

Montana Historical Society Public Programs and Events January 2023

Cosponsored by the **Lewis and Clark Library**, all presentations will be held in the library's large meeting room at **120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena**. Programs will also be recorded for viewing on the MTHS YouTube Channel.

Thursday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. ***A Survivor's Account of the Custer Creek Train Wreck*** **Presentation by Bill Jones**



The Custer Creek train wreck (sometimes called the Saugus train wreck) is the worst rail disaster in Montana history. It occurred on June 19, 1938, when a bridge collapsed beneath the Milwaukee Road's "Olympian" as it crossed Custer Creek, southwest of Terry, Montana. Caused by a flash flood that washed away the foundations of the bridge, the crash killed 47 people. Join Bill Jones as he recounts his father's story of surviving this horrific incident.

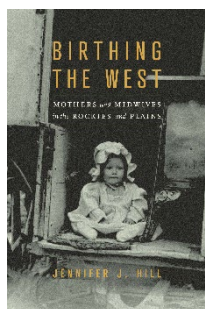
Monday, January 23, 6:30 p.m. ***Keeping Montana Culture Alive on the Montana Frontier*** **Talk and book signing with Mark Johnson**

Join us for a special Chinese New Year presentation!

From the earliest days of non-Native settlement of Montana, Chinese pioneers played a key role in the region's development. Navigating life in this new land, Montana's Chinese residents gained comfort through the continuation of their spiritual and cultural practices. Yet publicly practicing cultural traditions invited unwanted attention from anti-Chinese forces who sought to expel the Chinese from the region. In this lecture, Mark Johnson, the author of *Middle Kingdom under the Big Sky*, will detail how Chinese Montanans achieved cultural continuity and togetherness through these practices while resisting tensions and threats from their detractors.



Thursday, January 26, 6:30 p.m. ***Birthing the West: Mothers and Midwives in the Rockies and Plains*** **Talk and book signing with Jennifer Hill, Ph.D.**



Birthing the West charts the experiences of childbirth across Montana, the Dakotas, and Wyoming. In a region that had historically high rates of maternal and infant death, childbirth took on even more importance in defining families, communities, and nations. Often miles away from physicians, women turned to other women—fellow mothers and midwives—to help deliver their babies. In her presentation, Jennifer Hill will explore how women exercised control over their own health and wellbeing and how they lost that power as physicians claimed more authority over reproductive health. The transition from home to hospital and from midwife to doctor created a dramatic shift in the intimately personal act of giving birth.