

A Blast from the Past!
Mining Montana History

THE 48TH ANNUAL
MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE
Butte, September 23–25, 2021



Conference logistics *(see map on page 28)*

The history conference will be headquartered at the Copper King Convention Center located at 4655 Harrison Avenue in Butte. A block of rooms is being held until August 31. Reservations can be made at <http://bit.ly/CopperKing2021> or by calling (406) 565-5001. **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!**

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

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

Above: Headframe on Butte Hill by Paul Sample, oil on canvas, 1937 (Cornelius Kelley Collection, X1966.21.03). Front cover: Ready to Blast, 1,900 feet under the Butte Post Office, detail, by N. A. Forsyth, ca. 1901–1911 (ST 001.168). Back cover: State Café door, South Main Street, 1979 (Library of Congress, HAER MONT,47-BUT,1–26).

A Blast from the Past! Mining Montana History

Welcome to the 48th Annual Montana History Conference. For nearly five decades the Montana History Conference has been exploring the people, events, and episodes that make the Treasure State's heritage so rich and exciting. This year, **A Blast from the Past! Mining Montana History** will take full advantage of the unique opportunities offered by one of Montana's most colorful cities. 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 and the Montana History Foundation. In addition, we could not pull this off without fantastic support from our local partners: Montana Resources, LLP, Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives and Butte-Silver Bow Historic Preservation, Mainstreet Uptown Butte, World Museum of Mining, and the many other organizations and enthusiastic citizens of the Mining City, too numerous to mention by name, who helped make this conference possible.

Come dig deep into Montana's past. Enjoy spending time with others who share the love of Montana history. And, while in the Mining City, 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 for this exciting **Blast from the Past**. We know you will enjoy the conference, and we look forward to greeting all of you—our good friends—in Butte.

Molly Kruckenberg
Director

Please note: The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held at the Copper King Convention Center, 4655 Harrison Avenue, Butte.

Thursday, September 23

🕒 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).



The Richest Hill on Earth, Butte, Montana (detail) by N. A. Forsyth, ca. 1909 ST.001.100

The “Mining City” boasts a remarkable number of unique sites. So how do you decide on a representative sampling for a one-day tour? Fortunately, retired MHS library manager

Brian Shovers made the hard decisions for you, lining up **Montana Precision Products**, which produces tube and duct assemblies and castings for the aerospace industry; **Montana Craft Malt**, which uses Montana-grown barley to produce malts for a variety of lagers, ales, and pilsners; **National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)**, which researches and develops alternative energy systems and, since 1987, sustainable agriculture practices; **Berkeley Pit Overlook**, the largest Superfund site in the nation; **Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives**, which cares for a huge collection of photographs and manuscripts in a historic fire station that has been transformed into a state-of-the-art archives facility; **Anselmo Mine**, which produced both zinc and copper from 1887 to 1959; and **Bluebird Mill**, the ruins of the 1888, 70-stamp pan-amalgamation mill, which produced 1.8 million ounces of silver. The day will end well at the **Headframe Spirits Distillery**, with a tour and a tasting.

🕒 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Educators Workshop** (lunch included, limited to 40)

People and Place Spend the day investigating how the discovery of copper transformed lives and the environment. Presenters will include MHS

Teacher Leaders in History Dylan Huisken and Jennifer Graham, who will share lessons for highlighting under-discussed communities affected by the mining boom; MHS staff, who will share ideas for integrating primary sources into the classroom; and Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal member and archaeologist Tim Ryan, who will discuss how the tribes used the resources of this region before the discovery of copper. The workshop will conclude with a tour of sites relating to the Granite Mountain–Speculator Mine Disaster led by Doug Ammons, author of *A Darkness Lit by Heroes: The Granite Mountain–Speculator Mine Disaster of 1917*. The disaster, which killed 168 miners, remains a touchstone for understanding the human costs of an essential industry.

 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. **Archives Workshop**

We're All in this Together Join the Montana State Historical Records Advisory Board for a results-oriented discussion on how archives can work together to meet the challenges of shrinking budgets, downsized staffing, and an increasing volume of electronic and paper records. This is an opportunity to share strategies on how to deal with the challenges that are commonly faced and seek solutions, share resources, and promote advocacy.

Now don't forget, Lizzie, when you get
to the new world, don't stop in America.
You go straight to Butte, Montana.

—MARY HAGAN to her daughter Lizzie Keough,
County Clare, ca. 1910

 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. **Brand Registration Workshop** (limited to 25)

Making Your Mark: 148 Years of Recording Montana Brands and Marks The year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of Montana's first livestock brand re-record. Join MHS reference historian Zoe Ann Stoltz and MHS library manager Laura Tretter to learn how to do brand research using the Livestock Brands collection on the Montana Memory Project website. Discover the wealth of information contained in this collection that covers the years 1873 to 2011. Learn tips and tricks to get the most out of your search. Bring your laptop with you to get the most out of this interactive workshop.

 1:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Preservation Workshop** (limited to 30)

Mapping Local History Participants will learn about the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives' exciting effort to document all roads in Silver Bow County. Archives director Ellen Crain will introduce an hour-long presentation, **From Cursive to Computer Cartography**, which details the methods used by geographer and Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist Jeremy Grotbo, research specialist J. D. Holland, and manuscript transcriptionist Walter Barber. Following Crain's presentation, State Historic Preservation Office GIS specialist Kyler Mozell will present an overview of ArcGIS StoryMaps and offer tips on creating location maps and tours using online mapping tools.

