

# Montana Historical Society Public Programs and Events March 2023

## Thursday Lecture Series

Cosponsored by the **Lewis and Clark Library**, Thursday presentations are 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, March 9, 6:30 p.m.**

***Taft, Montana: The Milwaukee Road, the Hiawatha Trail, and the Wickedest City in America*  
Talk and Book Signing with John Shontz**



Meet the tens of thousands of men and women, rich and poor, highly educated and illiterate, who came to western Montana from across the globe over 110 years ago to build a railroad engineering marvel—the St. Paul Pass Tunnel—and the last western American boom town. Lost to history for over 110 years and truly born to die, Taft was "rediscovered" during a 2018 archaeology expedition. Today's famous bike trail, the Hiawatha Trail, is at the core of this raucous story, relayed in the new book *Taft, Montana: The Construction of the St. Paul Pass Tunnel and America's Wickedest City; Building What is Today's Hiawatha Trail*.

**Thursday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.**

***A Mother's Journey: The Life of Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks*  
First-Person Interpretive Presentation by Mary Jane Bradbury**



The story of Thomas Jefferson's Corps of Discovery is engrained in the history of our nation and essential to our understanding of the past. The story of Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks—the mother of Meriwether Lewis—remains unknown, yet it offers critical insight into our understanding of the intrepid explorer. Determined to fulfill the role expected of upper-class women at the turn of the nineteenth century while remaining independent and dedicated to her own pursuits, Lucy managed a large plantation household, which included dozens of enslaved people. She also followed her passion for healing and the natural world, while remaining fiercely devoted to her son. Join historic interpreter Mary Jane Bradbury as she unveils the story of this remarkable woman and her indelible impact on one of the key players in the expansion of the United States.