon	\$20	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra banquet tickets, Friday evening	\$30	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon ticket, Saturday noon	\$20	_____

Total _____

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/museum/historyconference2014.aspx>

For conference questions call (406) 444-4789 or email dmitchell@mt.gov.

Big Sky, Big Land, Big History.

**Montana
Historical Society**

225 North Roberts Street
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201



Charles M. "Kid" Russell,
circa 1883

Detail, MHS Photograph Archives, Helena, 944-687