 1:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Writers Workshop** (limited to 25)

Publishing the Past: A Workshop for Authors Are you interested in learning more about publishing? This two-part workshop will focus on the ins and outs of getting your books and articles into print. It will begin with a roundtable discussion featuring editors from the University of Oklahoma Press (Norman), Mountain Press (Missoula), Montana Historical Society Press, and *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. Then, in break-out groups, you will have an opportunity to talk in depth with the editors—Dr. Charles E. Rankin, John Rimel, Dr. Diana Di Stefano, Laura Ferguson, and Dr. Jeff Bartos—on topics ranging from how to identify a potential publisher to what publishers look for in research and writing, what happens to your manuscript after you submit it, what to expect during the editing process, how your work is marketed and financed, and your role once the book or article is published.

 5:30 P.M.–7:30 P.M.
Opening Reception

Join your fellow Montana history enthusiasts for a progressive reception in historic Uptown Butte. Stop at the 1924 Elks Club for heavy appetizers and good conversation, then stroll a half block to Headframe Spirits for dessert and hand-crafted spirits. Just around the corner on West Park Street, take the stairs



Gambling House, Butte, Montana by Arthur Rothstein, 1939 Library of Congress, LC-USF33-003128-M

down to the Fifty One Below Speakeasy for a nightcap. Be sure to dial 5 for admittance. (See map on p. 28.) *Note: Fifty One Below is not wheelchair accessible.*

 7:30 P.M.–9:30 P.M. **Copper Tailings: The Hauntings of Butte**

Learn the secrets of the Mining City’s eerie past in this after-hours delve into the spectral. First, Dr. Ellen Baumler will share stories from her years of research documenting historic otherworldly encounters. Following Baumler’s presentation, participants will board the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce Spooks and Spirits Trolley for a driving tour of haunted sites led by Butte historians Chris Fisk, Jim McCarthy, and Lindsay Mulcahy. (Limited to 24; to accommodate more participants, this same tour will be repeated on Friday night.)

Friday, September 24

 7:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference registration

 7:30 A.M.–8:45 A.M. Plenary breakfast

The Power of Place: Butte, America

Following a welcome and update on our new building project by MHS director Molly Kruckenberg, Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives director Ellen Crain will welcome conference goers in true Butte fashion. A native of the Mining City, graduate of Montana Tech, and author of three books on the community’s history—*America: Butte*; *Motherlode: Legacy of Women’s Lives and Labors in Butte, Montana*; and *Remembering Butte, Montana’s Richest City*—no one is better suited to kick off this conference than Ellen Crain!

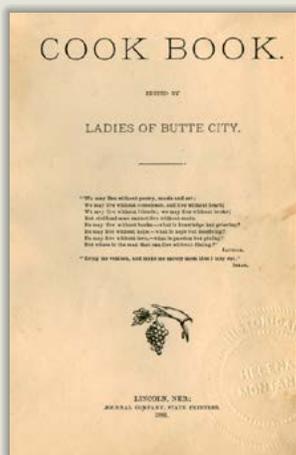


 9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M. Concurrent sessions

Sordid History When Governor Elmer Holt accused the state highway commissioners of malfeasance in 1936, it sparked an ugly process that eventually involved the Montana Supreme Court and a Helena newspaper reporter named Paul Maclean, who was later made famous in *A River Runs through It*. Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline will reveal all in **Scandal at the Montana State Highway Commission!** Each year Montana Historical Society historians write 50 to 100 National Register of Historic Places signs, but invariably have to leave out many juicy historical details in order to meet a 190-word limit. In her presentation, **All the Sign Text**

That Isn't Fit to Print, MHS interpretive historian Christine Brown will highlight intriguing, sometimes macabre, and often sad stories from Butte and Anaconda that never made it onto the National Register signs. These stories left on the cutting room floor range from war heroes, abusive husbands, and powerful widows to suicide, robbery, and runaway horses.

Tales from Butte Tables In a readers' theater presentation drawn from primary sources documenting Butte's rich food history, four noted Montana historians—all of whom are "foodies" as well—will share delectable nuggets from the Mining City's culinary past. Professor Jan Zauha, Montana State University humanities and outreach librarian; Dr. Mary Murphy, Montana State University history professor; Molly Kruckenberg, MHS director; and Zoe Ann Stoltz, MHS reference historian will tantalize your taste buds with these tales from the kitchens of yesteryear.



Montana Cook Book, edited by Ladies of Butte City, 1881
Locker CDB 641.5 M762CB

Mining and the Environment In her presentation **Mountains and Minerals: Community Organizing in Montana, 1872–1998**, Montana State University PhD student Jacey Anderson will examine the impacts of mining on Montana's economy and the environment. Beginning with the 1872 Mining Act and ending with 1998's ban on cyanide leaching, she will look at the ways in which communities have organized to both promote and restrict mining practices depending on public beliefs about the perceived benefits and dangers therein. In his presentation **Creating and Destroying History: Butte's**

Model City Program, 1968–1975, recent University of Montana graduate John Stefanek will discuss the implementation of Model Cities in Butte. While Model Cities—an urban renewal program that selected over 150 communities across the country for physical and social improvement—was defined by the issue of race in large eastern cities, Butte's program was defined by its smaller size and economic and environmental woes.

 10:30 A.M.–11:45 A.M. Concurrent sessions

Black in Butte, America In **Black Montana: Butte's African American Community**, historian Dr. Delia Hagen will examine the establishment,



*First convention
of the Montana
Federation of
Negro Women's
Clubs, by Zubik
Studios, Butte,
1921 PAC 96-25.2*

entrenchment, and subsequent decline of Butte's African American community in the context of the history of Black Montana and the Black West. Anthony Wood, doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, will present **Keep off the Fourth: Black Westerners and the Memory of Emancipation**, a consideration of inherent contradictions and complexities as Butte's Black residents commemorated Emancipation Day in 1902. In **The Chop House Affair and Beyond**, MHS community preservation officer Kate Hampton will explore the history of state and national legislation that particularly affected the African American community, focusing her attention on discrimination and accommodation laws.

Read All About It! In his *Battle for Butte*, the now-classic history of Montana's war of the Copper Kings, Mike Malone identified 1883–1884 as the beginning of big money's domination of Butte's mining and politics. In **The Battle for Butte Journalism: From Mining and News to Mining, News, Politics, and Power**, retired University of Oklahoma Press editor-in-chief Dr. Charles E. Rankin will argue that, while such domination of Montana journalism did originate in Butte, the roots of that influence came years earlier, amid a raucous, more chaotic time for Mining City newspapers. English coal miner and labor leader Keir Hardie came to America in 1895 to learn about the U.S. labor movement and political protest. His observations on Montana, as well as the reaction he received among local miners, offer an insightful view on mining, politics, and class. In **An English Agitator Visits Butte, Montana: Keir Hardie's 1895 American Tour**, Northern Arizona University communication professor Dr. Brant Short will look at Hardie's commentaries in his newspaper, *Labour Leader*, as well as reports about Hardie in various Butte newspapers from that time.

The Way She Saw It University of Montana environmental studies professor Dr. Rosalyn LaPier will share **The Pictures of Ella Mad Plume Yellow Wolf: Native American Photographer**. Yellow Wolf—who was LaPier’s great-aunt and whose photographs are now in MHS’s collection—documented life on the Blackfeet Reservation in the early 1940s, providing an intimate look at children and community, employment and work life, military involvement, and religious practice, both Christian and Native. Today, those familiar with early Montana photographers likely know the names of Oliver C. Bundy and Edgar H. Train. Few, however, are aware that their wives, Rhodina and Phebe, respectively, were studio assistants and photographers in their own rights. Retired MHS photograph archivist Rebecca Kohl will share the rest of the story in **The Bigger Picture: Focusing on the Helpmeets**.

 12:00 P.M.–1:30 P.M. Luncheon

Dynamic Time Lapse Immersion into Butte 100 Years Ago

Using novel imaging techniques, Missoula photographer and historian Dr. Doug Ammons will take conference-goers on a trip back in time. In his presentation, Ammons will share short time-lapse videos that combine dynamic sequences moving three dimensionally through the city as it grew from an ephemeral gold rush town into a social, financial, and industrial metropolis. Ammons is an Emmy-winning cinematographer, and his book, *A Darkness Lit by Heroes: The Granite Mountain-Speculator Mine Disaster of 1917*, won the 2018 High Plains Book Award for Creative Nonfiction.



 1:45 P.M.–3:00 P.M. Concurrent sessions

Two Artists, Two Visions Montana State University professor Dr. Mary Murphy will detail the story of **Elizabeth Davey Lochrie: Artist, Ally, Mother**. From her home on Butte’s West Side, Lochrie crafted a life as artist, mother, clubwoman, and ally to Montana’s native peoples. A Western painter in the tradition of Charlie Russell, Lochrie is best known for her portraits of Native Americans, but she was a prolific artist who also painted landscapes of urban Butte and rural Montana. MHS senior curator Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney will share **The Enigmatic Art of Voldemar Podder**. Podder—a physician who was displaced from his native Estonia during World War II—spent twelve years in various European refugee camps where he learned to paint. Always continuing

MF

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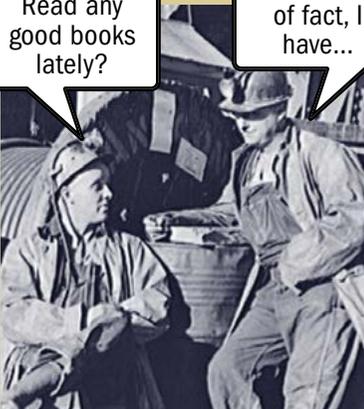
www.mthistory.org



(406) 449-3770

Read any
good books
lately?

As a matter
of fact, I
have...



Don't forget...

There are plenty of great books—on Butte and other Montana history subjects—available for purchase at the MHS Museum Store!

Image: Shaftmen at the Headframe of Copper Mine, Butte, 1942, Library of Congress, LC-USW3-008105-D

The Museum Store

his artwork, he immigrated to the United States in 1956, landing first in Warm Springs, then, in 1963, relocating to Butte. Podder was a prolific artist whose unique and enigmatic style reflects the life he lived and the people he knew.

Montana 151 Years Ago

The horrific actions committed by U.S. Army forces from Fort Ellis and Fort Shaw on January 23, 1870, resulted in the worst massacre of Native Americans in Montana history. In **The Role of Bozeman and Helena in the Baker Massacre and Why It Matters Now**, former *American Forests* editor Dan Smith will reveal how leaders and institutions in both communities witnessed the movement of some 250 men and their horses and supply wagons—in extreme winter conditions—on the march to attack. Afterward, many lauded the soldiers’ “victorious” return and subsequently denied or suppressed the truth for years to come. Beginning in 1870, supplies, trade goods, immigrants, adventurers—and whiskey—traveled the now-legendary Whoop-Up Trail from Fort Benton to the eponymous Alberta trading post. In **Tales of Whoop-Up Country**, Great Falls historian and author Ken Robison will relate how the absence of law and order forced the Canadian government to create the North-West Mounted Police to close down the whiskey trade and force traders back across the border into Montana.

Symbols of the West The cattle industry still recognizes brands as a primary legal means of livestock identification. In **From Hides to History: The Heritage Symbolism of Montana’s Cattle Brands**, Billings linguist Dr. Carol Lombard will share the significance of brands beyond their practical purpose as identifying marks of animal ownership, to their important role as symbols of personal, social, and cultural heritage. In **Inventing the “Gun That Won the West”: Early Winchester Rifles**, retired MHS museum technician Vic Reiman will begin with a short sketch of the development of black powder and firearms—going all the way back to China—and then concentrate on the first four models of lever-action rifles made by Oliver Winchester and their use by American Indians, settlers, and bad men on the western frontier.



Primavera (detail), by Voldemar Podder, oil on canvas, 1953 Gift of the Montana Heritage Foundation, X1970.30.67

The Galloping Gallows: The Legal Hangings of Butte In an interactive presentation, Butte historians and educators Jim McCarthy and Chris Fisk will bring to light a darker side of Butte’s past. Based on extensive research and using historical artifacts and audience participation, this session will detail legal hangings performed in Butte—as well as a few other communities that used the gallows—during a tumultuous time in Montana’s past.

A Woman’s Place In **Montana Tech and Women in Mining**, Scott Rosenthal, mining department head, and Shannon Panisko, Montana Tech Foundation director of annual giving, will share the stories of Clara Clark of Butte and Isabel Little of Baltimore, Maryland. In 1904, Clark and Little were among the first class of students to receive degrees from Tech’s new mining engineering department. Today, 25 percent of the department’s students are women. The Miss Indian America Pageant was held from 1953 to 1984 as part of Sheridan, Wyoming’s annual All-American Indian Days. In **More Than “Indian Princesses,”** recent Montana State University graduate Dr. Andi Powers will explore the ways in which contestants served as important cultural ambassadors, participating in presidential inaugurations, appearing on popular television and radio broadcasts, and working on important projects on both local and national levels, such as the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indian People.

Stories from the Archives Libraries in Ireland and Europe come to mind when one thinks of Gaelic manuscript repositories. However, recent scholarship highlights the existence of significant holdings in North American institutions as well. In her presentation, **Gaelic Manuscripts in the Butte-Silver Bow Archives: Preservation and Interpretation of Materials**, Dr. Ciara Ryan, special projects coordinator at the Montana History Foundation, will focus on the importance of these documents to enhancing our understanding of Irish cultural traditions in Montana. Oral histories are a special archival resource that allow listeners

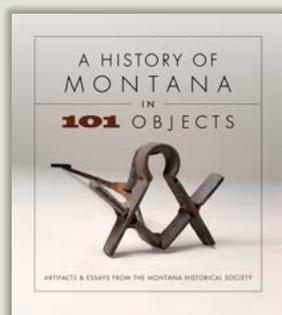


Delores Racine (Blackfeet),
Miss Indian America, 1959.
Rochford Studios, photographer.
Elizabeth Lochrie Collection, PAC 79-37

to step back in time. In **Verdigris: An Oral History of Butte**, Aubrey Jaap, Butte-Silver Bow Archives assistant director, and Clark Grant, general manager of KBMF Radio, will present excerpts from the most memorable oral histories collected as part of the Verdigris Project. The National Endowment for the Humanities-funded endeavor is a joint project between the archives and radio station, featuring a collection of new oral histories and series of broadcasts that resulted from a challenge grant.

🕒 5:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations

🕒 6:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. Awards Banquet



Montana History by the Numbers In celebration of the Society's newest publication, *The History of Montana in 101 Objects: Essays from the Montana Historical Society*, Outreach and Interpretation Program manager Kirby Lambert will present a lighthearted look at some important numbers and what they tell us about our past. Following Lambert's brief discourse, the MHS Board of Trustees will present its 2021 awards.

Celebrating the contributions of A&E Design, Bev and Gene Allen, Birdie Real Bird, and Bud Cheff Jr. 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 diverse history of Montana.

🕒 8:00 P.M.–10:00 P.M. **Copper Tailings: The Hauntings of Butte**

Learn the secrets of the Mining City's eerie past in this after-hours delve into the spectral. First, Dr. Ellen Baumler will share stories from her years of research documenting historic otherworldly encounters. Following Baumler's presentation, participants will board the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce Spooks and Spirits Trolley for a driving tour of haunted sites, led by Butte historians Chris Fisk, Jim McCarthy, and Lindsay Mulcahy. (Limited to 24; this is the same tour offered on Thursday night, repeated to accommodate more participants.)

**Board of Trustees’
Heritage Guardian Award Recipient**

A&E Design

Few people have done more to preserve the historic fabric of Montana’s communities than the historic preservation architects and designers at A&E Design. Founded in 1973, the firm has created a model of design integrity for historic preservation that many others have emulated. Across the decades, A&E has not only executed highly challenging and complex preservation projects, but also brought out the beauty in each building as they restored it to higher functionality. Examples of their restoration work include the Montana Capitol building (Helena), the Old Faithful Inn (Yellowstone), Lake McDonald Lodge (Glacier), Cascade County Courthouse (Great Falls), and Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (Deer Lodge). Equally noteworthy is their work in adaptive reuse and building sensitive additions to historic buildings; one excellent example is the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives. The firm also offers preservation trainings, historic structures reports, and help with preservation planning.

A&E’s work has been recognized with innumerable awards from the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, local preservation offices, Preserve Montana (formerly the Montana Preservation Alliance), and American Institute of Architects (Montana and Northwest Pacific chapters).

A&E’s staff contribute to preserving Montana’s culture and history not only through their work on individual buildings, but also through their volunteer service on state and local historic preservation advisory boards, public art committees, and the boards of statewide cultural organizations like Humanities Montana, Preserve Montana, and the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees. Members of A&E’s team are ambassadors for understanding, appreciating, and preserving Montana’s built environment, and are outstanding champions of Montana’s significant historic places. For almost fifty years, A&E Design has gone above and beyond to safeguard the state’s most treasured buildings, and is eminently deserving of the title Montana Heritage Guardian.



(front row, left to right) Crystal Herzog, AIA; Kate Geer. (back row, left to right) Jim McDonald, FAIA; Matt Morgan, AIA; Dennis Johnson, AIA, LEED AP; Paul Filicetti, AIA

Schedule at a Glance

The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at the Copper King Convention Center.

Thursday, September 23

- 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference registration
- 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Made in Montana Tour (limited to 20, lunch included)
- 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Educators Workshop (limited to 40, lunch included)
- 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Archives Workshop
- 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Brand Registration Workshop (limited to 25)
- 1:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M. Preservation Workshop (limited to 30)
- 1:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M. Writers Workshop (limited to 25)
- 5:30 P.M.–7:30 P.M. *Opening Reception*
- 7:30 P.M.–9:30 P.M. Copper Tailings: The Hauntings of Butte (limited to 24)

Friday, September 24

- 7:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference registration
- 7:30 A.M.–8:45 A.M. *Plenary breakfast, The Power of Place: Butte, America*
- 9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*
Sordid History
Tales from Butte Tables
Mining and the Environment
- 10:30 A.M.–11:45 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*
Black in Butte America
Read All about It!
The Way She Saw It
- 12:00 P.M.–1:30 P.M. *Luncheon, Dynamic Time Lapse Immersion into Butte 100 Years Ago*
- 1:45 P.M.–3:00 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*
Two Artists, Two Visions
Montana 151 Years Ago
Symbols of the West
- 3:15 P.M.–4:30 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*
Galloping Gallows: The Legal Hangings of Butte
A Woman's Place
Stories from the Archives

- 5:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations
- 6:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. Awards Banquet, *Montana History by the Numbers*
- 8:00 P.M.–10:00 P.M. Copper Tailings: The Hauntings of Butte (limited to 24)

Saturday, September 25

- 7:00 A.M.–2:30 P.M. Conference registration
- 7:30 A.M.–8:45 A.M. *Plenary breakfast, Making Trouble at Montana State Normal College: Scandal and Student Activism in the Spring of 1907*
- 9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*
The Great Explosion of 1895
Old West, New West
Spirit Warriors: Montana’s Native American Veterans
- 10:30 A.M.–11:45 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*
A Home in the Land of Gold
Interpreting the Past
Animals in Twentieth-Century Indian Country
- 12:00 P.M.–1:30 P.M. *Luncheon, Butte, America, and the So-called Rural-Urban Divide*
- 1:45 P.M.–4:45 P.M. *Post-conference field trips*
Guided Tours (Limited to 24)
 - ◆ Saints and Sinners
 - ◆ Headframes Hike through History
 - ◆ West Side Mansion Walking Tour

On Your Own

 - ◆ Butte Museum Pass



Drills at Work 1900 Feet under Butte (detail), by N. A. Forsyth, ca. 1901–1911 ST 001.146

Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

Birdina “Birdie” Real Bird

Raised on the Crow Reservation, along the banks of the Little Bighorn River in a traditional Crow family, Birdie Real Bird is an educator, artist, and advocate for language preservation. A classroom teacher on the reservation for many years, Real Bird remained committed to sharing Crow art and culture in retirement as a guest presenter in schools both on and off the reservation.

A language preservation advocate, Real Bird believes that “language offers more than words, phrases, and songs. . . . The language is what gives you the identity.” While serving in the Crow Education Cabinet and as director of the tribe’s language preservation program, she headed up the Crow Tribe’s effort to create an Apsáalooke (Crow) language app in an effort to meet young people “where they are”: online or on their phones. She also helped produce a CD of traditional Crow lullabies and has held Crow language nights to encourage children and adults to learn Crow.

Birdie Real Bird is probably best known, however, for her artistry. Real Bird began beading with her grandmother, aunts, and mother when she was twelve. When she was thirty, she traveled to the Peabody Museum in Boston to research historical Crow beading styles by examining artifacts in the museum’s collections. Real Bird is also a well-known dollmaker, whose dolls are in many collections, including the Smithsonian.



In 2013 the Montana Arts Council recognized Real Bird’s significance and celebrated her artistic contributions by inducting her into its Circle of Masters. Recognizing that Real Bird’s cultural contributions equal her artistic ones, the Montana Historical Society is pleased to recognize her with the 2021 Heritage Keeper Award.

Real Bird placed second at the 2021 Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market for her horse trappings (pictured) in Phoenix.

Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

Vern “Bud” Cheff Jr.

A collector from the time he was a boy, Bud Cheff grew up in the Mission Valley, the descendent of Iroquois and French trappers who arrived in the area with fur trader David Thompson in the early 1800s. He grew up listening to the stories of his elders, and his respect for the history they shared led many family members to leave him their heirlooms, confident that he would care for them.

In the 1970s, Cheff became increasingly concerned by the fact that national and international collectors were buying many important Indian artifacts, and he “aggressively started to secure and preserve Indian and early Montana items” to make sure they remained close to home.

In 1997, to share his collection, Bud and his wife Laurel founded a museum, which they named the Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana after Joseph Ninepipes, a subchief among the Bitterroot Salish. The Cheffs sold part of their ranch to fund construction and did much of the work themselves to save money.

Today the museum holds nearly 2,000 items—historic photos, artwork, and artifacts—that speak to Montana’s past, and Bud’s genius for storytelling brings the museum’s collections to life through oral history presentations, personal tours, exhibit texts, and dioramas. His passion for sharing his knowledge has touched both residents of and visitors to the Mission Valley, and his work with area students has encouraged a new generation to preserve the stories of the place he loves. As Bud Cheff’s entire life has been devoted to protecting and sharing Montana’s history, he is a most fitting recipient of the Montana Historical Society’s Heritage Keeper Award.



Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

Bev and Gene Allen

Raised and married in North Dakota, Bev and Gene Allen have made Montana their home for over fifty years. Early in their marriage, they began collecting antiques, art, books, and photographs, and after Gene retired from a career with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, they started Gene Allen Books, which bought and sold books, ephemera, and photographs about the history of the West.

In 1999, the Allens purchased 600 photographs by Miles City area photographer L. A. Huffman, amassing the most complete collection of Huffman material in the world. They then shared their collection through the publication of three books. The first, *L. A. Huffman: Photographer of the American West*, was written by Larry Len Peterson and published in 2003. Bev and Gene Allen wrote and published the next two books themselves: *The Colloatypes of L. A. Huffman* (2014) and *The Postcards of L. A. Huffman: Montana Frontier Photographer* (2018). These exhaustive publications now comprise an incredible legacy for future generations of Montanans as they explore the Treasure State's cultural heritage.



As regular participants in book, antique, art, and gun shows, the Allens have also shown remarkable generosity in sharing their knowledge with other collectors. They have been generous with the Montana Historical Society as well. In addition to their willingness to consult, Gene has presented at the Montana History Conference. They have also donated hundreds of images to the Montana Historical Society Photo Archives.

Passionate about Montana history, literature, art, and photography, the Allens are renowned for their integrity and scholarship. Their devotion “to the preservation and interpretation of Montana history and culture” make them ideal recipients of the Heritage Keeper Award.

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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Saturday, September 25

- 🕒 7:00 A.M.–2:30 P.M. Conference registration
- 🕒 7:30 A.M.–8:45 A.M. Plenary breakfast



Making Trouble at Montana State Normal College: Scandal and Student Activism in the Spring of 1907

When we think of student activism, we often think of raucous debates across college campuses in the 1960s. But a half century earlier, students at Montana State Normal College in Dillon showed that such activism has a longer and more nuanced history. In this presentation, Shawn Brackett—doctoral student at the University of Calgary and 2019 MHS Bradley Fellow—will explore the

unsolved case of a famed musician hired to be an instructor, rumors of his sexual impropriety, and student efforts to remove him from his position while protecting their mysterious sources.

- 🕒 9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M. Concurrent sessions

The Great Explosion of 1895 Shortly before 10:00 P.M. on the night of January 15, 1895, a watchman noticed smoke coming from the Kenyon-Connell Commercial Company warehouse and summoned the fire department. Unbeknownst to firefighters, other rescue workers, and curious onlookers, the burning building contained not only stoves, sheets of corrugated iron, pipes, coils of wire, and iron wheelbarrows, but also a large supply of dynamite. Within minutes, a series of devastating explosions rocked the Mining City's warehouse district. Butte Historical Memorials board members Lindsay Mulcahy, Judy Chadwick, and Karen Henningsen will tell the story of this largely forgotten tragedy that resulted in the deaths of fifty-eight people.

Old West, New West Nineteenth-century Montana's gun culture has been both championed for its freedom and lamented for its violence, yet widespread gun ownership was often paired with social conventions and laws that restricted who could own guns and where they could be used. In **Straight Shooters, Pistol-Packing Mamas, and Other Myths of Gun Culture in Early Montana**, Rocky Mountain College history professor Tim Lehman will detail how nineteenth-century Montanans passed public safety measures and

enforced social controls that limited the ability of women and marginalized groups to exercise gun rights. In **Western Neoliberalism: Neoliberal Rhetoric in the Battle between Old West and New West**, Greg LeDonne—winner of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*'s 2021 emerging scholar contest—will review how the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association, a group of Idaho ranchers, employed neoliberal rhetoric in advocating for their use of public lands around and during the Rangeland Reform '94 debate. LeDonne will focus on the way in which a national discourse filtered down to the community level and became adapted to reflect local needs and economic interests.



Calamity Jane, Gilt Edge, ca. 1885 [941-411](#)

Spirit Warriors: Montana's Native American Veterans American Indians have always fought for their homelands, whether it was against enemy tribes prior to European contact or the forces of westward expansion in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, Indigenous warriors continued this tradition, fighting to protect their country in the U.S. military. Join Cheryl Hughes, Ellen Baumler, and Deb Mitchell—educators and historians who assisted the Library of Congress in developing materials to help convey the importance of this legacy to students—as they tell the stories of Montana soldiers honored at the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian's new National Native American Veterans Memorial.

A Home in the Land of Gold Beginning in the second half of the nineteenth century, thousands dreamed of leaving Bohemia (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) for the country of endless hope. They were driven by a vision of better living conditions and quick riches, as well as a desire to escape political, religious, and national oppression. In **History of the Czechs in Montana and Elsewhere in the Northwest**, Dr. Martin Nekola, coordinator of the Czechoslova Talks Project, will focus on the Czechs—more than 350,000 of whom lived in the United States at the outbreak of World War I—who settled in this region. In **“Your Hands Are Bathed in Gold”:** **Pressures on Butte’s Chinese Residents, 1880s–1920s**, Mark Johnson, a fellow with the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives, will examine connections between Butte’s Chinese community and their relatives in southern China, a region beset by natural disasters and political upheavals that caused many to seek opportunities abroad. With these pressures from home combined with restrictions in Montana from certain professions, life was not easy for these Chinese Montanans.



Chinese Placer Miners in Alder Gulch by William Henry Jackson, ca. 1871 Lot 026 B5F3.03

Interpreting the Past In **“If These Walls Could Speak”:** **Examining Western Heritage and Ghost Tourism at Bannack**, Montana State University adjunct humanities faculty Dr. Dan Hanson will examine how Bannack State Park utilizes haunting as a commercial attraction and historical teaching tool in its annual “Ghost Walk.” Understanding haunting’s functionality within this heritage site is important as Bannack continues to reflect and shape the real and imagined West. Dr. Dayle Hardy-Short, professor of communication studies at Northern Arizona University, will explore **Public Memory and Historic Preservation in Western Mining Museums**. As an integral and formative part of the Rocky Mountain West, mining helped shape public attitudes toward the land, labor unions, cultural and social mores, and community development. The ways in which mining history is preserved and presented does the same. Hardy-

Short will provide a preliminary overview of topics, organizational structures, and historical approaches used in mining museums in Montana and elsewhere across the West.

Animals in Twentieth-Century Indian Country In **“What Is a Country without Horses?” Robert Yellowtail and Horses on the Crow Reservation in the 1930s**, University of Colorado PhD student Kerri Clement will examine horse herd restoration efforts on the part of Crow Agency superintendent Robert Yellowtail. While Yellowtail concentrated on particular breeds and worked to obtain high-bred horses, this short-lived project reflects the longer and deeper history between Crow people and equines. Between 1875 and 1910, cattle raising on the Flathead Reservation grew from supplementing a tribal economy based on hunting and gathering to the foundation of a new economy. In **“White Man’s Buffalo”: The Growth of the Cattle Industry on the Flathead Indian Reservation**, author Bob Bigart will explain how cattle exports from the reservation in the early twentieth century supported tribal members and made it possible for the tribes to avoid dependence on general rations from the federal government.

 12:00 P.M.–1:30 P.M. Luncheon

Butte, America, and the So-called Rural-Urban Divide Much has been made about the political and social differences between city and country that today often divide Americans. But as the MHS oral history collection reveals, Montanans in the first half of the twentieth century developed strong connections between town and farm. Rural Montanans periodically came to Butte (and other industrial communities) to earn wages to pay taxes or a farm mortgage, or to make it through tough times. Urban residents depended on rural places for food, recreation, and, sometimes, opportunities to live off the land. In this presentation, Dr. Laurie Mercier will share oral history recollections from Montanans that puncture the assumed dichotomy between rural and urban. Mercier is the Claudius O. and Mary W. Johnson Distinguished Professor of History at Washington State University Vancouver and author of numerous books and articles that explore the intersections of class, race, gender, region, and oral history.



Post-Conference Field Trips

 1:45 P.M.–4:45 P.M. **Guided Tours** (limited to 24)

Saints and Sinners Butte is a city of contrasts and nowhere is it more evident than in the stories of its houses of worship and ill repute. This trolley tour will explore faith and debauchery in Butte while touring Walkerville’s St. Lawrence O’Toole Catholic Church, the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Congregation B’nai Israel, and the Myra and Dumas Brothels. Limited to 24.



Magnificent frescoes adorn the interior of Holy Trinity. Image courtesy of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Headframes Hike through

History Starting with a tour of the Lexington Mine in Walkerville, Butte Silver-Bow Department of Reclamation data management division manager Abby Peltomaa will lead guests to the Granite Mountain Memorial, then on to the nearby Bell Diamond Mine. Peltomaa will cover mining history and recent Superfund site efforts to reclaim the area for recreation. This tour includes both a moderately strenuous hike and driving; closed-toe shoes are required for entry into hoist houses. Limited to 24.

West Side Mansion Walking Tour Join Butte-Silver Bow County historic preservation officer Mary McCormick to learn about the architecture and history of the “West Side” neighborhood’s many charming, one-of-a-kind homes. Wear comfortable walking shoes; this one-and-a-half-hour stroll traverses moderate inclines on paved streets. Limited to 24.



Huie Pock’s Mercantile (now part of the Mai Wah Museum), Butte, ca. 1900 Lot 025 M1

On Your Own

Butte Museum Pass Flash your Montana History Conference name badge to gain admission to Butte’s amazingly diverse array of museums. Choose from the Mai Wah Museum, Copper King Mansion, Piccadilly Transportation Memorabilia Museum,



Yellowstone National Park Transportation Co. Stage #12 with a Full Load of Tourists,
by W. S. Berry, ca. 1910 PAC 76-30 F10.2

Historic Clark Chateau Museum and Gallery, and World Museum of Mining (excluding the underground mine tour), or visit them all. A map and more details will be available at the conference.

Don't miss any of the fun! Plan now to join us in West Yellowstone for the **49th Annual Montana History Conference**, September 22–24, 2022. We will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park with sessions exploring the history of Yellowstone, national and state parks, tourism, outdoor recreation, and the preservation of Montana's scenic wonders.

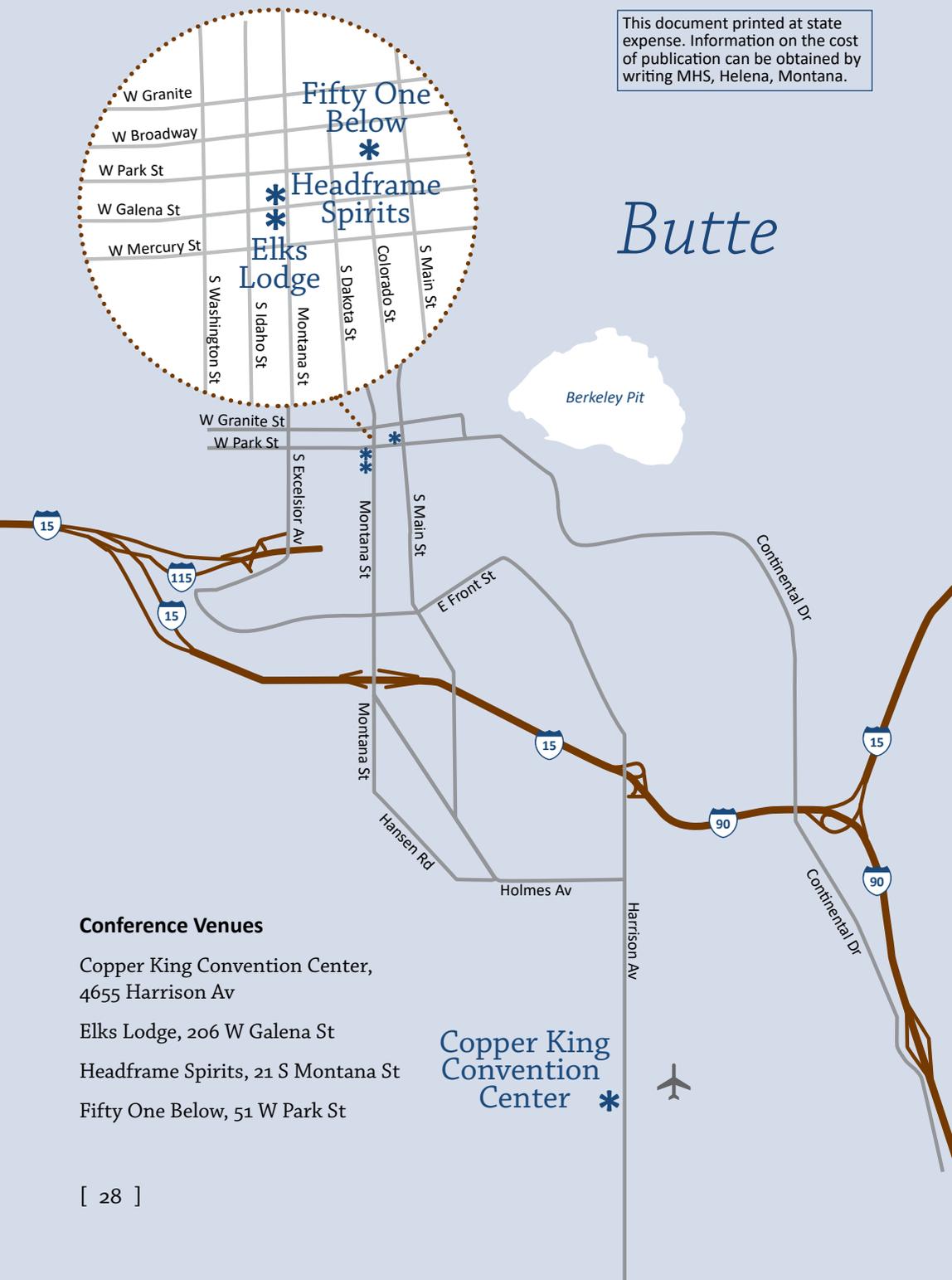
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And the many individual citizens of the Mining City who helped make this conference possible!

This document printed at state expense. Information on the cost of publication can be obtained by writing MHS, Helena, Montana.



Conference Venues

- Copper King Convention Center, 4655 Harrison Av
- Elks Lodge, 206 W Galena St
- Headframe Spirits, 21 S Montana St
- Fifty One Below, 51 W Park St

Copper King Convention Center *



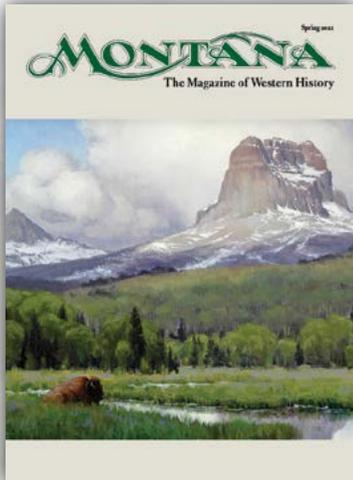
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Deadline: January 4, 2022

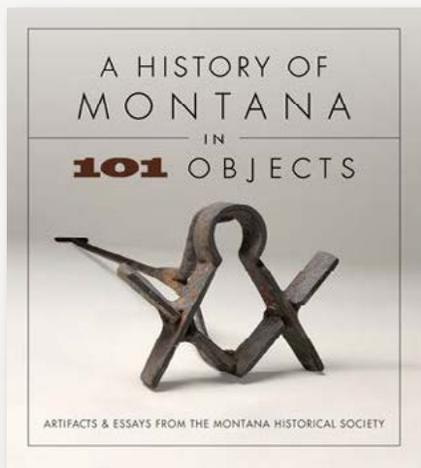
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Montana History Conference, September 23–25, 2021

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

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Pre-registration closes Friday, September 17. Limited on-site registration will be available beginning Thursday, September 23, 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. **MHS Prospector (\$200 level) Members or higher receive a discount.** Contact Jodel Fohn at (406) 444-1799 or email JFohn@mt.gov for details.

	Advance registration (by Sept. 17)	Amount
<input type="radio"/> Regular	\$165	_____
<input type="radio"/> College student (ID required)	\$95	_____
Workshops & Field Trips		
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Made in Montana Tour (lunch included, limited to 20)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Educators Workshop (lunch included, limited to 40)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Archives Workshop	\$15	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Brand Registration Workshop (limited to 25)	\$15	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Preservation Workshop (limited to 30)	\$15	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Writers Workshop (limited to 25)	\$15	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Copper Tailings: The Hauntings of Butte (limited to 24)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Friday: Copper Tailings: The Hauntings of Butte (limited to 24)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Saints and Sinners (limited to 24)	\$15	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Headframes Hike through History (limited to 24)	\$15	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: West Side Mansion Walking Tour (limited to 24)	\$15	_____
Single Day Registration		
<input type="radio"/> Friday only (includes all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and awards banquet)	\$125	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday only (includes all sessions, breakfast, and lunch)	\$50	_____
Extra tickets for guests of attendees		
<input type="radio"/> Extra reception tickets, Thursday night	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Friday noon	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra banquet tickets, Friday evening	\$35	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Saturday noon	\$25	_____
	Amount due	=====

Note: Payment is due at the time of registration. Cancellations received before September 17 will be refunded in full less a \$20 handling fee. No refunds can be made for cancellations received after September 17.

Method of payment

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

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